

The Pastoral Staff Letter

A NOTE FROM JENNY



Dear Friends,

As we begin our Advent journey toward the manger, my prayer is that each of you finds time to breathe in the mystery and beauty of the season. This letter contains a great deal of information about worship and other activities during Advent and Christmas. One that is new to MAPC this year is a Service of the Longest Night, held December 18, at 7 pm in the Dana Chapel. This service is intentionally scheduled for the longest night of the year, when the darkness is longest and deepest. It is a chance for us to acknowledge that though the holiday songs declare this to be "the most wonderful time of the year," for many it is a time when grief bubbles to the surface, old wounds feel fresh again, or life simply feels overwhelming. Through quiet prayer, music, and scripture, we will make space for those very real emotions. Those in attendance will be invited to light candles, marking prayer concerns of any sort. Through it all, we will remind ourselves that even in the deepest, darkest, longest night, the light of Christ is very much alive and well - and on our way to us, even now. If you suspect this season will bring some burden for you or someone you know, consider joining us December 18. The service itself respects all privacy and involves no personal time of sharing. Pastors will be available afterwards, however, to pray with those who wish. As always, if you have any questions, please let me know.

See you Sunday,

Jenny

THIS SATURDAY

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

It is not too late to sign up! 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

MADISON
AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Issue #54
Nov 29, 2018



**MAPC is on Facebook
and Instagram**

THIS FRIDAY

Church Family Night: Friday, November 30, at 6 pm, 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 at lqp@mapc.com. The suggested donation is \$20 for adults and a donation of your choice for children under 12.



**To check the church's
calendar, go to our website.**

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, December 2, 2018 - 1st Sunday of Advent

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, Let There Be Hope, based on the lectionary texts and our Advent series, Let There Be Light: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36. There will be Healing & Wholeness prayers offered during communion at both services, as is customary the first Sunday of each month. 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, Parish Hall

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

Adult Education, 10:10 am, Dana Chapel

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:10 am, Parish Hall, 5th Floor

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Parish Hall, 5th Floor

ESL Classes, 1 pm, Fifth Floor

Shelter Orientation, 1 pm, Shelter Space

Music on Madison Concert: New York City Children's Chorus

Christmas on Madison Avenue, 3 pm, Sanctuary

Confirmation Class, 4:15 pm, Youth Lounge

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

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 by email: ntrinka2@gmail.com or Rebecca Heilman: rmh@mapc.com.

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



Sunday, December 2 at 3 pm: Christmas on Madison Avenue with the New York City Children's Chorus

The New York City Children's Chorus will sing excerpts from Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* & Randall Thompson's *A Place of the Blest*, plus works based on carols from France, England, Scotland and Germany, in preparation for their recording of Christmas works this coming Spring!

Mary Huff, Artistic Director
Andrew Henderson, Piano
Austin Philemon, Organ
Kathryn Andrews, Harp

Admission is \$25 (\$20 - Students/Seniors); Children 12 and under: free; Tickets available at the door; Will Call tickets are also available **in advance online**.

What's that catalog in our pews?

It's the Presbyterian Giving Catalog no less! You are more than welcome to buy piglets, chickens, or an ox and a plow. Or help educate a child, empower women, or donate a garden well. The options are endless, and they are all important, both big and small. As Presbyterians, it is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world to find ways to sustain our neighbors and bring love and justice with us. The Presbyterian Giving Catalog provides opportunities for just that.

THIS SUNDAY *continued*



Learn More about MAPC's Shelter, December 2nd

MAPC is highly aware and active in providing shelter for about 12 men caught in the brutal system of poverty. All are invited to learn more about MAPC's nightly shelter at the Outreach Committee's Shelter Open House on Sunday, December 2nd at 1:00 p.m. Come and be educated on the ins and outs of the shelter and homelessness. Your attendance will not automatically volunteer you, but will give you an opportunity to know more about the city we live in and the people we share it with. Please RSVP or send any and all questions to Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com.

OTHER EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual "Company of Deacons" Gathering Wednesday, December 5, 7 pm in the Parish Hall

All ordained deacons, whether currently serving on the Board of Deacons or not, are invited to our annual "Company of Deacons" gathering next Wednesday, December 5. We will have a time of fellowship with food, then Rev. Bartlett will talk with us about meditation/contemplative prayer and lead us in a guided meditation. Practices such as contemplative prayer and mindfulness meditation not only nurture our spiritual lives and relationship with God, but have significant overall benefits for emotional, mental and physical health. Deacons, please come join in this annual gathering!

Tell Me More About MAPC

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about MAPC, join our next "Tell Me More" conversation on Saturday, December 8, at 9:00 am in the Phillips Lounge. This session, led by Rev. Jenny McDevitt, is required for anyone wishing to join the church, but any and all are welcome to attend. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo, lgp@mapc.com.



Donations for Christmas Flowers

We are now accepting donations for the poinsettias and wreaths that will beautify the Sanctuary during the Christmas season. Gifts may be made in memory or in honor of loved ones. To make a donation, please use the special insert in the bulletins for the next few Sundays, or print out a [pdf copy here](#). You may place your completed form and contribution in an envelope in the offering plate, or mail it to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the Church Office. The suggested donation for each name is \$40. In order to include the names of loved ones in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we must receive your donation by Monday morning, December 17.

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

Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a time when 5000 Presbyterian Youth in grades 9-12 from all over the world gather at Perdue University to join in worship, share in fellowship, engage in conversation with one another and celebrate our common faith in God. 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.

Christmas Joy Offering

Keep a watchful eye out for the Christmas Joy Offering on December 23rd, 24th, and 25th. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The generosity of Presbyterians means a brighter future and enhanced opportunities for leaders to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. We certainly hope you will be able to give!

THIS WEEK AT MAPC

Monday, December 3

9:30 am	Christmas Angel Gift Sorting	Phillips Lounge
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
4:30 pm	MAPC SERVES: James Lenox	James Lenox House
7:00 pm	Long Term Planning Task Force	Room 608

Tuesday, December 4

5:00 pm	Hood Library Fellowship	Library
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Personnel Committee	Pastor's Study

Wednesday, December 5

12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
1:30 pm	Shelter Leaders	Shelter Space
3:45 pm	Kids Club - Advent Service	PH, PL, 5th Floor, Gym
3:45 pm	Wee Kids	4th Floor
4:00 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
4:45 pm	MAPC Children's & T(w)een Choir	Choir Room
5:00 pm	MAPC Children's Choir Caroling	James Lenox House
5:00 pm	T(w)een Club	Youth Lounge
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Annual Deacon's Gathering	Parish Hall

Thursday, December 6

1:00 pm	Spiritual Growth & Faith Sharing	James Lenox House
6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table: MAPC Serves	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, December 7

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
---------	-------------------	---------------

Saturday, December 8

9:00 am	Tell Me More About MAPC	Phillips Lounge
---------	-------------------------	-----------------

White Elephant Christmas Party for Middle and High Schoolers

Join us for our annual White Elephant Christmas Party as we gather to ring in Christmas cheer. We will celebrate the holiday season early with a gift exchange, pizza, and games.

When: December 16th after the Carol Sing

Where: On the 5th Floor

What: Bring a wrapped gift and a suggested \$10 donation to help cover the cost of dinner

Save the Date!! Annual January Fellowship Event



Friday Night Fireside Jazz is January 25th!
Mark your calendars and watch for more details in the coming weeks!

Fall Dates for Your Calendar

Saturday, December 1

Advent Retreat/Quiet Day
9 am to 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 at 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. It's never too late to sign up, visit our website or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com to register.

Dates to remember:

December 16

Christmas Pageant - 10:10 am

December 19

Christmas Holiday - No Kids Club

December 26

New Year's Holiday - No Kids Club

January 2, 2019

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:

December 16

Christmas Pageant - 10:10 am

December 19

Christmas Holiday - No Kids Club

December 26

New Year's Holiday - No Kids Club

January 2, 2019

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 Winter 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 December!

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, December 5.

We will pick up with Isaiah 6.

20s/30s Bible Study:

Next Meeting is Thursday, December 13

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 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, December 10

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!

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 MAPC's **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-Eraza 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

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!"