

The Pastoral Staff Letter

A NOTE FROM JENNY

Dear Friends,

In worship last Sunday, I shared a bit of a financial update. For those of you who were not able to join us, I want to make sure you hear the same information. I am including my comments here:

"First of all, I want to say thank you. Our pledges for 2019 have started off very strong. We are 22 percent ahead of where we were this same time last year. Now I want to be clear: this doesn't mean if you haven't turned in your pledge card, that you don't need to. We need everyone. We are off to a good, strong start, but a good, strong finish, is just as important.

Here's part of the reason why. We are looking at some pretty difficult news as we get ready to close out 2018. We are looking at a deficit budget somewhere between \$170,000 and \$175,000. This isn't because we went overboard on our spending. We didn't. We spent less this year than the year previous. We have done everything we can to watch our spending and be responsible stewards of our resources. Our income for 2018 is where we are falling short.

The finance committee last year anticipated \$800,000 in giving – that's both pledged and non-pledged giving combined. We are on pace to finish the year at \$625,000. That's where the gap of \$175,000 comes in. So here is my honest appeal to you. If you haven't thought about 2019, we need you to think about 2019. And if you haven't fulfilled your pledge for 2018, we need you to fulfill your pledge for 2018.

And finally, if you have fulfilled that pledge, and you have the means to give a bit more still, that extra contribution will

go a long, long way in helping us move toward more sustainable financial practices next year and in the years to come.

A few of you have asked me how much I knew about the realities of our budget before my arrival. I knew as much as anyone could know before living and breathing it every day. I was well aware there would be significant challenges. But here's what else I knew. Even before I knew you all personally, I knew enough about you to trust that we would rise to those challenges together, with God's help. And in the last eight months, I have not doubted that for even one minute. Madison Avenue, you are capable of so many good and gracious things. God has much in store for us.

I'm telling you all of this today because I promised to always be open and honest with you about our life together. This is one of those moments. It is a moment of transparency and vulnerability. But what better time to practice that than on the first Sunday of Advent, when we prepare ourselves to receive the Lord Jesus Christ, who is nothing less than God himself in the most transparent and vulnerable form of all – a baby."

My prayers are with you, friends, as you and yours prepare for one of our best, holiest days.

See you Sunday,

Jenny



MADISON
AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Issue #55
DEC 6, 2018

Sunday, December 2, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

Worship Schedule: 9 am and 11:15 am

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

Worship: This Sunday Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman, will preach her sermon, Let There Be Peace, based on the lectionary texts and our Advent series, Let There Be Light: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6. Preview the latest bulletins [here](#), and listen to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays [on the website](#).

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

MAPC is on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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, Parish Hall

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

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge, 5th Floor

ESL Classes, 1 pm, Fifth Floor

Senior Fellowship Lunch, 1 pm, Parish Hall

Confirmation Class, 4:15 pm, Youth Lounge

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

Tell Me More About MAPC, December 8, Philips Lounge

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. Please RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo, lqp@mapc.com.

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Education

"And Thy Neighbor": An Early History of MAPC

Have you read this short manuscript about the earliest days of our church? In 1953, James and Gertrude Hunter wrote an account of the ministry of Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin, Jr., the congregation's first pastor. Join Rev. Jenny McDevitt at 10:10 am on Sunday, December 9, in the Parish Hall, to explore this manuscript and the lessons it teaches us today about vision, leadership, and community engagement. Download the manuscript for free at www.mapc.com.

Senior Fellowship Lunch is this Sunday 1 pm in the Parish Hall

MAPC seniors and friends, please come downstairs to the Parish Hall after Fellowship Hour to enjoy lunch and conversation this coming Sunday. Suggested donation for lunch is \$10.

Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Need a gift for the person who has it all? Searching for a gift that helps create a better world? Consider the Presbyterian Giving Catalogues found in the pew racks. Buy piglets or chickens for a community farm; help educate a child, empower women, or donate a garden well. Show someone in your life how much you love them by providing an act of love for our neighbors in their honor.

OTHER EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

God with Us: Annual Christmas Pageant Parish Hall, December 16th, 10:10 am

This year the children of our church have learned a new version of the Christmas story in rhyme in hopes to shed a new light on the first Christmas night—the day that Jesus came among us. We hope that you will join us for pastries, coffee, and a time to reflect on "God with Us!" If you have any questions or want to know more, please reach out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com or by calling the church office.

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!



Annual Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Preparing for the annual Christmas Pageant offers children and youth a time to deepen their understanding of the Christmas Story as they build relationships with one another. This year we have a brand-new script with updated parts and props! We hope your family will consider being a part of this memorable time in our life together. Please email Christina Cosby, cac@mapc.com, for more information and save the following dates for rehearsal:

Sunday, December 9, 10:10-11:10 am

Wednesday, December 12, 4-6 pm



14th Annual Carol Sing Sunday, December 16 at 4 pm

Join us for an afternoon concert of audience carols, reading, poetry and seasonal choral music—including excerpts from Vivaldi's *Gloria*—sung by the Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and New York City Children's Chorus, accompanied by guest instrumentalists and conducted by Mary Huff and Andrew Henderson. Admission is free, though a freewill offering will be taken, and a reception will follow in the Parish Hall.



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.**

Shelter Stockings

Everyone deserves a little bit of joy Christmas morning and sometimes that joy comes with a gift. The shelter leaders are looking for black socks, wool socks, candy, chapstick, tissues, and small travel size toiletries (preferably with no alcohol) to stuff 12 stockings for our shelter guests. We need all items by December 22nd. They may be dropped off to the receptionist or given directly to Rebecca Heilman on a Sunday morning. Email Rebecca at rmh@mapc.com with any questions or concerns.

White Elephant Christmas Party for Middle and High Schoolers, December 16th from 6-8 pm, 5th Floor

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual January Fellowship Event Friday Night Fireside Jazz, January 25, 6 - 9 pm!

Come enjoy an evening of good food, great music and lively fellowship in the Church House Lobby. Chef Jim is preparing a New Orleans inspired menu, the jazz trio is booked, there will be a fire in the fireplace, and childcare will be offered on the 5th Floor if that makes it easier for you to attend. The suggested donation for the evening is \$40, and we ask for a donation of \$15 per child if you need childcare.

You'll be able to sign up in the Church House Lobby after worship on Sundays in January, or you can respond to Lissette Perez-Erazo at ljp@mapc.com or by calling the church office. Please indicate if you will need childcare. This is an evening you won't want to miss!



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.

THIS WEEK AT MAPC

Monday, December 10

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

Tuesday, December 11

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

Wednesday, December 12

12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
3:45 pm	Kids Club - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	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
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Budget Committee Meeting #2	Community Services Room

Thursday, December 13

6:00 pm	20s/30s Bible Study	Apt. 10C
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, December 14

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

Saturday, December 15

9:00 am	Sanctuary Decorating	Sanctuary
---------	----------------------	-----------

Fall Dates for Your Calendar

Sunday, December 16 at 4 pm
14th Annual Carol Sing

Sunday, December 16 at 6 pm
Youth Christmas White Elephant Party

Tuesday, December 18 at 7 pm
The Service of the Longest Night



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 12 as we pick up reading Isaiah 10.



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!

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

Church School is currently on hiatus due to our Christmas pageant rehearsals. We will begin again on January 6th!

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

Youth Hour is on hiatus in order to make space for our Christmas Pageant rehearsals. Youth are invited to join one of our younger classes to help them prepare for this year's performance of, "God with Us!" We will begin again on January 6th as we discuss what theme we want to talk about this winter together.

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 con-

tact 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 as we continue the spiritual practice of Bible Journaling and encounter the Gospel of Luke.

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!

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-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

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:

**January 3, Thursday Open Table,
6:00 pm, Parish Hall**

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!"