

Armenian Congregational Church
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Pastor Hagop Haroutunian, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church

Vol. 44, No. 10

December 2019



Dear Members & Friends,

December is truly a special month because we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will light one candle each of the four weeks in December as we commemorate the miraculous birth of our Savior.

Traditionally, in this month of Advent, each candle symbolizes something special about Christ's birth. The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It reminds us of the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ, our hope of salvation. The second candle, also purple, represents faith; a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey of faith to Bethlehem. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy; the joy the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. The fourth week of advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

I hope during the holidays, with all the Christmas trees, lights, gifts, etc., we do not lose focus on the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus is the reason for the season. He is the gift that God the Father sent for us so that we no longer walk in darkness but have the light of life. Some 650 years before the birth of the Savior,

Isaiah prophesied of His miraculous birth:

Chapter 9

2. The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
6. For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7. Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

Prayerfully yours,
Pastor Hagop Haroutunian

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



The annual traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Tuesday, December 24th, at 7:30 p.m. A wonderful Service will be conducted to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A light meal will follow in the Social Hall.



The celebration of the birth of our Savior has always been a season of immense joy. This joy flows from the greatness of God's gift of grace in Christ. As our families gather to share this time of rejoicing, we want to extend to each of our relatives and friends the blessings of our Lord, and wish them a Very Merry Christmas.

Haig and Sue Arabian
Armenian Renaissance Association, Inc.
Basmadjian Family
Carole, Ken, Chris & Shannon
Natta, Areena, Alex, Jake & Kylie
Roger and Nancy Berschbach
Susan Gopigian
Anahid Haroutunian
Dan and Sandra Haroutunian
Tony, Nico, and Brian Janigian
Simon Javizian
Aram and Alice Kakousian
Siroon Karapetoff
Rodney and Barbara Keteyian
Edward & Yvonne Korkoian
Mike, Sue, Marianne, Rosemarie & Samuel Mousigian
Joan Kasabach Swain
Souzanne Pope
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian



Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to donate one or more Christmas poinsettias to adorn the Church Altar, please contact our Church Office. The traditional red poinsettias are \$20.00 each. Deadline is Sunday, December 15th.

Just Past!

Thanksgiving Banquet Sunday, November 24th

The Thanksgiving Banquet was truly a success and a blessing. More than 150 guests came to enjoy a wonderful program. Pastor Hagop gave a message on "The Heart of Thanksgiving." Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian was honored for his 60 years of ministry and service to the Armenian community. The Tuesday Musicale of Greater Pontiac Bell Choir put on a wonderful show that everyone enjoyed.





Book of Life

A.C.C. extends its heartfelt sympathies to the Tootikian, Zartarian, Riley and Voskian families on the passing of their brother and uncle, Mr. Avedis Tootikian, on Tuesday, November 5th. A Memorial Service will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, December 7th, at 11:00 a.m. Memorial donations are designated to the Armenian Congregational Church or the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

Have You Made Your Pledge For 2020?

Sunday, November 24th, was Stewardship Sunday. Our members and friends made their pledges for the year 2020. The Board of Trustees is confident that those who did not pledge on Stewardship Sunday will do so soon. Pledge cards were mailed to all concerned; however if you need one, please ask for one from the Minister or the Church Office.

Mark Your Calendar!

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship Saturday, December 14th, at 9:00 a.m.

We are excited to announce that our first monthly Men's Breakfast & Fellowship will launch on Saturday, December 14th, at 9:00 a.m. The men will prepare a nice traditional Armenian breakfast. The program will consist of a guest speaker, fellowship, and games! We hope you can join us!

Armenian Language and Cooking Classes Saturday, December 21st

Armenian Language for Beginners: 10:00 am.
Armenian Cooking: 11:00 a.m.
Fellowship & Lunch 12:30 p.m.

Twice a month, these free community classes bring together a community of Armenians who come to learn the Armenian Language and learn traditional Armenian cuisine. After the cooking class, they fellowship and enjoy a wonderful lunch of what their own hands have prepared.



Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 22nd

Please join the Sunday School staff and students on Sunday, December 22nd, for this year's Christmas Program immediately following the Morning Worship Service in the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall. A wonderful Christmas program is being prepared. The Sunday School children will perform by declaring the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following the program we invite everyone to join us for a complementary luncheon sponsored by Dr. Richard Marburger in memory of his loving wife, Mrs. Mary Marburger.

Armenian Christmas Service Sunday, January 5th, at 11:00 a.m.

Come join us together to celebrate Armenian Christmas. We will have a special Worship Service, with the children performing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will serve Holy Communion to commemorate the gift of God for all humanity.

Fellowship hour

REMINDERS!

Altar Flowers

Is your Anniversary, Birthday or Graduation approaching? Why not share your celebration with the Church family by sponsoring the Altar Flowers or Coffee Hour. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the Church Office.

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Church Calendar

Weekly

Worship Service: Sundays 11:00 a.m.
Prayer and Fellowship: Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:00 a.m. (Preschool to 12 Grade)
Mid-Week Church Bible Study: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Prayer 6:00 p.m.)
Young Adults College & Career Group: 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 a.m. to Noon
By-Weekly Community Classes
Armenian Language for Beginners: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Armenian Cooking: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
(Contact the Church Office for dates)

Monthly

Board of Deacons Meeting: First Sunday of the month, 1:00 p.m.
Women's Christian Fellowship Meeting: Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.
Board of Trustees Meeting: Third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

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