

## IMPORTANT DATES

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| April 14 <sup>th</sup> | Palm Sunday                  |
| April 18 <sup>th</sup> | Maundy Thursday              |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup> | Easter Sunday                |
| April 24 <sup>th</sup> | Armenian Genocide Observance |
| May 12 <sup>th</sup>   | Mother's Day Banquet         |
| June 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Father's Day Luncheon        |

## Church Calendar

### Weekly

**Worship Service:** Sundays 11:00 a.m.

**Church School:** Sundays 11:00 a.m.

**Children's Library:** Every Sunday

**Women's Bible Study:** Fridays 10:00 a.m. to Noon

### Monthly

**Board of Deacons Meeting:** First Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.

**Women's Christian Fellowship Meeting:** Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.

**Board of Trustees Meeting:** Third Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.

### Upper Elementary/Middle School Sunday School Class News

2018-2019 has brought a new group of young people together. We had some third graders come up and join our middle schoolers, and this has made for a larger range of interests and interactions – all to add diversity and some excitement to our classroom.

The class is continuing last year's study of important, more well-known people in the Bible. We started with

Adam and Eve, and last Sunday we reached Jonah. This year we are getting an overview of each person's story through short videos. Then we explore and discuss the deeper meaning of each story, and the historical context, through readings from the Bible and other sources, and by answering (and asking) thought-provoking questions. The students are very bright and keep their teacher on her toes.

As always, the class participates in a sticker contest where students accumulate stickers by answering questions throughout the year. At the end of the year, the students take a comprehensive quiz that allows them to earn a number of additional stickers, at times setting up an exciting, come-from-behind finish to the contest.

As a community service project, the class again made Christmas ornaments that were sold during the luncheon following the Christmas program. This year the class earned \$40 from the sale of ornaments. This is added to the previously unrecorded \$70 from last year's Christmas ornament sale, for a total of \$110. This will be donated to our church, for use where needed. Our children are learning to be contributing members of our congregation, starting at an early age.

We are already looking ahead to the end of this Sunday school year, when we will celebrate the year by having the traditional end-of-year party and certificate presentations. We will also award this year's Sticker Champion prize at that time. In the meantime, we hope to explore a few more of the memorable and inspiring lives and stories we find in the Bible.

by Barbara Keteyian,  
Upper Elementary/Middle School Sunday school teacher

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Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Or Current Resident

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# The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church

Vol. 44, No. 4

April 2019

Dear Members and Friends:

The inevitability of death is a universal human experience. The one thing that all human beings know about their existence is that no one ever gets out of it alive!

The Christian faith is concerned not with the mere immortality of the soul, not with reincarnation, but with the resurrection of the dead. As far as the New Testament is concerned, this means that the raising of the whole person from the dead, not just the soul but also the body. According to the Christian faith, eternal life is God's gift, not an inherent attribute. Only those who accept that gift can possess it. That is a vital theological truth, opposed to the theory of a natural immortal soul.

St. Paul, the greatest theologian of all times, believes that without Christ's resurrection there is no after life. He invokes two archetypal figures to illustrate the means by which human death and its opposite, eternal life, entered the world. Citing the genesis account, Paul maintains that "the first man," Adam (God's first earthly son) brought death to the human race, but Christ (Adam's "heavenly" counterpart) brings life. He writes, "As in Adam all men die, so in Christ all will be brought to life" (I Corinthians 15:22).

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection. It is an affirmation about life after death—an assurance of eternal life with God. It is also a statement about a quality life here on earth—an assurance of a better life here and now.

Undoubtedly, Easter is a unique historical event which affirms Jesus' victory over death. That event, however, becomes real, relevant, and meaningful to those who bind their lives with the triumphant Lord. Only after the encounter with the risen Lord, Easter receives a new meaning. That's what happened to

the disciples of Jesus. Although Christ had risen from the dead on Sunday following his crucifixion, they had a hard time at first to believe in the news of his resurrection. It was not until each in turn had experienced, in his or her own way, the undeniable presence of the living Christ that they were convinced. Each had a so-called "eastering event" in his or her own life. John's and Peter's eastering happened when they saw the shroud-littered empty tomb of Jesus. Mary found her eastering event when Jesus spoke to her in the garden. The doubting Thomas had his eastering event when Jesus showed him the marks of his wounds.

Once the early followers of Jesus experienced the risen Lord in their lives, then that little band of demoralized, fearful, and scattered people, within a few weeks, was fearlessly declaring the Gospel of the risen Christ and began what became a successful challenge to the Roman Empire.

As in the past, today also people can experience the eastering event of the new life in Christ if they accept him as Lord and Savior of their lives. Following that a marvelous transformation takes place in their lives. That decisive encounter will give them a new perspective. It will fill their lives with peace, purpose, and power. It will give them faith, hope, and spiritual strength to push aside the stone of self-defeat. They will no more be afraid of dying, nor will they be afraid of living. They will be able to declare with conviction; "Christ has risen from the dead!"

Faithfully yours,  
Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian  
Minister Emeritus.

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## Bulletin Board

Are you celebrating your anniversary, birthday or any milestone in your life? Why not share your celebration with the church family by sponsoring the Fellowship Hour or Altar Flowers. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

## Edward Korkoian Funeral Home

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### WELCOME PASTOR HAGOP HAROUTUNIAN

Our new Senior Pastor, Rev. Hagop Shebat Haroutunian, assumes the pastorate of ACCGD as of April 7, 2019.

A graduate of Fuller Seminary of Pasadena, CA, Pastor Haroutunian completed his internship of nine months at Christian Outreach Church of Glendale and Lake Avenue Community Foundation in Pasadena. Prior to his theological training he had served in various churches as a Worship, Bible Study and youth leader and a counselor.

We look forward to having him as our new pastor.

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

The Holy Week of the Lenten Season begins with Palm Sunday and culminates on Easter. Our church will hold the following services:

**PALM SUNDAY.** April 14. The commemoration of our Lord's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. The service is as usual from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY.** April 18. Worship Service begins at 7:30 pm. The Sacrament of Communion will be administered. Following the service there will be a ***fellowship hour*** in the Social Hall. *(Please note that we have cancelled the reflective supper preceding the Worship Service).*

**EASTER SUNDAY.** April 21. Children and parents worship together. Prior to the Easter Worship, we shall have our traditional ***Easter Breakfast***, sponsored by our young adults from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. The Easter Worship Service is at 11:00 a.m.

### APRIL 24 Commemoration

The four Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit will have an Ecumenical Commemoration on April 24 at 7:00p.m. at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church. All are invited to attend.

### BOOK OF LIFE

**Born:** Paisley Jade Christunas, daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Dustin and Christina Christunas, granddaughter to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn and Kathryn Charles, great-granddaughter to Dr. Richard Marburger, on Monday, March 18, 2019 at Kauai Veterans Hospital in Waimea, Hawaii.

### ACC GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

#### Capital Building Fund

William and Araxie Terian  
Stephen Bolerjack and Susan Gasparian

#### Armenian Cultural and Heritage

Rev. and Mrs. Ohannes and Jeanette Melkonian  
Mrs. Vartouhi Chelebian



### **A Mothers's Day Buffet Luncheon**

Hosted by

#### **The Armenian Congregational Church**

Sunday May 12th, 2019 12:30 PM

Immediately following the morning worship service

Paid Reservations by Wednesday May 1st  
(No reservations taken at the door)

Church office: (248) 352-0680  
Call or Text: Leslie Banerian (248) 760-9537

Adults: \$25 | Children ages 6-12: \$15  
Children Under 5: Free

### SPECIAL THANKS

On behalf of our entire Congregation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian and Lifetime Deacon Mr. David Terzibashian for their faithful dedication to our church and its members during this past year. Their willingness to step in and support the needs of our church in difficult times and asking nothing in return, is a true testament of their Christian faith and a wonderful example to each one of us.

Leslie Banerian  
Co-superintendent Sunday School  
Member, Board of Deacons

### CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS

Please note we ONLY have one mailing address. 26210 West Twelve Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan 48034. We have discontinued using the PO BOX address since 2012.

### EMAIL LIST

Our Church Secretary is updating the Armenian Congregational Church Family email list. If you would like to be on our email list or update the current email, please call the church office or email Souzanne at [accgd@comcast.net](mailto:accgd@comcast.net).

### Armenian Evangelical Church Community Honors Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian on his 60th Anniversary of Christian Ministry

By Elise Kalfayan

Gathered in Pasadena at the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church on Sunday, March 17, 2019 were leaders and supporters of the Armenian Evangelical church community, Kessab Educational Association, Armenian Missionary Association, and other Armenian religious and cultural organizations, for a testimonial banquet and celebration honoring pastoral leader, executive, and author Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian for his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christian ministry.

The celebration was organized by the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). Rev. Tootikian has served both organizations in many capacities for decades, including as current and long-time Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council. His years serving churches includes pastoring the Armenian Evangelical Church of Damascus, Syria, along with serving as principal of the local school (1959-1960); Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church, Cairo, Egypt (1960-1965); Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA (1965-1975).

Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian is Minister Emeritus of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, where he served from 1975-2005. A graduate of the Near East School of Theology, Rev. Tootikian did graduate work at Hartford, Harvard, and Andover Newton Theological Seminaries, earning two masters and a doctorate. He has been a lecturer at Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, MI, and a lecturer at the University of Michigan. He was a charter member of the AEUNA in 1971, and the Armenian Evangelical World Council in 1978. Of his many published books, six are currently used as college textbooks in North America and overseas.

Banquet guests filled Derian Hall to capacity. The well-organized program featured more than ten speakers, each of whom presented a different perspective on Rev. Tootikian's life, relationships, and achievements. Moderator of the AEUNA Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian thanked Rev. Tootikian, who has served multiple times as AEUNA Moderator and in other ecumenical roles, for his example and leadership. President of the AMAA Dr. Nazareth Darakjian thanked Rev. Tootikian for researching, writing, and publishing a history of the AMAA to celebrate the organization's centennial. Rev. Tootikian's 42<sup>nd</sup> book, ***The Genesis and Early Development of the Armenian Missionary Association of America***, is available from [amaa.org](http://amaa.org).

Fr. Sarkis Petoyan, representing the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, read a letter from His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian. Fr. Karekin Bedourian, representing the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Orthodox Church, also brought greetings from His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian. Members of Rev. Tootikian's family from as far away as the East Coast were present for the occasion. His son-in-law Dr. Michael Voskian presented a warm and personal tribute, as did brother-in-law George Pambakian.

Representing Minister to the AEUNA Rev. Berdj Djambazian, who was out of the country, Rev. Serop Megerditchian spoke about Rev. Tootikian's dedicated ministry by quoting Luke 10:7: "*The worker deserves his wages*", saying that Rev. Tootikian deserves even more because he is considered a "walking Encyclopedia" of the Armenian Evangelical Church worldwide.

Soloist / soprano Arpy Aintablian sang Rev. Tootikian's favorite hymns, including the Armenian Evangelical "Kezme Izad", "Make Me a Blessing", "Pari Arakil", and "Kele Kele" by Gomidas. Sona Khanjian recited a beautiful poem of Daniel Varouzhan, "Serminatzen."

Armenian Observer Editor Osheen Keshishian joined many of the speakers in hailing the 42 books Rev. Tootikian has published, praising the insights and wisdom in the pages. Kessab Educational Association of Los Angeles President Esther Chelebian Tognozzi along with her endearing comments presented a gold pin-insignia of the KEA to the honoree on behalf of the Kessab community.

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, said, "Rev. Tootikian perfectly fills the following three skills in his life, in his lifetime, and in the ministry. His love is subject to his blatant persuasion, which is based primarily on God's Word, and then on the love of humanity. Rev. Tootikian's WORKING DISCIPLINE is unique and practical. Finally, LOVE AND WORK undoubtedly need the power of will, determination and courage. And here we see Rev. Tootikian's dedicated ministry filled with love and work."

Additional speakers were Dr. Ken Tourian a classmate and a close friend of Rev. Tootikian, Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, a long-time AEUNA colleague; and Mrs. Joyce Philibosian Stein, Chair of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation and a member of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.

The evening concluded with remarks from the honoree, who was humbled and grateful for the love and appreciation expressed by the community, and after the program ended many stayed to congratulate him and share memories.

On this auspicious occasion, several contributions were made to the AEUNA Rev. Vahan Tootikian Armenian Heritage Endowment Fund.

The **Armenian Evangelical Union of North America** is a fellowship of 27 churches sharing a legacy based on the Armenian Evangelical Movement of 1846, and is in fellowship with four other unions worldwide through the Armenian Evangelical World Council. The **Armenian Missionary Association of America** was established by Armenian Evangelical church members in the U.S. in response to the events of the Armenian Genocide and just celebrated its Centennial of faith, love, and service in missionary endeavors for the Armenian nation. For more information you may contact the AEUNA office at 818.500.8839.