

The Pastoral Staff Letter

**Sunday Worship
October 8, 2017
18th Sunday after Pentecost**



**Madison
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church**

Issue #2

October 5, 2017

Worship Schedule 9 am & 11:15 am

**Infant Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 8:30 am—1 pm
Toddler Nursery—4th Fl. Church House, 8:30 am—1 pm**

This Sunday, The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted is preaching his sermon entitled *“Hijacked”* based on the texts: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; and Matthew 21:33-46.

Preview the latest Sunday bulletin, or listen to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC’s website.

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

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

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

Adult Education, 10:10 am, Parish Hall (*more info inside*)

Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:30 am, Choir Room

Teen Brunch, 12:45 pm, Youth Lounge

ESL Classes, 1 pm, 5th Floor

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

**To Check out the
Church’s Calendar:**

Go to the website at
[http://www.mapc.com/
calendar/calendar/](http://www.mapc.com/calendar/calendar/)

MAPC is on Facebook!

*See you in church!
The Pastoral Staff*

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This Sunday

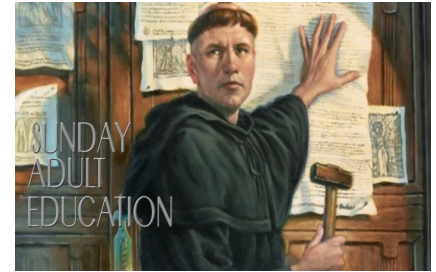
Adult Education

Join us in the Parish Hall at 10:10 am as Sharon Boersma presents, *“The Life and Times of John Calvin: Seeking Inner and Outer Order.”*

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year, we will hear many voices calling us to reverence the memory and work of Martin Luther and John Calvin. We will hear other voices confronting us with words and deeds of theirs which might make us defensive or embarrassed. These great reformers should neither be wor-

shipped nor condemned.

They are human, like us. They are the folks next door, the parishoners in the pew ahead, fellow souls in the holy Catholic Church, and members of the communion of saints. We should get to know them better. But if we took them out for coffee, it might take only ten minutes of conversation for us to feel that they are aliens from another planet! The realities of life, which formed them five hundred years ago, were quite different than those forming us in the twenty-first century.



October marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Come to Christian Education sessions on October 8th to meet Martin Luther and John Calvin and the world in which they lived. Next Sunday, Sharon will introduce us to John Calvin. We hope to see you there!

Other Events & Announcements

A Reminder About Fall Fellowship Gatherings

As you know, the Stewardship & Development Committee is sponsoring a series of Fall Fellowship Gatherings in the homes of MAPC members. Every member of the congregation has been invited to a gathering, in most cases in your neighborhood.



Thanks to the many members who have already responded through the Paperless Post reply or in other ways, we are off to a good start! If you have not responded, the easiest way is to reply electronically.

We understand that the time of your invitation may not be convenient. We encourage all to attend an event. The full list of all eight gatherings is posted on the MAPC [website](#). Please select an event that is convenient for your schedule and let us know your plans.

We want to combine congregational fellowship and stewardship through these gatherings. We will talk briefly about stewardship and development, have the chance to discuss other issues of interest, and have plenty of time for fellowship. Each gathering will include light refreshments.

From

The Stewardship & Development Committee of MAPC

Consider MAPC Membership Through the Next Inquirers Class on Saturday, October 14 at 9 am

Have you been thinking about membership at MAPC or been wondering what kind of commitments that might involve? Are you not interested in membership, but want to know more about the congregation and our faith? Join Rev. Andy Smothers for the upcoming Inquirers class on Saturday, October 14, from 9 am to approximately 3 pm in the Phillips Lounge.

The classes are informal and interactive—the perfect way to find out more about MAPC and our beliefs! Light refreshments

and a light lunch will be served; dress is casual.

What will we cover? We will explore the beliefs of our faith through our creeds shared with the church universal and with other reformed denominations. We'll recall the history of the Christian Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our journey will continue with MAPC's history, its current programs, and a tour of our facilities. Finally, we'll talk about our church governance and how we live our lives together as a

church and as a people sent out into the world.

If you would like to attend or have questions, please contact Andy Smothers, Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism, at ads@mapc.com or 212-288-8920.



Rev. Andy Smothers,
Interim Associate Pastor

Men's Fellowship Oktoberfest, Monday, October 16, 7 pm, Roof Garden

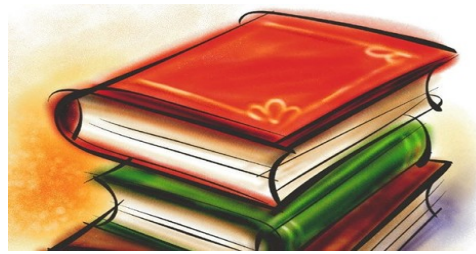


It's time for the annual Men's Fellowship Oktoberfest! Chef Jim will prepare a traditional Oktoberfest feast; there will be beer, of course (wine and non-alcoholic beverages for those who prefer them), and we will hope for good weather to enjoy being on the Roof Garden—if not, we'll move the event inside. We need to know how many

Jim should cook for! RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, wds@mapc.com, or sign up in the Church House Lobby after worship for the next two Sundays. The suggested donation for this event is \$25.

MAPC Book Club, Tuesday, October 17, 4 pm in the Hood Library

The MAPC Book Club is open to all and would love more participants. They meet on the third Tuesday of the month, beginning at 4 pm in the Hood Library. For their October 17th meeting, they will be discussing *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.



MAPC Book Club—Join us! All are welcome.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace and Global Witness Offering was received on September 24 and October 1. Thank you for your gifts totaling \$986, which is approximately half that we received last year. Higher councils in the denomination receive 75% of this money to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. MAPC has designated 25% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support recovery after recent hurricanes in the southern U.S. and the Caribbean. If you did not get a chance to give to this offering, please do so [online](#) by selecting “Peace” from the dropdown list.



CROP Walk

This year’s CROP Walk will take place on October 15, 2017 with registration beginning at 1:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for youth, families, and our larger church community to come together to support the fight against hunger in our neighborhood. If you would like to participate in this year’s event you may register directly on the Crop Walk [website](#), and choose MAPC as your team. For more information, feel free to contact Christina Cosby, cac@mapc.com or (212) 288-8920 x8480.

If you are unable to sign-up to walk, consider contributing financially to help our team reach our goal. The funds raised directly support programs in our neighborhood, including our Men’s Shelter and Shelter Dinner programs.

MAPC is currently one of the top teams signed up for this year’s CROP Hunger Walk, NYC. Help us continue to be a tope supporter of the fight against hunger in the city we love!

Highlights of the September Session Meeting

The Session had its first meeting since the summer hiatus on September 26. Click [here](#) for more information.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Response to Hurricanes



A Texas National Guardsman carries a resident from her flooded home following Hurricane Harvey in Houston

The destruction from recent hurricanes has been widely published and work has begun to help people recover. Residents of Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, Barbuda, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, and elsewhere will be impacted for years to come. Many are still trying to meet immediate and basic human needs. Please pray for those affected.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), an entity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has begun accepting donations for recovery work related to hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. If you would be willing to donate to this cause, you may do so [online](#) by selecting “Disaster Relief Fund” or by designating an additional gift in our Sunday offering



Music on Madison: “The Romantic Spirit Through the Ages”

The Saint Andrew Music Society’s Music on Madison season continues next **Sunday, October 15 at 3 pm**, with students from Mannes College—The New School for Music, and guest organist Andrew Henderson, the afternoon’s program features keyboard works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, and Lowell Liebermann; Bruch’s *Kol Nidre*; songs by John Harbison; and

Schumann’s *Piano Trio No. 1*, Op. 63. Admission to our *Music on Madison* concerts is \$25 (\$20—students/seniors); children 12 and under: free. Will Call reservations may be made online in advance using a credit card, or admission can be paid at the door. Visit MAPC’s website to view all 15 concerts taking place during our 2017-2018 season.



Andrew Henderson, Director of Music & Organist

Annual Women’s Brunch, Saturday, October 21, 10 am to Noon, Parish Hall

MAPC Women, please sign up now for the Annual Women’s Brunch! This is a wonderful fellowship event, and a chance to learn the stories of some of our MAPC members. Once again, we have invited four women to share some of their stories about events/people/insights that have shaped their lives. We will have Families with Young Children concurrently on

The Roof Garden so spouses or caregivers and young children can play while Moms enjoy the brunch. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, wds@mapc.com, or sign up in the Church House Lobby during fellowship hour on the next two Sundays. The suggested donation for brunch is \$15.



Annual Women’s Brunch

Families with Young Children Saturday, October 21, 10 am to Noon

As stated above, Families with Young Children will be a little different this time around—we hope Moms will attend the Women’s Brunch in the Parish Hall that morning, while spouses and caregivers spend time with the younger children on the Roof Garden. Please let us know if you will be coming, so we can provide bagels and beverages. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos, wds@mapc.com.



Church Family Night Halloween Bash! Friday, October 27, 6 pm, Parish Hall

Halloween will be here before you know it! Please make sure the annual Church Family Night Halloween Bash is on your calendars! This is our most popular Church Family Night of the year—who doesn’t like an additional opportunity to wear their Halloween costumes. We’ll have dinner, a Halloween craft, a costume parade with spooky organ music, and treats to take home. In addition, John Carr is once again busy making a beautifully cross-stitched Halloween goodie bag—we will raffle the bag off that evening to raise money for Presbyterian Disaster Relief. The suggested donation is \$20 for adults, and a donation for your child(ren) based on their appetites. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos, wds@mapc.com.

November Congregational Fellowship Events

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming November fellowship events:

Monday, November 6, Moms Night Out, 7 pm

Sunday, November 12, Annual Library Fellowship Book Sale during Fellowship Hour

Monday, November 13, Dinner with Mayada and Friends, 6:30 pm, Parish Hall
 Congregational Dinner with Syrian meal prepared by Mayada Anjari, one of the Syrian refugee families Rutgers Presbyterian Church has helped to resettle. *Please note, the date listed for this event in the fall issue of MAPC Life was incorrect. November 13 is the correct date.*

Christian Education at MAPC

Call for Children's Worship and Youth Worship Volunteers

MAPC believes in the importance of incorporating children in worship through an interactive environment tailored to their needs. For this reason, we provide a time during the regularly scheduled worship services for children to engage in a liturgy designed for them, and a Bible lesson that mirrors the Sunday sermon. Our hope is this experience allows parents and children the opportunity to discuss the day's scripture passage together. This ministry of MAPC heavily depends on your willingness to volunteer. If you would like to sign-up or have questions, please contact Christina Cosby, cac@mapc.com or (212) 288-8920 x8480.

Children and Family Ministries

Children's Worship

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

Youth Worship

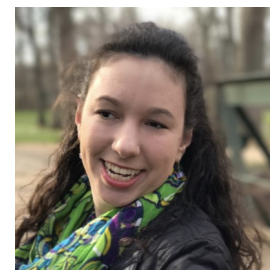
Youth worship occurs during both Sunday Services (9 am and 11:15 am). All children 4th grade and up are invited to attend.

Kids Club

It is not too late to sign up for this year's after school program at MAPC. Kids Club this year takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 3:45-6:00 pm. More information can be found on the MAPC [website](#).

Church School

Church School takes place each Sunday morning during the 10 am hour. This time is designed for elementary-aged children to join together in song and Bible study. To register, please fill out the Children Ministries' form that can be found [here](#) on the website. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday!



Christina A. Cosby,
 Director of Christian
 Formation at MAPC

Please stay tuned for more fall service opportunities coming up, or go to the MAPC [website](#) to find a complete list.

Middle and High School Ministries

T(w)een Club

This after-school program is for students in 6th grade and older, and takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-6:00 pm. More information can be found on the [website](#).

Sunday Youth Hour

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is founded on the motto "Reformed and ever reforming." This year commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This fall we will join together to study Scripture and history, as we learn what it

means to be part of the reformed faith. Through our time together we will reflect on the church's past, discuss the church today, and share our dream for the future of the church. We hope to see you this Sunday at 10:10 am in the Youth Lounge on the 5th Floor!

Pizza and Game Night

We hope that middle and high school students will join us at 6 pm next Friday, October, 13, 2017, for an evening full of pizza, fun, games, and more! We will be on the fifth floor of the Church

House.

Confirmation

This year's confirmation classes will take place on Sunday afternoons at 1 pm from October 15 to May 13, 2018. This is a course for students in eighth grade or older to discern what it means to be a member of Christ's body, the Church. If your child would like to participate in this year's confirmation classes, please reach out to Christina Cosby for more information. She can be reached by phone at 212-288-8920 x8480, or by email at cac@mapc.com.

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 <http://www.mapc.com/christian-ed/adultclasses/>.

Reading Through the Bible:

12:30 pm-1:30 pm, Phillips Lounge

Reading Through the Bible meets every Wednesday in the Phillips Lounge. Next week we will pick up with Psalm 19!

20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Thursday, October 12, 2017)

5:30-8 pm, in the Youth Lounge on the 5th Floor of the Church House

If you are in your twenties or thirties, join us for a time of food and fellowship as we explore questions of faith and how to respond faithfully in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, October 16, 2017)

3rd and 5th Mondays, 6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge

Currently, we are studying Paul's letters. Come join us for an enriching conversation of Paul's letters to the Philippians! We welcome all to a time of fellowship beforehand beginning at 6 pm. Bring your dinner and engage in conversation as we learn more about faith and each other.

Men's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Wednesday, October 18, 2017)

The Men's Bible Study meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 pm in Phillips Lounge. We are currently reading Galatians.

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 re-

source today! Once ready for print, our Sunday bulletins are also uploaded to our website on Thursday afternoons and are made permanently available for download.

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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**We're on the
web
www.mapc.com**

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

Thank You for Filling the New York Common Pantry Grocery Carts

The New York Common Pantry, the city's largest private food pantry and long-time MAPC Outreach partner, is asking for your continued support: canned or dried beans, canned chicken/salmon/tuna, rice, dried pasta, fresh or canned vegetables, and peanut butter. Please—no glass containers. You can drop off items in the grocery carts in the Church House Lobby or the Sanctuary Narthex, or you could even order groceries to be delivered through one of your grocers. (8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029, Phone: 917-720-9700). Thank you for taking seriously Christ's command to "feed my sheep!"

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-8pm 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 of the MAPC Church House Lobby.

Hands-on Ministries

Ways to get involved at MAPC with hands and hearts!

"Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." 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, e-mail Andy Smothers at ads@mapc.com. Let's put our faith into action!

The Thursday Shelter Dinner 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.

Host 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 am. Contact Andy Smothers at ads@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, contact Robin Strashun at SandC@searchandcare.org.

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!"