

Important Dates

November 13 – Congregational Meeting
 November 13 - Deadline for Christmas Shoeboxes
 November 20 - Thanksgiving Banquet
 December 18 – Sunday School Program
 December 24 - Candlelight Service
 December 25 - Christmas Sunday
 January 1 – Communion Sunday
 January 7 – Armenian Christmas

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Armenian Congregational Church Women's Christian Fellowship-Building fund
 Family and friends of Mr. Bob Arabian
 Glenn and Kathryn Charles-Memorial Family and friends of Mr. Daniel Flanagan
 Susan Gopigian-Missions
 Garon Gopigian-Missions
 Rev. James C Janes - Heritage
 Rodney and Barbra Keteyian- Memorial
 Richard Marburger – Memorial
 Linda Peringian-Donation

Christmas Joy Packages

Bring Christmas joy to children of Armenia, Karabagh & Georgia through the AMAA's Armenian Summer Camp/Christmas Committee. You can mail your donations to the AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ. 07652. For more information you may contact the church office or AMAA at 201-265-2607.

Operation Christmas Child

The Sunday School is participating again this year in Operation Christmas Child, a ministry started by Franklin Graham that reaches out to poor and under privileged children around the world with the good news of the gospel through gifts packed in shoeboxes. If you would like to participate, pick-up a form from the church foyer and return completed boxes no later than Sunday, November 13.

The Armenian Congregational Church
 26210 West Twelve Mile Road
 Southfield, Michigan 48034

Phone: 248-352-0680
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Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Pastor
 Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Or Current Resident

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November 2016

Thanksgiving is a beginning, not an ending

Sandwiched between the Halloween candy and Christmas decorations filling up your local store isles, you'll find a few stuffed animal turkeys and cornucopias to remind you that there is another holiday between Halloween and Christmas called Thanksgiving. Blink and you'll miss it! Stores are eager to start the Christmas season earlier and earlier, to get you to go Christmas shopping as soon as possible, so you start spending the big bucks. More and more these days, Thanksgiving gets trumped by Black Friday, the official start of the Christmas shopping season, and is treated more of a day to go stand in line waiting for Black Friday to begin, rather than a day of family, food and giving thanks to God.

Even if we are able to get over the consumerism and marketing machine, and keep our focus on Thanksgiving, and allow for restful reflection before the generally happy chaos of Christmas hits, is it enough? We gather around the table for Thanksgiving, and it serves as a fitting resolution to the year's highs and lows, joys and sorrows, successes and failures for us to reflect on. We ponder the good things in life, and many of us will give thanks to God. And it is always good to give thanks to God (1 Thessalonians 5:18). After all, he "gives to all mankind life and breath and everything" (Acts 17:25). In many ways Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the end of another year. But what if Thanksgiving was meant to be a beginning, and not just another over-fed ending?

Thanksgiving shouldn't be the end of the gratitude we show to God. The gratitude we have, and thanks

given to God, is meant to serve as fuel for our faith. Although we pause on Thanksgiving to look back on God's blessings, it should cause us to look forward and step out in faith, knowing that the same faithful God will lead us forward. God means for our appreciation for all He has done to propel us to believe in all that He will do, and to live more fully for His glory. God does not bless you simply so that you'll be filled with thanks and give Him recognition, but so that you'll be filled with faith and joy in Him.

As you give thanks, ask where your deepest affection and appreciation lie. Is it with God himself? Is He the greatest gift you received in the past year? Or is it with your family — your spouse, or children, or children's children? Or is it your career — the one you have, the one you want, or the one you had? Or is it comfort — the size of your bank account, or the condition of your home, or the technology in your pocket? God gives us a lot of good things but let us love the Giver of the gifts more than the gifts themselves. Follow every blessing and gift back to God himself, and let it be a reason to fall further in love with the Giver.

This Thanksgiving, see your gratitude to God through to greater faith in Him and greater love for Him. We're prone to a wait-and-see kind of gratitude, instead of a see-and-believe kind. Instead, receive God's grace and plead for more — more of his grace, and more of Him.

**Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone),
 Rev. Shant Barsoumian**

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Moses Avakian
 Banquet Manager

Wedding & All Other Occasions
 26210 W. Twelve Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48034
 Telephone: 248-352-7399 Cell: 248-722-9100

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CHURCH CALENDAR

Weekly

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Church School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Children's Library, Every Sunday

Bible Study, (Every Wednesday at 7:00p.m.)

Monthly

ACC Women's Fellowship, (Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.)

Board of Trustees Meeting, (Third Sunday of the month, 12:30)

Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30).

Mid-Week Bible Study, (Every Wednesday at 7:00p.m.)

Women's Bible Study, (Every Friday at 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting

The fall congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13 following the church service. The two agenda items for the meeting are:

1. Electing new board members to serve for the term 2017– 2020.
2. Approve the 2017 Budget.

Stewardship Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20, is also our Stewardship Sunday, an opportunity to make our financial pledges for the year 2017. Our church, like any other voluntary organization, depends on the support and involvement of its members. Thus, members and friends of our fellowship are urged to make their pledges to this purpose.

2016 Stewardship

As the end of the year is approaching, we kindly ask that if you have not submitted your 2016 pledge, please do so. It is with your help and donations that the church will be able to continue its ministry.

Book of Life

In Christian Sympathy.

Entered his rest **Mr. Robert Arabian** on Tuesday, August 23. The funeral services were held at the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, officiation Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian and Rev. Shant Barsoumian. May the peace, grace and comfort of our Lord be with the Arabian family, their relatives and friends.

Entered his rest **Mr. Daniel Flanagan** on Wednesday, September 7. The funeral service was held on Monday, September 12 at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Birmingham. May the peace, grace and comfort of our Lord be with his wife Marian, their relatives and friends.

Entered his rest, **Mr. Kevin Basmadjian** on Sunday, October 23rd. May the peace, grace and comfort of our Lord be with the Basmadjian Family, their relatives and friends.



Armenian Congregational Church Annual Thanksgiving Banquet Sunday, November 20

Dinner 5:00 PM
Entertainment 6:30 PM.

The Rev. Dr. Vahan H Tootikian Hall
26210 West Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034

Tickets: \$25.00 in advance by November 19th for adults and \$10.00 for children, \$30.00 after November 19th for adults and \$15.00 for children.

R.S.V.P: 248-352-0680 with the Church

We Salute Fatherland Armenia

-- Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

The biennial meeting of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC), was held in Havertown, PA on October 20-21, 2016.

The following items were duly discussed and acted upon:

1. Evaluation of the 170th Anniversary celebrations. A general review and evaluation was made on the 170th anniversary celebrations of the Armenian Evangelical Church which were held both in Armenia and in various countries of the Diaspora. Likewise, an evaluation was made on the All Armenian Evangelical Pastors' Retreat held in Hankavan, Armenia.

2. Dialogues with Etchmiadzin. A report on the dialogue between the AEWC and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin was discussed. It was recommended to continue the Dialogue.

3. An AEWC Liaison office in Armenia. The establishment of an AEWC liaison office in Yerevan, Armenia was announced. It is located in the AMAA headquarters on Baghramian Street.

4. Toward a uniform "Order of Worship". Because of the diversity of the "Order of Worship" in the Armenian Evangelical churches, it was recommended that Armenian Evangelical ministers and religious workers follow the format recommended by the "**Pastor's Manual**" of the AEWC. Likewise, while they have the freedom to use contemporary hymns and song, it was recommended the use of more of the traditional hymns which are part of the Armenian Evangelical liturgy.

5. Statements released to the press. Among other items of its agenda, the AEWC discussed the 25th anniversary celebrations of Artsakh and Armenia, as well as the tragic situation in Aleppo, Syria; made the following resolutions and released them to the Armenian press:

"On September 2, 2016 and September 21, 2016, both Nagorno Karapagh Republic (Artsakh) and the Republic of Armenia respectively celebrated their 25th anniversary of independence. On this milestone, the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) extends its hearty congratulations to both of these Armenian states, and reaffirms its ongoing commitment to help strengthen the independent statehood of both Armenian republics."

As for the bloodshed in Aleppo, the Council declared:

" The AEWC painfully records the loss of Armenian lives and property in Aleppo. It resolves to rebuild its churches and institutions as much as possible. It also reaffirms its unwavering commitment to support those who are determined to remain in their community, and to assist those who prefer to migrate to our homeland Armenia. In the meantime, the AEWC earnestly prays that the five-year-long tragedy will come to a speedy end and peace will prevail in the war-torn Syria."

6. Elections. The Council held its biennial elections, and the following were elected for the years 2017-2018: Rev. Berdj Djambazian, President; Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Vice President; Rev. Megrutch Karagoezian, Secretary; Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Executive Director.

December Bulletin

The December issue of the A.C.C. monthly bulletin will be a Christmas issue. Once again, as in the past, we offer you the opportunity to send your Christmas greetings to all the church members and friends by making a contribution to our mission fund. Please submit your names by December 11 to Suzan at the office or Pastor Shant.

Advent Season

The first Sunday of Advent will be November 27. As we start preparing for the Christmas season, join us for special music, Christmas carols, and advent readings.

Christmas Program

Please join the Sunday School on Sunday, December 18 for this year's Christmas Program. The program begins after the church service, with a luncheon to follow. All are welcome.