

The Pastoral Staff Letter

A NOTE FROM JENNY



Dear Friends,

Last week I wrote to you in anticipation of the marathon; this week it is still on my mind. I had not adequately understood what an all-encompassing event it truly is! The marathon route passes right outside my apartment building at Mile 23. It is an inspiring time to watch and cheer for the runners. Relatively speaking, they are close to achieving their goal, and yet, in the moment it feels so very far away. Perhaps more than anything, I was struck by those finishing at the

end of the pack. Those runners were never vying for anything other than personal goals. It was a race not against 50,000 other runners but against everything in their own selves that begged them to stop and rest. The first runners across the finish line are the ones that end up photographed in the newspaper and interviewed by reporters. It is the last runners across the finish line, however, that I most want to be like. They are the ones I will remember when I am faced with a struggle or a project that feels insurmountable.

It is easy to find inspiration and motivation from the New York City Marathon. I am curious, though, where else you find them. On a day to day basis, who or what encourages you to bring forth your best self? If you have a few moments, I'd love to hear your response. Send me a note at jmm@mapc.com. And know this: you encourage me. Your faithfulness inspires my own. Thank you.

See you Sunday,

Jenny

Sunday, November 11, 2018

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Veteran's Day

Worship Schedule: 9 am and 11:15 am;

Nursery - 4th Floor Phillips Building, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Worship: This Sunday, Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt will preach her sermon, Sowing and Reaping, based on the lectionary texts and our stewardship theme: Ruth 4:13-17; Psalm 127, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, and Mark 12:38-44. Preview the latest bulletins [here](#), and listen to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays [on the website](#).

Children's Worship, 9:15 am & 11:30 am, Phillips Lounge

Youth Worship, 9:15 & 11:30 am, Dana Chapel

Fellowship Hour, 10 am & 12:30 pm, Church House Lobby

Hood Library Annual Book Sale, 10 am, Library, Lobby

Sunday GIFT Education Hour, 10:10 am, Parish Hall

High School Fellowship, 10:10 am, 4th Floor, Phillips Building

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room

Congregational Nominating Committee, 1 pm, Community Services Room

ESL Classes, 1 pm, Fifth Floor

Confirmation Class, 4:15 pm, Youth Lounge

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

MADISON
AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
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MAPC is on [Facebook](#)
and [Instagram](#)

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) 10:10 am Parish Hall

Join us this Sunday, November 11, at 10:10 am in the Parish Hall, as we explore our lectionary Gospel text of Mark 12:38-44 as a church family. All ages are invited to join together as we cross generational gaps to explore *Giving and Receiving*. Let's start the season of gratitude as we give ourselves to God and one another and encounter God's Word in our midst.

Hood Library Fellowship Annual Book Sale this Sunday, November 11

Be sure to spend some time at Fellowship Hour this Sunday, November 11, where you will find the annual Hood Library book sale! What better way to spend time after worship than enjoying a cup of coffee or tea, conversation and browsing for books? Come find some winter reading, and perhaps even a Christmas gift or two. The Library Fellowship uses the proceeds to keep the Library's collection current.

To check the church's
calendar, go to [our website](#).

THIS SUNDAY, continued

Christmas Angels are here!

The Christmas Angel Tree program is starting and MAPC is happy to participate with this wonderful program again this year. We are looking for sponsors to pick a child or two for purchasing gift and/or clothing items for some families struggling this Christian season. Visit the Christmas Angel table in the Church House Lobby after worship this Sunday to add joy to a child's Christmas morning. We will have Christmas Angel gift tags for pick-up available following both worship services. These gifts benefit children of incarcerated parents through our long-time partnership with Church of Gethsemane. **Gifts should come wrapped and are all due at MAPC on Sunday, December 2. We will sort and organize the gifts on Monday, December 3** in the Phillips Lounge. All help is welcome!

STEWARDSHIP

Fall Fellowship Gatherings - Sow Bountifully!

The following information is to assist people in planning to attend one of our MAPC Fall Fellowship Gatherings. To make a reservation and for exact location details, **please call the church at 212-288-8920, extension 8485.**

Date and Time

Tuesday, October 16 @ 6:00-8:00 pm

Sunday, October 21 @ 4:00-6:00 pm

Friday, November 2 @ 6:00-9:00 pm

Monday, November 5 @ 6:00-8:00 pm

Monday, November 12 @ 6:00-8:00 pm

Approximate Location

Park Avenue about East 58th Street

The home is wheelchair accessible.

West 92nd Street

The home is wheelchair accessible.

West 91st Street

The home has stairs.

Park Avenue about East 89th Street

This home is wheelchair accessible.

East 67th Street

The home is wheelchair accessible.



OTHER EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Expectations:

Friday, November 16 at 6 pm

You are invited to the 6th Annual New York City Children's Chorus Benefit in support of MAPC's very own community children's chorus program on Friday, November 16 from 6 to 8:30 pm in the Church House Lobby and Sanctuary. The evening will include cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres by award-winning Bartleby & Sage, silent and live auctions, and performances by the Allegro, Concert Choir and In Harmony ensembles. Tickets are \$60 and may be purchased online at the **Bidding for Good** website.



Magnificat:

Sunday, November 18 at 3 pm

Next Sunday, November 18 at 3 pm, the Saint Andrew Chorale and Orchestra will open their 54th season with four settings of the Magnificat—the 'Song of Mary' that has inspired countless composers across the centuries. Bach's innovative setting of the Magnificat for chorus, soloists, and orchestra will be performed alongside contrasting settings by Buxtehude, Vivaldi, and Schubert. Tickets may be purchased **in advance** online, or at the door, for \$30 (\$25 - Students/Seniors); Children 12 and under: free.



Church Family Night:

Friday, November 30 at 6 pm in the Parish Hall

Come enjoy an early holiday party at the November 30th Church Family Night! We'll have a Christmas craft and movie and help decorate the Church House Lobby! And, of course, Jim will prepare a delicious meal for us. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erao in the church offices, **ljp@mapc.com**. The suggested donation is \$20 for adults and a donation of your choice for children under 12.



Advent Retreat/Quiet Day Saturday, December 1, 9 to 3pm "A Path Through Advent"

"... the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

—Luke 1:78-79

As we begin a new church year with the season of Advent, come give yourself a day of reflection and quiet. Advent is a time of preparation and waiting, longing and expectation. A time to look for the coming of Christ when all things will be made new, a time to make a way in the wilderness, to clear a path so that God may lead us home to the promised land. Beverly Bartlett will lead this quiet day. There will be time for group reflection, time for silence, time for devotions, and time for fellowship over coffee and lunch. We invite you to come and reflect on your path through Advent, and we hope that beginning this season with a day apart will enable you to move through it with more intention and meaning.

Once again, we will have a labyrinth available for a walking meditation—a path that winds its way into the center, then leads you back out again.

We'll gather in the Parish Hall for coffee and pastries, and lunch will be provided. We ask for a donation of \$20 to help cover the costs of food and materials. We need to know how many to plan for, so please let us know you will be coming. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erao in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com

THIS WEEK AT MAPC

Monday, November 12: Church House Closed - Veteran's Day Observed

6:00 pm	Fall Fellowship Gathering	East 67th Street
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Tuesday, November 13

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Christian Education Committee	Youth Lounge
7:00 pm	Outreach Committee	Library

Wednesday, November 14

7:00 am	Evangelism Committee	Phillips Lounge
8:00 am	Long Term Planning Task Force	Rm 608
12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
3:45 pm	Kids Club	PH, PL, 5th Floor, Gym
3:45 pm	Wee Kids	4th Floor
4:00 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
5:00 pm	T(w)een Club	Youth Lounge
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Budget Committee Meeting #1	Community Services Room
8:00 pm	Worship & Music Committee	Pastor's Study

Thursday, November 15

1:00 pm	Spiritual Growth & Faith Sharing	James Lenox House
6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Saint Andrew Chorale Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, November 16

6:00 pm	NYC Children's Chorus Benefit	MAPC
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Saturday, November 17

9:30 am	SAMS Rehearsal	Sanctuary
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Sign Up For The Annual Christmas Pageant

It's time to prepare for our annual Christmas Pageant: "God with Us." If your family is interested in participating in this year's pageant, please email Christina Cosby, cac@mapc.com, for more information. Please save the following dates for rehearsal:

Wednesday, November 28, 4-6 pm
Sunday, December 2, 10:10-11:10 am
Wednesday, December 5, 4-6 pm
Sunday, December 9, 10:10-11:10 am
Wednesday, December 12, 4-6 pm

Save the Date: Triennium is July 16-20, 2019

Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a time for Presbyterian Youth in grades 9th -12th from all over the world to gather in one place to celebrate our common faith in God. This is a gathering of about 5,000 youth and chaperones at Perdue University that will join together in worship, share in fellowship, and engage in conversation with one another during small group. The theme is "Here's My Heart." To learn more, visit Triennium's event [website here](#). If you are interested in joining this year's trip to Perdue University, please reach out to Christina Cosby by phone at 212-288-8920 or email at cac@mapc.com.

Fall Dates for Your Calendar

Friday, November 16: New York City Children's Chorus 6th Annual Benefit
Sunday, November 18: Stewardship Dedication Sunday, with brunches following the services
Sunday, November 24: Advent Workshop, 10:10 am
Sunday, November 30: Church Family Night, 6 pm
Saturday, December 1: Advent Retreat/Quiet Day, 9 am - 3 pm
Sunday, December 9: Senior Fellowship Lunch, 1 pm
Sunday, December 16: 14th Annual Carol Sing, 4 pm
Sunday, December 16: Youth Christmas White Elephant Party, 6 pm

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Children's Worship

Children's worship takes place during both worship services at 9 am and 11:15 am. This is an interactive worship service designed specifically for children 3rd grade and under.

Church School, Sunday Mornings 10:10 am, 5th Floor

Our Church School looks forward to welcoming you on Sunday as we sing together, read a story, and create something new! It is never too late to join in on the fifth-floor fun. Come and join us at 10:10 am this Sunday. To sign-up or get more information, please reach out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Kids Club and Wee Kids, Wednesday afternoons, 4-6 pm, Church House

Kids and families, join us on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm for Kids Club. Its never too late to sign up, visit our [website](http://www.mapc.com) or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com to register. Club will not meet on:

November 21, Thanksgiving Holiday
December 19, Christmas Holiday
December 26, New Year's Holiday

Middle School Ministries

Youth Worship, 9 am and 11:15 am!

Worship with your peers and friends in an interactive way in the Dana Chapel during both worship services every Sunday morning. Youth, grades 4-7, are invited to join Christina Cosby for a time of worship as they learn about our worship practices at MAPC and lead their worship experience!

Sunday Youth Hour, Sunday Mornings at 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

What characters inspire you in movies, books, and music? How do they show love toward God and others in an inspirational way? Join us on Sunday Mornings as we discover Faces of Our Faith as they appear in popular culture! We will use popular movie clips, characters

from books, and people we personally know to explore how they live into their faith and how God calls us to do the same! Middle and High Schoolers are invited to join Christina on Sunday mornings at 10:10 am. Hope to see you on Sunday.

T(w)een Club: Middle School Mid-Week Youth Group, Wednesday afternoons, 5-6:30 pm, Church House

Middle schoolers, join us for T(w)een Club Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 pm. We'll share dinner and study the Bible with Rev. Jenny McDevitt. Haven't joined us on Wednesday nights before? This is the perfect chance to change that and it's never too late to sign up! For more information, contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com or visit our [website](http://www.mapc.com) to find the registration form.

The Club will not meet on:

November 21, Thanksgiving Holiday
December 19, Christmas Holiday
December 26, New Year's Holiday

High School Fellowship Sunday Mornings, 10:10 am 4th floor Phillips Building

Have you been looking for a space to call your own and reconnect with your church friends? MAPC is excited to premiere our High School Fellowship. This will be a time that you help design. This Sunday seminary interns, will lead us as we explore Luke in conversation and through art.

BIBLE STUDIES AT MAPC

Looking for a place to read Scripture together and get to know people at MAPC? Come to one of our Bible Studies; newcomers are always welcome! For more information, go to the [MAPC website](http://www.mapc.com).

Reading Through the Bible: Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 pm

Phillips Lounge

Reading Through the Bible picks up with Ecclesiastes on Wednesday, November 14th.

20s/30s Bible Study:

Next Meeting is Today, November 8

Across culture and time food and wine have been enjoyed by many. This is no different throughout Scripture. This fall we are going to look at the importance of table fellowship and the production of wine in scripture as we begin a new year. Come as we sample food, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages from different regions around the world and discover their Biblical roots.

Women's Bible Study:

2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge; Next Meeting is Monday, November 12

The minor prophets, who are they? What do they have to say to us today? These are the same questions we asked as we wondered what to study next. Come learn with us as we begin this new study!

Join us at 6:30 pm every other Monday or come early with a bit to eat as we enjoy fellowship with one another. We cannot wait to see you there!

Volunteer this Fall with Children's Worship and Youth Worship

Are you passionate about worship at MAPC? Worship is a time that we share a set liturgy as a way to reconnect with God and one another. Moreover, worship teaches us valuable patterns that we use across many areas in our lives. Each Sunday, we share the importance of this liturgy and pattern of life with our children as we worship in an interactive way in Children's Worship and Youth Worship. This valuable time for our families is made possible by your help! Sign-up and come experience worship in a new way!

Visit [Sign Up Genius](http://www.signupgenius.com) to volunteer in November!

Give Some Love to the New York Common Pantry Grocery Carts

Far too often, a basic human necessity like food is expensive and scarce, especially in New York City. The New York Common Pantry works each year to reduce stress in people's lives by providing a pantry to those in need. The pantry continues to ask for your help! **They need canned or dried beans, canned chicken/salmon/tuna, rice, dried pasta, fresh or canned vegetables, and peanut butter.** We simply ask for no glass containers! You may drop your items off in the provided grocery carts found in the Church House Lobby or the Sanctuary Narthex. Or, since we are busy people in a busy city, you may also order groceries to be delivered to the **New York Common Pantry (8 East 109th Street, New York, NY, 10029, Phone: 917-720-9700)** by one of your grocers. Know that any items you give will not only impact a family, but also a child's life. And we are most thankful for that!

Clothing Donations Needed for Women and Men

The Homeless Outreach Program at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, one of MAPC's long-term outreach partners, continues to see a dramatic increase of homeless persons seeking assistance. Both casual and business clothing for men and women, as well as new undergarments, are among their most urgent needs. If you have clothing items in clean and neat condition, we encourage you to **take them to the Jan Hus Clothes Pantry at 351 East 74th Street at 1st Avenue. The clothes pantry is available to take donations Monday through Saturday from 8 am-8 pm and on Sunday from 9 am-3:30 pm.** NOTE: Please bring all clothing to Jan Hus directly – clothing may no longer be left in the coatroom off the MAPC Church House Lobby.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay Connected to Worship at MAPC

Did you know that even if you're away or unable to make it to church that you can listen to Sunday worship services at MAPC? Sermons and service highlights (including scripture lessons, hymns and anthems) are uploaded afterwards, and are permanently accessible. They can be downloaded to your electronic device or listened to directly on **website**: Peruse this valuable online resource today! Once ready for print, our Sunday bulletins are also uploaded to our website on Thursday afternoons and are made permanently available for download.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Is there someone you would like to honor or remember through a gift of flowers for Sunday worship? If so, please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo at **ljp@mapc.com** or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

MAPC Serves Opportunities

Youth Service Group for High School Students

This year we will share in service and fellowship as we meet the needs of three communities: the elderly, the homeless, and children. Each month, we will offer three service opportunities that reach these three populations. We look forward to having you join us in service beginning in October.

Save these dates:

December 3 at 4 pm: James Lenox House

December 6 at 6 pm: Thursday Open Table: Join us to serve a warm meal to our neighbors in need.

OUTREACH

Ways to get involved at MAPC with hands and hearts!

The following opportunities to participate in hands-on ministries are provided by the Outreach Committee. If you are interested in exploring any of these opportunities, email Rebecca Heilman at **rmh@mapc.com**. Let's put our faith into action!

The Thursday Open Table Needs YOU!

Can you spare 2 hours on a Thursday evening from 6-8 pm? If so, then you can help feed 120 hungry neighbors a hot meal, offering them Christian hospitality. Please contact Kathy Hoffman at **kfhoffman@earthlink.net** to volunteer for this opportunity.

Hosts are needed at the Shelter

Hosts are needed for the Shelter! The Shelter is comfortable and the experience of helping these men get their lives back on track is one that will change your heart. Two shifts are offered each evening. Early evening hosts volunteer from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; overnight hosts volunteer from 8:30 pm to 7:00 am. Please contact Rebecca Heilman at **rmh@mapc.com** for more information.

Search and Care

Can you spend an afternoon with an elderly person on the Upper Eastside to walk their pet, go with them to a doctor's appointment, help them shop, balance their checkbook or just offer them the gift of companionship? Contact Robin Strashun at **SandC@searchandcare.org** for more information.

New York Common Pantry

The New York Common Pantry offers opportunities for volunteers to help pack and distribute food to the working poor on Saturday mornings and other times each week. MAPC has supported this very well organized and effective organization since its inception 30 years ago. This is a wonderful way to follow Christ's command to "feed my sheep!"