

IMPORTANT DATES

April 5 th	Lenten Luncheon
April 14 th	Palm Sunday
April 18 th	Maundy Thursday
April 21 st	Easter Sunday
April 24 th	Armenian Genocide Observance
May 12 th	Mother's Day Banquet
June 16 th	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.

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REMINDER!



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.

AMAA Internship

The AMAA is offering 2019 Internships to Armenia from Thursday, July 4th – Friday, July 19th. The annual program gathers young men and women from local church communities to embark on a journey that will impact them for years to come. The aim of this internship is to expose individuals of the Armenian Evangelical diaspora to the important Christian ministry the AMAA is doing in our homeland. It extends the opportunity for participants to serve God through the AMAA and embrace the rich cultural heritage of their people. For inquiries, feel free to contact Rev. Serop Megerditchian at 626-405-9195 or email rev.seropmegerditchian@yahoo.com.

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.

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Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Or Current Resident

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Lenten Message

Dear Members & Friends,

The month of March ushers in the Lenten Season, which is the perfect time for self-examination and repentance. Lent is time for us Christians to confess our sins and pray for forgiveness. It is time for spiritual revival in anticipation of welcoming our Risen Lord and Savior at Easter. I have taken the main idea for this month's article which emphasizes the importance of Repentance, from the sermon I preached a couple weeks ago about King David. I thought if the subject was worth preaching, it probably is worth repeating it in writing.

Many of you are familiar with King David's escapades with a woman named Bathsheba. The record of 2 Samuel Chapter 11 describes a king who abused his power in such a way as to commit two heinous crimes, namely adultery and murder. To help King David realize the magnitude of his offense, the prophet Nathan told the story of a poor man who only had a single lamb that he loved deeply. Then came along a rich man who had many flocks and dispossessed the poor man of the only lamb he had. When King David became indignant at that rich man's behavior, Nathan pointing his finger at David said, "You are that man" (2 Samuel 11:7).

After this confrontation with the Prophet Nathan, David became fully aware of the gravity of his sin and the weight of his guilt, and wrote Psalm 51 which is an expression of a heart overwhelmed by sin and shame, humbled and broken by remorse, and yet saved from despair by faith in God's mercy and His willingness to forgive.

David confesses his sin in verses 3-5 by saying, "I acknowledge my transgressions." David's confession is sincere because he does not try to excuse his sin and does not attempt to blame others for his indiscretion. In contrast, Adam blamed God and Eve for his sin (see Genesis 3:12). David's sense of personal accountability is plainly visible here. He did not try to evade his responsibility by ascribing his moral failure to unavoidable circumstances or an instinctive urge.

David appeals to God's grace and mercy (verses 1-2). "Have mercy upon me O God according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions." The word "blot out" literally means to erase or wipe off. David pleads with God to erase the record of his sins. When you write something you don't want others to read, you blot it out and thus what you have written disappears forever.

"Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity" (verse 2). David came to a place where he realized how ugly and offensive his sin was in the eyes of God and sought to be released from his guilt. He cast himself completely on God's mercy. "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean" (verse 7). Hyssop is an aromatic plant that grows everywhere in the Holy Land. The local people dry its leaves, boil them and drink the liquid which is known to clean the intestines.

In Old Testament times, when an Israelite became ceremoniously "unclean" by touching a leper, he had to submit to a cleansing ritual. He went to the temple where a priest dipped a bunch of hyssop in water and sprinkled the offender with water seven times. The concept that sin causes a separation between God and the sinner is emphasized in verses 9-11. David does not wish to be severed from God forever and yearns for the restoration of the relationship he once had with his Creator. David pleads with God not to deprive him of the Holy Spirit because he is aware of the Spirit's role in moral regeneration. The Psalmist now pleads for the restoration of joy of which he had been robbed by sin. In spite of his transgressions, God forgave David, because he found in him the willingness to Repent, and start a new, no matter how far he had fallen.

During this season of Lent, may we like King David, acknowledge our sins and seek the inner cleansing that God provides through the Holy Spirit, who penetrates our weak souls and with His potent powers reconciles us with God the Father. AMEN

Prepared by Lifetime Deacon
David Terzibashian

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Pope Francis' Words

HONORING

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

On Sunday, March 17th, the AEUNA and the AMAA jointly honored Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian's 60th Anniversary in Christian Ministry. The Testimonial Banquet was held at Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church Derian Hall in Pasadena, California.

JUST PAST!

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

A.C.C. WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL LENTEN LUNCHEON

The Women's Christian Fellowship Annual Lenten Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 5th, at noon. A delicious Lenten meal and inspiration program are being planned. Please share this information with your family and friends. Everyone is invited to attend!

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

The Palm Sunday Morning Worship Service will be held on Sunday, April 14th. The A.C.C. Women's Christian Fellowship will be holding a Bake Sale during the Coffee Hour. We hope you will take advantage of serving the delicious home-made baked goods to your family and friends this Easter!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

On Thursday, April 18th, we will remember our Lord's last hours on earth through a special worship service that will include special music by the A.C.C. Choir, and celebration of the Lord's Table. The evening will begin with a special reflective supper in the A.C.C. Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.

EASTER BREAKFAST, SUNDAY, APRIL 21st

The Annual Easter Breakfast sponsored by the A.C.C. Youth Fellowship (ACYF), will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Please come and join us for a delicious breakfast and make a donation at the entrance of the social hall to support our Youth Group.

RESURRECTION SUNDAY, APRIL 21st

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.

104th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OBSERVANCE

An Ecumenical Service of the Armenian Genocide Observance will be held at St. Sarkis Apostolic Armenian Church in Dearborn, MI on Sunday, April 24th, at 7:00 p.m., with all four Armenian Churches in the Greater Detroit area participating.

BOOK OF LIFE

Born: **Ethon Aren Collins**, son to Mr. and Mrs. Sean and Sarine Krikorian Collins, grandson to Ms. Taline Hagopian, and great grandson to Mrs. Sirarpi Hagopian, on Sunday, March 3, 2019 in California.

A.C.C. GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

Capital Building Fund

Carole Basmadjian
Roger and Nancy Berschbach
Stephen Bolerjack and Susan Gasparian
Gladys Margosian

LONG-TIME MEMBER OF A.C.C. NORA BAYLERIAN

Nora is a long-time member of the Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America (SARDAA). She does a wonderful job working with one of the Leaders of SARDAA. You can view one of their gatherings by using the link below.

The SA Workshop video is live and available on the SARDAA YouTube.

This is the link:

https://youtu.be/ZN5l_MQsu3M

