

The Pastoral Staff Letter

MADISON
AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Issue #57
DEC 20, 2018



THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, December 23, 2018 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship Schedule: 9 am and 11:15 am

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

Worship: This Sunday Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt, will preach her sermon, *Let There Be Love*, based on the lectionary texts and our Advent series, *Let There Be Light*: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55.

Preview the latest bulletins [here](#), and listen to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays [on the website](#).

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

Youth Hour & High School Fellowship, 10:10 am, Shelter Space

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

**To check the church's calendar, go to [our website](#).
MAPC is on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).**

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!



OTHER EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

Shelter Hosts over the Holiday

With the holiday season right around the corner and many volunteers away, we struggle to find volunteers to host the shelter. If you have been trained as a shelter host and will be in NYC the week before and after Christmas, we need your help! Volunteer now through the online database given to you when you first volunteered or contact Rebecca Heilman, rmh@mapc.com. If you have not been trained, but would like to volunteer over the Christmas holiday or any time after, please contact Rebecca Heilman, rmh@mapc.com, to set up a time to meet and get oriented with the shelter. Hope to hear from you!

Shelter Open House

Would you like to volunteer for our shelter? Come to the Shelter Open House on January 13th following the 11:15 am service! You will learn more about our shelter and volunteer opportunities. Each night, we need a host for the early shift (6:30 pm - 8:30 pm) and the late shift (8:30 pm - 6:30 am) to help our guests feel more comfortable and at home. All are invited to volunteer, including families! Bring a meal to share, games to play, or a yummy dessert. We hope you will be able to volunteer after the New Year! If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Heilman, rmh@mapc.com.

Church Family Night, Friday, January 11, 2019 6 pm in the Parish Hall

At this point everything after Christmas seems to be in the distant future—but it's not! The next Church Family Night is around the corner, following close on the heels of the holidays. Make sure Friday, January 11 is on your calendar! Come enjoy a delicious dinner in the Parish Hall, conversation, a craft activity, movie and playtime in the gym—you can do it all, or simply enjoy sitting with friends. This is for everyone in the MAPC church family, not just families with kids at home! It's a great way to unwind on a Friday evening—and you don't have to worry about what's for dinner and whose preparing it! The suggested donation for adults is \$20, and we ask that you make a donation for children under 12 based on their appetite! Chef Jim needs to know how many to cook for, so please let us know you are coming. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, lqp@mapc.com.

MAPC Book Club, Tuesday, January 15th, 2019 at 4 pm in the Hood Library

For their January meeting, the MAPC Book Club will discuss Jane Austen's beloved classic, *Pride and Prejudice*. If you haven't read it since high school or college, here is your opportunity to re-visit the Bennets, Bingleys and Mr. Darcy. All are welcome!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

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 in the church offices, lqp@mapc.com. Please indicate if you will need childcare. This is an evening you won't want to miss!



Christmas Pageant A Thank You

With rhyme and mime this year our Christmas Pageant was a success! We hope that this new perspective on the timeless story of Jesus' Birth gave you a chance to experience the Gospel in a new way. This experience was possible because of you: you who teach our children weekly, you who helped your family prepare at home, and you who came to support the children of the church last Sunday! It takes all of you and we are grateful for your support year after year. If you would like access to the video recording of this year's production, please email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.



Sign Up Now for Triennium, July 16-20!

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 by email at cac@mapc.com. Sign-ups are due to the Presbytery by mid-January.

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.

Please note there will be no Children's Worship on December 23rd and December 30th. We invite all children to enjoy worship in the sanctuary with their family. If children need a quiet place to play, they are welcome to use the nursery or children's library.

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

Church School is currently on hiatus over the Christmas and New Year holidays. We will pick up at 10:10 am on the 5th floor 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 26 & January 2, 2019: 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!

Please note there will be no Youth Worship on December 23rd and December 30th. We invite all youth to enjoy worship in the sanctuary with their family.

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

This Sunday we need your help to make this Christmas memorable for our shelter guests. Our congregation and others have donated items to fill stockings for our guests. Our task is to fill the stockings and add a personal card wishing the men that stay at MAPC each night a Merry Christmas.

Please note that there will be no Youth Hour on December 30th. We hope you enjoy a morning with extra rest and look forward to seeing you on January 6th.

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 26 & January 2, 2019: No T(w)een Club

High School Fellowship, Sunday Mornings, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

This Sunday we need your help to make this Christmas memorable for our shelter guests. Our congregation and others have donated items to fill stockings for our guests. Our task is to fill the stockings and add a personal card wishing the men that stay at MAPC each night a Merry Christmas.

Please note that there is no High School Fellowship on December 30th, enjoy a morning with a little extra rest! We look forward to seeing you on January 6th!

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](#).

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

Reading Through the Bible is on hiatus until January 9th, 2019, when we will pick up with Isaiah 25.

20s/30s Bible Study: Next Meeting is Thursday, January 10, 2019, 6 pm

This fall we enjoyed reading about wine throughout scripture. This Winter we will pick up with a new study. Do you have suggestions or questions of faith you want answered? If the answer is yes to either of those questions email them to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.



Women's Bible Study: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge; Next Meeting is Monday, Jan 14, 2019

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 reflect on the minor prophets in scripture, history, and their importance in our lives 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!



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!

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!

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.

OUTREACH

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 23, Stuff Shelter Stockings, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

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

January 7, James Lenox House, 4:30 pm

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? 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!"



Jan Hus Presbyterian Church is collecting clothing again!

Cleaning out the closet for the New Year? Starting Friday, December 21st, Jan Hus will collect clothing from the community! 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. Go to their website to learn more: uocnyc.com.

NOTE: Please bring all clothing to Jan Hus directly-clothing may no longer be left in the coatroom off the MAPC Church House Lobby.

THIS WEEK AT MAPC

Monday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

1:00 pm	Church Offices Close	7th Floor
4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Tableau Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:30 pm	Instrumentalists' Rehearsal	Sanctuary
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:15 pm	Christmas Eve Prelude	Sanctuary
10:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10:15 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
11:15 am	Christmas Day Lessons & Carols	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Wednesday, December 26

6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Thursday, December 27

6:30 pm	NO Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Recovery Group	Library

Friday, December 28

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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Saturday, December 29 No Events Scheduled - Church House Closed

