

The Pastoral Staff Letter

A NOTE FROM JENNY



Dear Friends,

Do you know the story of Martin Rinkart? Rinkart was a Lutheran pastor in the walled German town of Eilenburg in the early 1600s. The town was a sanctuary for fugitives of the Thirty Years War, given that the city walls offered some protection from religious violence. But those walls were useless against a plague that descended upon the town.

At the beginning of 1637, there were four ministers serving in Eilenburg. One abandoned his post in favor of a safer and healthy area, vowing never to return. Rev. Rinkart officiated over the funerals of the other two, who both succumbed quickly to the disease. As the only clergyman left, it fell to Rinkart to conduct as many as 40 to 50 funerals a day. By the end of 1637, he had conducted more than 4,480 services for the dead. One of those services was for his wife, who died in May.

It was this same year that Rinkart started work on a very special prayer. Surrounded by death and grieving the loss of his beloved wife, Rinkart began to write out a heartfelt message of deep and abiding gratitude. Despite everything he had suffered, he refused to forget the God who was walking with him along every step of that dark valley. As a faithful pastor, his intention was to share the prayer with the families of his parish - to offer them a gift of thankfulness they could recite together around their own tables. It was not long until the prayer was set to music, transforming it into one of history's most treasured and enduring hymns of joy. The words of Rev. Martin Rinkart are my prayer for you and yours in this season of gratitude:

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today...
All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore. Amen.*

Peace, *Jenny*

Sunday, November 18, 2018

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Stewardship Dedication Sunday

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, Stewardship Sunday: Cheerful Giving, based on the lectionary texts and our stewardship theme: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8. Preview the latest bulletins [here](#), and listen to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays [on the website](#).

continued...

MADISON
AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Issue #53
Nov 15 & 22, 2018



**MAPC is on Facebook
and Instagram**

SUNDAY

**Annual Advent Craft
Workshop, November 25
at 10:10, 5th Floor**

Join us on November 25th as we prepare for Advent by making candles as a church family. Advent is a church season dedicated to the waiting in hopeful anticipation of Christ's coming. As we wait for Christ's light to enter the world, we often light candles that remind us of hope, peace, joy, and love. This year we will prepare for advent as we make our own candles, clinging to the promised light that is to come in Christ on Christmas Day. You are invited to take your creation home to light each day as a family or to offer as a gift of light to a friend.



If you have questions or plan on being in attendance, please email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com or call the church office (212)-288-8920 x8480.

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

Sunday, November 18, 2018 continued...

Children's Worship, 9:15 am & 11:30 am, Phillips Lounge
Youth Worship, 9:15 & 11:30 am, Dana Chapel
Stewardship Brunches, 10 am & 12:30 pm, Parish Hall
MAPC Children's & T(w)een Choir Rehearsal, 10:15 am, Sanctuary
Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room
ESL Classes, 1 pm, Fifth Floor
Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra Concert, 3 pm, Sanctuary
Confirmation Class, 4:15 pm, Youth Lounge
Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

Sunday, November 25, 2018 - Christ the King / Reign of Christ

Worship Schedule: 9 am and 11:15 am;
Nursery - 4th Floor Phillips Building, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Worship: This Sunday Rev. Rebecca Heilman will be preaching. Her sermon will be based on the lectionary texts: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18); Revelation 1:4b-8 and John 18:33-37. 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
Annual Advent Craft Workshop, 10 am, Lobby
Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room
Fellowship Hour, 12:30 pm, Lobby
ESL Classes, 1 pm, Fifth Floor
Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

SUNDAY, continued

The Christmas Angels Have Been Distributed, But We Still Need Your Help!

A warm thanks to you all! Due to our low numbers of Christmas Angels this year, all our Angels have been distributed. But we still need your help! After your gifts have been brought and wrapped, please drop them off at MAPC by Sunday, December 2nd. All help is welcome on Monday, December 3rd at 9:30 am when we will sort and organize the gifts in order to deliver them back to the Church of Gethsemane. You can volunteer now by contacting Nancy Trinka (ntrinka2@gmail.com) or Rebecca Heilman (rmh@mapc.com).



STEWARDSHIP & BRUNCHES

Stewardship Dedication Sunday – Your Pledge Makes a Difference

This Sunday, Nov. 18, is Stewardship Dedication Sunday. Return your pledge card to be prayed over as we ask God to make good use of our financial commitments. Brunch will be served in the Parish Hall following each service so that we can enjoy fellowship together as we give thanks for the past year of ministry and look forward to the future. Stewardship materials have been mailed out; pledge cards will be available in the pews and at the brunch.

MAPC benefits when you pledge. Pledging – an advance commitment – helps us plan our budget in the most faithful and responsible way possible. Knowing what income we can count on allows us to be more prudent in determining our expenses. Beyond the practical realities, your pledge, no matter the size, helps us continue our rich history of relevant, meaningful ministry in New York City. Because of your pledge, men without a warm place to sleep each night will receive shelter. Because of your pledge, thousands of hungry individuals will sit down at tables and be served a warm and nutritious meal every Thursday night. Because of your pledge, our robust music program will con-

tinue giving glory to God in Sunday worship and special concerts. Because of your pledge, dozens of our own children will hear the stories of Jesus and be reminded how deeply they are loved. Because of your pledge, friendships among adults will blossom in the midst of a world where it is far too easy to feel alone. Because of your pledge, MAPC will continue bearing witness to the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But know this: you also benefit when you pledge. Pledging is a spiritual practice. It is a commitment to being part of something larger and outside of ourselves. It reminds us how connected we are, to God and to a community. It requires us to be thoughtful in our spending and budgeting. It may require us sometimes to make hard decisions. But it also has the potential to remind us in a very tangible way how faith interweaves itself within every element of our lives. This is Good News, because it also reminds us that God shows up within every element of our lives.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2019, and join us this Sunday.

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.



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-Erazo

in the church offices, lqp@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, 9-3 pm, "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-Erazo in the church offices, lqp@mapc.com.

Magnificat: Sunday, November 18, 3 pm

This 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.

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 before December 1st, 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 9-12 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 join together in worship, share in fellowship, and engage in conversation with one another during small group. The summer's 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. Sign-ups are due to the Presbytery by mid-January.

NY Times Article on Mayada Anjari

We wanted to share with you this wonderful article from this week's New York Times about Mayada Anjari—the Mayada of the three "Dinners with Mayada" that we have hosted. It gives a beautiful picture of Mayada and her family and their journey as refugees from Syria, and an insight into what life is like for those in their position. If you did not purchase one of Mayada's cookbooks, *The Bread and Salt Between Us* at the dinner in October, it is beautiful and will make a wonderful Christmas gift. Click **here** to read the article.

THIS WEEK & NEXT AT MAPC

Monday, November 19: Session Materials Due

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Long Term Planning Committee	Room 608

Tuesday, November 20

12:15 pm	Day School Thanksgiving Assembly	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	MAPC Book Club	Library
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Congregational Nurture Committee	Phillips Lounge

Wednesday, November 21

8:00 am	Trustees	Parish Hall
12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
3:45 pm	No Kids Club, Wee Kids or T(w)een Club	
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Thursday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Day - Church House Closed

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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Friday, November 23 - Day After Thanksgiving - Church House Closed

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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Saturday, November 24

9:30 am	SAMS Rehearsal	Sanctuary
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Sunday, November 25 - See page 1 for listings

Monday, November 26

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study	Phillips Lounge
7:00 pm	Long Term Planning Committee	Room 608

Tuesday, November 27

1:00 pm	NY Presbytery Meeting	Offsite
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Session	Parish Hall

Wednesday, November 28

12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
3:45 pm	Kids Club	PH, PL, 5th Floor, Gym
3:45 pm	Wee Kids Club	4th Floor
4:00 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
5:00 pm	T(w)een Club	Youth Lounge
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Thursday, November 29

6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Recovery Group	Library
7:00 pm	Carol Sing Rehearsal	Sanctuary
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Friday, November 30

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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Saturday, December 1

9:30 am	Advent/Quiet Day Retreat	MAPC
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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 Craft 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 2: Christmas Angel Gifts Due

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 welcomes you on Sundays as we sing together, read a story together, 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.

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

Kids and their families are invited to join us on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm for Kids Club. Its never too late to sign up, visit our website or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com to register.

Dates to remember:

November 21

Thanksgiving Holiday - No Kids Club

December 16

Christmas Pageant - 10:10 am

December 19

Christmas Holiday - No Kids Club

December 26

New Year's Holiday - No Kids Club

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? 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 school students, 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 to find the registration form.

Dates to remember:

November 21

Thanksgiving Holiday - No Kids Club

December 16

Christmas Pageant - 10:10 am

December 19

Christmas Holiday - No Kids Club

December 26

New Year's Holiday - No Kids Club

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? Join us for High School Fellowship this coming Sunday.

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](#) to volunteer in November!

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 [MAPC website](#).

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

Phillips Lounge

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 21.

20s/30s Bible Study:

Next Meeting is on a Special Date: Tuesday, November 20

Across culture and time food and wine have been enjoyed by many. This is no different throughout Scripture. We are going to look at the importance of table fellowship and the production of wine in scripture. 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 26

The minor prophets, who are they? What do they have to say to us today? 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!

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 **lgp@mapc.com** or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

MAPC Serves Opportunities

Youth Service Group for High School Students

Join us as we serve the vulnerable across our City with high school students in mind. We will be sharing 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.

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 even just offer them the gift of companionship? If so, please 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!"