

# IMMANUEL

ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Quarterly Publication of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church, Downey, CA

[www.immanuelacc.org](http://www.immanuelacc.org)

**DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC & UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, REV. TERIAN'S SERMONS WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK ON THE "IMMANUEL CHURCH DOWNEY" PAGE, EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 11:00 A.M. THE SERMONS WILL BE POSTED ON FACEBOOK.**



### Mission Statement of IACC

“The Mission of IACC is to unite together believers in Jesus Christ for worship, prayer, instruction, fellowship, service and evangelism for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. The Church shall make the will of God, as revealed through the Holy Scriptures, preeminent in the lives of men individually and collectively.”

### Pastor's Message

An invisible deadly enemy, the Corona Virus has reminded us of the fragility of our lives that can be suddenly snuffed out. This global pandemic also taught us that all nations are interdependent and interconnected. What happened in China engulfed the whole world within a relatively short period of time.

The news reports about the COVID-19 virus have created anxiety, panic and worry for the future. In times like these, it is important to remember God's promise that He will care for us and that He will never leave us alone. In Psalm 46:1-2, we read, *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present helper in time of trouble; therefore, we will not fear, though the earth shakes and the mountains fall into the sea.”* This Psalm inspired Martin Luther to compose his famous hymn, *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”* that imparts hope to us by celebrating the certain triumph of God's Kingdom.

the law of gravity to save a human who has erred.

Some Christians are promoting the view that God did not cause the pandemic, but He has allowed it. While this viewpoint seems logical, it creates an unintended theological problem. I find it extremely hard to believe that God, whose nature is love, harms the most vulnerable people. I agree that God is sovereign and omnipotent; however, I also believe that God will never do something that contradicts His nature and character.

How, then, do we solve the problem of moral evils that happen in quick succession? The only logical solution that does not demean God is the acknowledgment of the fact that God has given us the freedom to choose between right and wrong, good and evil. Whenever human beings choose to misuse or abuse their God-given freedom, they not only wreck their own lives, but also harm their innocent fellowmen.

Most renowned epidemiologists have told us that the Corona Virus originated in China at an open-air “wet market” where wild animals are killed on the spot and sold for meat. The virus was traced to bats that were among the exotic animals that were sold there. The Corona virus spread quickly because the rulers of Communist China suppressed the news regarding the emergence of this new viral disease, imprisoned the physician who first detected it and charged him with spreading false rumors to defame their country. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people have died all over the world, and untold millions have lost their jobs and

### Rev. George Terian

livelihoods because the Chinese Communist dictators chose to lie in order to safeguard their hold on the reins of power.

In 2 Corinthians 5:10, the Apostle Paul says, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”* Here we are told very clearly that on the Day of Judgment, God will hold us accountable for all our actions. All those who choose to lie, to omit details and manipulate information will be held responsible for their misdeeds when they appear before the divine tribunal. If God has not given us the freedom to choose, He will not be able to hold us accountable for our actions. *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, the same shall he also reap”* (Galatians 6:7).

The main teaching that distinguishes Christianity from all other world religions is the doctrine of grace. God gives us good things which we could never have earned on our own. Due to our sin, we deserve death, but through Christ, God gives us life. However, the Apostle Paul makes it clear that God's grace does not eliminate the principles of choice and consequence. The “crop” that we produce between now and the moment of our death, or the day of Christ's second coming, is determined by the “seeds” we plant along the way. God's natural laws of cause and effect still apply to believers and unbelievers alike.

Pastor George Terian

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It is not a far-fetched idea to consider the Corona Virus pandemic as a message or warning from God who is telling us to change the way we live by renouncing sinful practices that are contrary to the teachings of the Gospel. We must recognize that there are two types of evils: moral evils like murders, and natural evils like earthquakes. The latter happen due to the operation of natural laws that God seldom suspends. When God created our vast universe, He set into motion some natural laws to regulate its orderly operation, and He rarely interferes with their normal operation. For instance, God does not annul



**Saturday, July 4, 2020, 11:30 - 4:00**

For the health and safety of everyone, we have decided to cancel the annual Memorial Day picnic which had been rescheduled to July 4, 2020. As we rely on the support and generosity of our supporters, we have been incredibly blessed to be able to maintain the operations of the church, financially, thus far, but barely. Because this picnic was a major fundraiser, we kindly ask if you would consider making a donation. Thank you in advance.

Despite these difficult circumstances due to Covid-19 and all the restrictions, we continue to live-stream our Worship Service on Sunday's at 11 am PST in English and Armenian on Facebook with excellent ministry by Rev. George Terian. The Women's Spiritual Fellowship also continues their Bible Study once a month and will continue through the summer on Zoom video-conferencing. Future dates are listed on the following page. We've even had cooking classes on Zoom, possibly with more to come!

These are challenging times for us all, and we hope you're in good spirits and health! Right now, we're doing everything possible to sustain daily operations. Now, more than ever, our community needs us. And we need you. In times like this, we're reminded of how interconnected we all are. Thank you for being part of our community. Without you, none of these activities will be possible.

God willing and hopefully soon, we will all be worshiping together, under the same roof.

We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ.

*“Don't be anxious about anything rather bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.” Philipians 4:6-7*



**Kayla Mona Fermanian** graduated from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, CA on June 11, 2020. In the fall, she will be attending Biola University in La Mirada, CA and will be majoring in Music Composition with a concentration in New Media, and also a minor in Bible. Kayla is the daughter of Armen and Debbie Fermanian, the granddaughter of Anoush Birebirian and the late Levon Birebirian, Violet Fermanian and the late Krikor Fermanian.



**Tyler Armen Fermanian** graduated from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, CA on June 11, 2020. He will be attending the University of California Irvine (UCI) in the fall and will be majoring in Computer Science. Tyler is the son of Armen and Debbie Fermanian, the grandson of Anoush Birebirian and the late Levon Birebirian, Violet Fermanian and the late Krikor Fermanian.



**Alexis Jacqueline Tchakalian** graduated from West High School in Torrance, CA. In the fall, she will be attending the University of California Santa Cruz majoring in Psychology. Alexis is the daughter of Leon and Anoush Tchakalian and the granddaughter of Vahe and Chris Ashkarian, and Jacqueline Tchakalian and the late Edward Tchakalian.



**Congratulations to all the Graduates!!**

*May God grant you the desires of your heart and make all your plans succeed!*

*The future is all yours now. Go for it!*

IMMANUEL ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



# Women's Spiritual Fellowship

## BIBLE STUDY

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020, 10 AM

ON ZOOM



If the Lord puts it in your heart, please join us and share a Bible verse, what it means to you and how the Lord has touched you during these current times. Or, listen to others to hear how the Lord has spoken to them.

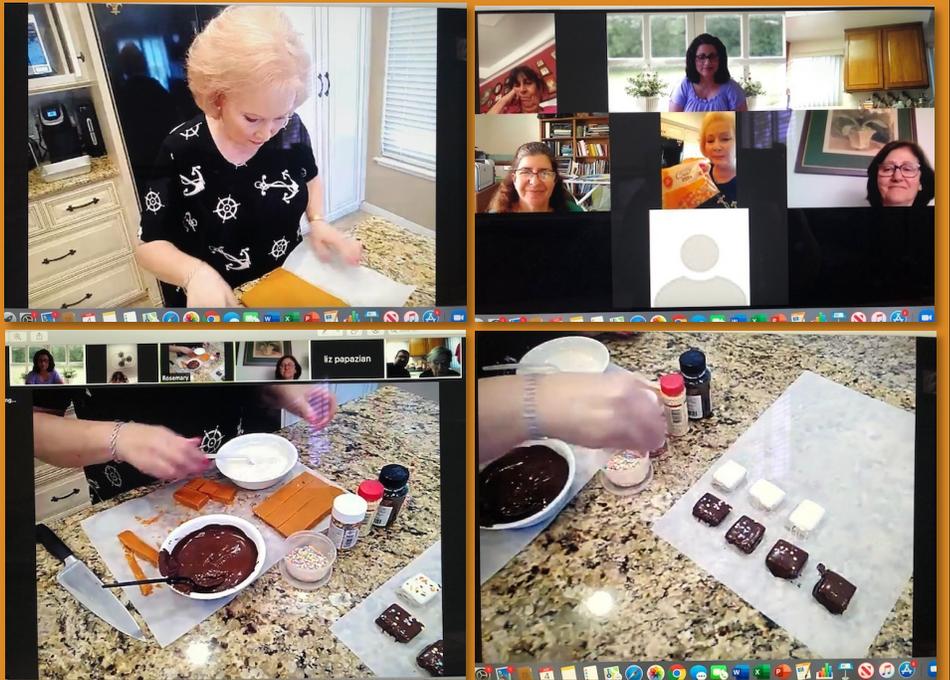
Please contact the church office by email at [office@immanuelacc.org](mailto:office@immanuelacc.org) if you would like to share. If you do not have the meeting # (same number as the previous meetings), contact us by email or leave a message at 562-862-7012.

The Blue Iris represents faith and hope.

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1*

### COOKING CLASS On Zoom

On Wednesday, May 20, 2020, we had the privilege of having Jackie Agajanian teach us her candy recipe: "Jackie's Butterfinger Candy". Although not cooking together in person, Zoom enabled us to be together. Some watched and some made the candy right along. Thank you Jackie!! It was delicious!



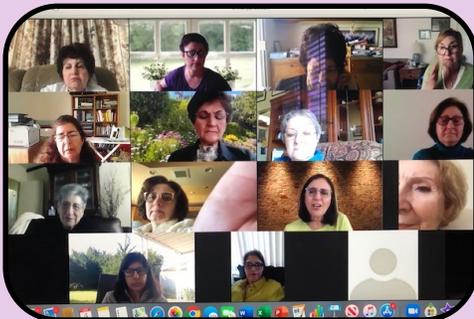
### Women's Spiritual Fellowship

On Zoom

March 23, 2020, was led by Sylva Hekimian  
April 22, 2020 was led by Pinky Babajian  
May 23, 2020 was led by Lena Ekmekjian

Calendar through the summer on Zoom:

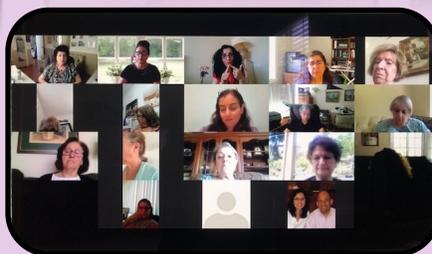
- June 27, 2020
- July 25, 2020
- August 29, 2020



Pinky Babajian



Sylva Hekimian



Lena Ekmekjian

**FOR ANNA AND  
LEVON AND JACK**

**AND HERE WE SAY  
GOODBYE TO MORE FRIENDS...  
LIVES THAT  
WE CANNOT EXTEND.**

WRITTEN BY  
PETER VETRANO



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We will continue with our efforts to keep IACC's buildings and grounds looking their best. Our Lord and our congregation deserve it as do our visitors who come and praise Him with joy. Please keep an eye on your surroundings and contact the church office to let them know if you see any needed repairs.

1. The roof continues with repairs.
2. Church building floors have been cleaned and buffed.
3. The church building has and will continue deep cleaning.

Melik Kumjian  
Board of Trustees  
Chair



## PASTOR VISITS

Taking all the precautions during this pandemic and social distancing, Rev. Terian continues to visit members and friends of the congregation. If you would like a phone call or a visit from him, please contact the office at 562-862-7012 or email the church office at: [office@immanuelacc.org](mailto:office@immanuelacc.org).

*The quarterly publication of Immanuel  
Armenian Congregational Church.*

*The 2020 editorial staff includes: Rev. George Terian, Debbie Fermanian  
and Rosemary Saatjian*

For additional information or article submissions, please write to:

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[www.immanuelacc.org](http://www.immanuelacc.org)*

## ADDRESS AND PHONE UPDATES:

**Sam Abekian**  
Cell: 626-510-4060



- IMMANUEL -  
GOD WITH US

\* RESCHEDULED \*

*90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Banquet*

*Rally Sunday, September 20, 2020*

Social Hour: 1:00 PM

Dinner: 2:00 PM

**Quiet Cannon Banquet Hall**

Sunset Room

901 Via San Clemente

Montebello, California

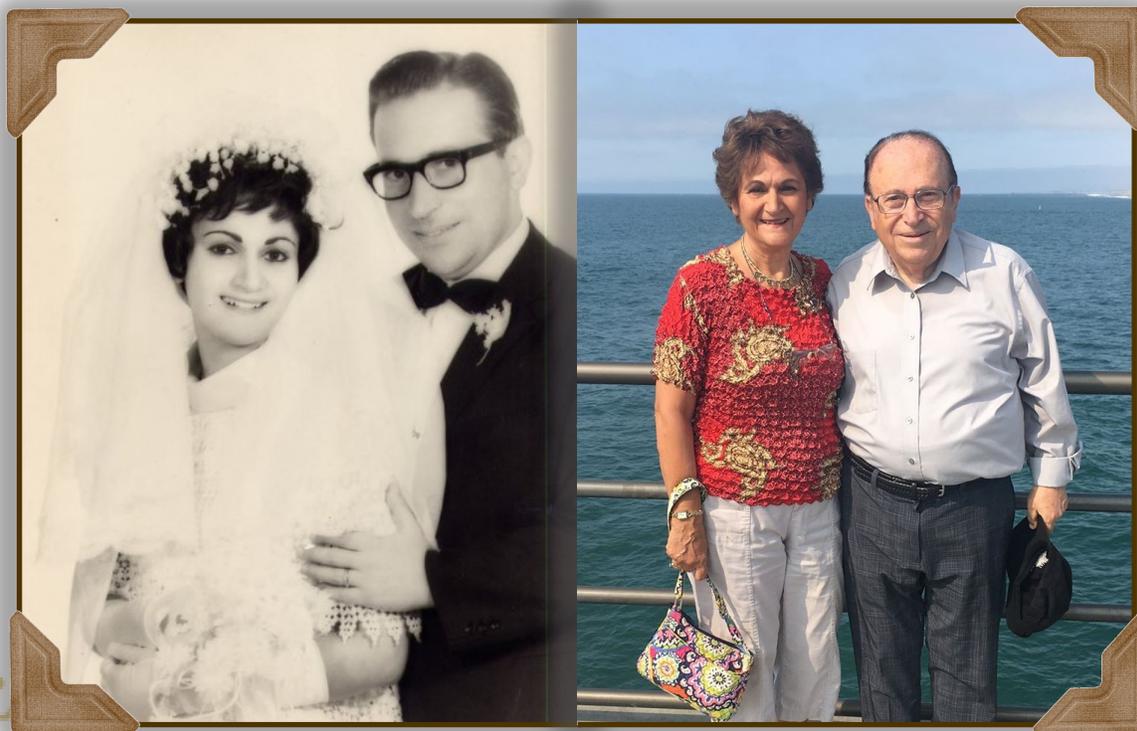
*Vocal Performance by: The Ketenjian Family*

More information will follow as event gets closer

Happy 50th  
Anniversary!

*Rev. George & Alice Terian*

*July 15, 1970 - July 15, 2020*



There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph.  
Can you find them?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours.

He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves.

There will be some names that are easy to spot. That is a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund-raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight". Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who must be shown. One revelation that may help is the books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

To strengthen the ministry of our church and to help nurture faith, stewardship and a deep sense of mission, we welcome the following gifts, with thanks:

### **Easter Donation**

Jo Ann Ohanesian

### **In Loving Memory of Ani Yerevanian**

Levon Baroutjian  
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian  
Jo Ann Ohanesian  
Patti Parrish  
Gayle Samarin

### **In Loving Memory of Ron Dinkel**

Armen & Debbie Fermanian  
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian  
Jo Ann Ohanesian  
Patti Parrish  
Gayle Samarin

### **Mother's Day Donation In Loving Memory of Grandmother, Sarah Kazarian and Mother, Gladys Chitjian**

Gayle Samarin

### **Mother's Day Donation In Loving Memory of Mother, Henrietta Ohanesian and Grandmothers, Sophie Ohanesian and Annie Janigian**

Jo Ann Ohanesian

### **Mother's Day Donation In Loving Memory of Annie Noorigian**

Patti Parrish

### **Mother and Father's Day Donation In Memory of My Loving Sister & Brother-In-Law, Ann & John Garabidian and Loving Memory of My Parents, Matthew & Eliza Harootunian**

Lillian Harootunian

### **Mother and Father's Day Donation in Sweet and Loving Memory of Our Dear Mom and Dad and**

**Our Precious Nannie and Grandpa, John and Ann Garabidian**  
Marcy, Jesse, Jon, Jace & J-Jay Sahagian

### **Mother and Father's Day Donation In Loving Memory of Our Grandparents and Our Great Grandparents, Matthew & Eliza Harootunian**

Marcy, Jesse, Jon, Jace & J-Jay Sahagian

### **Father's Day Donation In Loving Memory of Father and Grandfather, Levon Birebirian**

Armen, Debbie, Tyler & Kayla Fermanian

### **To the General Funds**

Berj & Dawn Adrouni

### **In Honor of the Memorial Day Picnic**

Suzie Abajian

### **Anniversary Booklet Donation**

Mary Hekimian

Continued

### **In Loving Memory of Jack Birebirian**

Jake & Heather Birebirian  
Marie Birebirian  
Barbara Gasparian  
Frangoul & Hilda Kalaitzian  
George & Linda Kardashian  
Hrag Marganian  
Rev. Joe & Suzie Matossian  
V & S Ovanessian  
Patti Parrish

### **Happy, Happy, Blessed 100th Birthday to Our Sweet, Sweet Aunt, Lillian ("Ec") Harootunian "God Has Blessed You, We Are Blessed To Have You, Kisses From Heaven"**

Your Loving Family,  
Jesse, Marcy, Jon, Jace & J-Jay Sahagian

### **In Celebration of my 100th Birthday, "God Bless My Church, "Immanuel Armenian Church"**

**"God Bless My Country"**  
Lillian Harootunian

