

The Armenian Congregational Church
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Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Minister Emeritus

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Easter Message

Just like the Christmas Season, Easter is also a Season and not just a one-day affair, which starts with a sunrise service, great breakfast, egg hunt, the Easter bonnets, and the overflowing pews with the occasional church-goers, and the sumptuous Easter meal at Grandma's.

The early Church Fathers realizing the spiritual significance of Easter, allocated seven weeks on the calendar for the Easter Season culminating with the Feast of the Pentecost.

Easter is a Season for a reason, because there is so much to Easter to ponder, to absorb and more importantly to begin to experience. St. Paul in Philippians 3:10 says "I want to know Christ, and the power of the resurrection." If you are a Christian, it ought to be your primary goal and desire to know Christ. He also says that he wants to know the power of His resurrection. The power of the resurrection is not confined to the awesome historical events; when the earthquake shook the ground in Jerusalem and the tombstone rolled away; or when the Roman Guards were blinded by the bright light emanating from the tomb. In Romans 10:9, St Paul says the power of the resurrection is in the Power of Salvation. It is the power of NOW, "If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Why does St. Paul use this particular formula, these particular ingredients, for saving faith? We may believe many things about Jesus: His holiness, His teachings, His miracles, even His sufferings and death. But to believe that God raised Him from the dead is another huge leap forward in our faith. As Jesus Himself told doubting Thomas, "You have seen and believed, more blessed are those who believe without seeing." Believing that God raised Him from the dead is, believing in Jesus Who keeps all of His promises, and those promises include the full payment for all our sins, and that we will be like Him in rising from the dead. A Risen Christ is the validation of all Scripture; it is the cornerstone of the whole Gospel, the punch line of the Good News. "Where, O grave, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?" The sting of death and the victory of the grave have both been defeated because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

May the power of the Risen Christ work in our hearts during this Easter Season, and may we all be worthy witnesses of His Power of Salvation. Amen.

*Krisdos Haryav ee Merelotz, Orhnial eeh
Haroutunen Krisdosi
Christ is Risen from the dead, blessed is the
resurrection of Christ.*

Mr. David Terzibashian
Deacon

Holy Week

The week that begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday is called Holy Week. We are planning to have the following worship services.

Palm Sunday, March 24, the Sunday School students will participate in the morning worship service.

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, Choir Concert, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Resurrection Sunday, March 31, The Easter morning worship service is a family service. The Sunday school students will begin worship with their parents in the Sanctuary, and be dismissed for a special Easter lesson.

Easter Breakfast, Sunday, March 31, The annual Easter Breakfast sponsored by the ACC Youth Group (ACYF), will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door: \$6.00 for young and old alike.

ACC Women's Fellowship Annual Lenten Luncheon

The Women's Christian Fellowship is sponsoring their Annual Lenten Luncheon on **Friday, March 22, at 12 noon.** The Keynote Speaker will be our new minister, Pastor Shant Barsoumian, along with a Musical Program. For reservations, please call the Church Office by Monday, March 18. Donation is \$15 per person. Come enjoy a beautiful program. Both men and women are welcome.

Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, **March 28,** we will remember our Lord's last hours on earth through a special worship service that will include special music by the ACC Choir, and celebration of the Lord's Table. The evening will start with a special reflective supper in the ACC Fellowship Hall at **6:30 p.m.**

Book of Life

Entering her rest. Lori Janigian made her transition on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, at the age of 51.

The viewing was held in our Sanctuary on Friday, February 8, from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. The funeral service took place on Saturday, January 9, at 10:30 a.m. Following the service, there was a memorial luncheon in our Fellowship Hall.

She is survived by her husband John Tony Janigian, their children Nicolas John and Brian Ara Janigian, her mother Anahid Michaelian, sister Deborah Michaelian, brothers Marc and Steve (Leslie) Michaelian, She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

May the peace, grace and comfort of our Lord be with the Janigian and Michaelian families, their relatives and friends.

Entering her rest. Yeretzgeen Arshalous Rubyan, wife of our former minister, the late Rev. Robert P. Rubyan (1960-1968), made her transition on Thursday, February 14, 2013, at the age of 87.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., at the Wessels & Wilk Funeral Home, 23690 Woodward Avenue, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069 (248-543-0100). Our heartfelt condolences are extended to her surviving family.

Easter Flowers



Those wishing to arrange for an Easter flower to place in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please call the church office. The deadline for placing an order is Monday, March 25. The lilies are \$16.00 each, and the tulips are \$13.00 each.

Pastor Shant Barsoumian's Ordination



On **Sunday, March 10**, our new Pastor Shant Barsoumian will be ordained at the United Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles, CA. Our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, and ACC Moderator, Mr. Rodney Keteyian, will be participating in the service. Yeretzeen Rosette Tootikian will also be part of the delegation from our church.

Save the Date!

A special "Thank You" Luncheon is being planned for Rev. Dr. Vahan H. and Yeretzeen Rosette Tootikian on **Sunday, April 21**, immediately following the Morning Worship Service. It is our way of showing our appreciation to them for their interim service to ACC from July 1, 2012 through March 2013.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations Received

Alice Missirlian – Heritage
Varsnie Walsh - Heritage
Arpine Garbooshian - Missions
Ed and Phyllis Garabedian – Missions
Knights of Vartan – Vartanantz

Scholarship Opportunities

- *The Detroit Armenian Women's Club* is offering a \$1,500 scholarship in memory of Hranoush and Rose Dabanian to college students for the fall of 2013. For more information or to request an application form, please contact Carole Basmadjian at DAWC07@AOL.COM.
- *Dr. George and Isabelle Elanjian Scholarship* is open to students who are of Armenian descent and enrolled full time at UM-Dearborn or who wish to transfer there from another accredited two-year or four-year college or university. For more information or to request a scholarship application, contact: Cecile Aitchison at 313-593-5409 or Email CECILEA@UMD.UMICH.EDU.
- *Armenian Renaissance Association Sophia Chapter of Greater Detroit* will offer five scholarships to Michigan college students in 2013. The application period is open from April 1 – June 15, 2013. Applications may be requested through ARASOPHIA@AOL.COM or by calling Sena Harootunian at 248-641-9476.

Board of Trustees

On Sunday, April 7, our two newly- elected members of the Board of Trustees, Monica Koehler and Marjorie Nanian, will be installed during the Morning Worship Service.

Just Past!

The ACC Women's Fellowship Family Valentine's Night was held on Friday, February 15, 2013. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a delicious dinner and an evening of fun and fellowship with their church family. Many thanks to all those who helped in making this evening a success.

98th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

The Detroit Armenian United Genocide Committee is planning a special commemoration service for the 98th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide to be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Susan Karamanian, International Law Expert. It will be held at the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School at 7:00 p.m.

Armenian Congregational Church Annual Mother's Day Banquet

Sunday May 12, 2013
at 5:00 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
Fellowship Hall
26210 W. Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034
248-352-0680

Tickets: Adults \$25
Children ages 6-15 \$10
(no charge – under 6)

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