

# *The Pastoral Staff Letter*



**Madison  
Avenue  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Issue #31**

**May 17, 2018**

## **Sunday Worship Day of Pentecost Youth Sunday May 20, 2018**

### **Worship Schedule**

**9 am and 11:15 am service**

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

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

This Sunday our youth will be preaching and participating in the service. Their sermons will be based on the lectionary texts: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; and John 15:26-27. Preview the latest Sunday bulletin, or listen to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC's website.

**Fellowship Hour, 10 am, Church House Lobby**

**Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor**

**Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge**

**MAPC Children's & T(w)een Choir Rehearsal, 10:15 am, Sanctuary**

**Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room**

**Confirmation Congregational Celebration, 12:30 pm, Parish Hall**

**ESL Classes, 1 pm, Room 608**

**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  
and Instagram!**

*See you in church!  
The Pastoral Staff*

### **Inside this issue:**

*This Week* 2

*This Sunday* 2  
3

*Other Events and  
Announcements* 3  
4  
5  
&  
6

*Christian Education  
at MAPC* 6  
& 7

*Bible Study Groups* 7

*Hands-on Ministries* 8

# This Week

## Pizza and Game Night, This Friday, May 18, 6-8 pm on the 5th Floor



Game On! Do you enjoy pizza? Are you wondering what to do on Friday night? Do you want to hang out with friends? Then come to MAPC for a fun-filled Friday night as we get our Game On! This Friday we invite our 5th grade friends to join us as we welcome them into our middle school group! We look forward to having you. To sign up, you can RSVP to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

## Tell Me More About MAPC! Saturday, May 19 at 9 am

New to MAPC? Thinking about joining, or just curious about who we are and why we do things the way we do? Not sure how to spell *Presbyterian*, never mind, know what Presbyterians believe? Looking for ways to get connected and get involved? Join us this Saturday, May 19 from 9 to 11:30 am in the Phillips Lounge. Attendance at one of these gatherings is required before officially joining, but attending doesn't commit you to joining. RSVPs are helpful so we can have enough snacks and coffee on hand for you, but consider yourself invited and welcome even if your presence is a surprise to us. Led by Rev. Jenny McDevitt. Contact Lissette Perez-Eraza at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com) with questions or to sign up.



# This Sunday

## Youth and Confirmation Sunday



Pentecost is a day that commemorates God sending the Holy Spirit to the church in order that all may understand and be united. Acts reminds us that all ages and cultures are welcomed in God's community. It reads, "God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

This Pentecost we will celebrate God's Spirit speaking to this community through its young sons and daughters. For it is the dreams of the older men and women that have taught this generation through dreaming grand visions.

Our youth are leading us in worship at 9 am and 11:15 am. Come listen to what the Holy Spirit is doing in the community that we call home!

## Congregational Brunch in Honor of Confirmands, This Sunday, May 20th, Following the 11:15 am Worship Service

Please come down to the Parish Hall following the 11:15 am worship service and enjoy a time of fellowship and lunch in honor of our confirmands. This has become an annual event as we welcome these young people—Emily Bartlett, Adeline Burg, Cole Glotfelty and Emily Patterson—into the membership of MAPC. There is no charge for the lunch, but there will be a basket for free-will donations. Come downstairs for fellowship even if you cannot stay for lunch!

## Other Events & Announcements

**Please note that *next week*, Sunday, May 27, we will begin our summer worship schedule, with one service at 10:30 am.**

### Auditions for NYC Children's Chorus Now Open!

Children ages 4-18 may now sign up to audition for MAPC's very own New York City Children's Chorus. We anticipate hearing over 200 auditions this spring, so we recommend that you register your child for an audition as soon as possible, due to the high volume of auditions. If your child is a fine singer, please consider auditioning for this outstanding program at [www.nycchildrenschorus.org](http://www.nycchildrenschorus.org).



### Highlights of the April 24 Session Meeting

- Members of the 2018 Confirmation Class met with Session. Emily Bartlett, Adeline Burg, Cole Glotfelty, and Emily Patterson all met with small groups of elders for shared conversation about their perspectives on faith, church, and dreams for the future. All four were approved and received into membership of the church.
- An update on the Church House sprinkler project was provided, including the contractor and budget recommended by the Trustees. Session approved the Trustees recommendation. Apo-gee will complete the work over the summer, beginning in June and concluding before September 1.
- Session revisited the recommendation from the November 2017 meeting to close the overnight shelter. At that time, Session tabled the decision pending further study. Elders Greg Ballard and Laura Burg presented a thorough report on the status of the shelter, including congregational participation and financial implications. Following the report, the motion to close the shelter was unanimously defeated. The overnight shelter will remain an MAPC ministry.
- The personnel committee brought to the Session a candidate for the position of Director of Administration and Finance: Roger Pierce. Session approved the recommendation.



## Update From the Synod of Harare

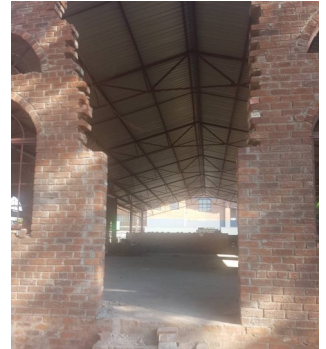
We recently received these photos from our partners in the Synod of Harare showing the progress on the building of the Harare City Church. They are getting much closer to completion! Please keep our sisters and brothers in the Synod in your prayers

over the coming days as they hold their Synod meeting May 16-20. We have sent a letter of greeting for them to share at the Synod meeting, and we look forward to hearing an update following it. Our dear friend, Abusa Libias Bolo-

ma, who served as one of our visiting pastors-in-residence, has been the Synod Executive for the last six years. A new Synod Executive will be elected at this meeting, and Libias will return to pastoring a church, which he is looking forward to.



The next two photos were sent back in December. The progress is noticeable.



## Roof Garden Party, Thursday, May 31 from 6 to 9, on the Roof Garden, of course!

We normally have our summer Roof Garden party in July, but the sprinkler installation project that will be happening in the Church House this summer will make the Roof Garden inaccessible as of June 1. Chef Jim will be cooking for us and is planning a Mexican menu, complete with margaritas. So, come enjoy an “almost summer” Roof Garden Party! We will offer childcare again. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Eraza at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com), or watch for sign-up opportunities during fellowship hours on Sunday mornings. Suggested donation is \$40. If you are requesting childcare, we ask for a contribution of \$15 per child. We'll order pizza for the kids.



# Welcome Roger Pierce, MAPC's New Director of Administration and Finance



On May 1, we welcomed Roger Pierce as Director of Administration and Finance, to fill the role long-held by Richard Frey. Roger

and Richard have been working together throughout the month of May to ensure a smooth transition before Richard's retirement. As you will soon experience for yourselves, Roger balances deep knowledge with a calm spirit. He has over 20 years of experience working at increasingly senior levels at Russ Reynolds Associates here in New York, as well as experience in similar capacities in San Fran-

cisco and Greenwich, CT. Roger recently made the decision to step away from for-profit work and seek out a position with an organization that, in his words, "gives back and makes a difference in people's lives." In fact, Roger first heard of this open position because he had begun volunteering with our overnight shelter. Please join us in welcoming him to the MAPC family.

## Farewell Luncheon for Richard Frey, Sunday, June 3 in the Parish Hall, Following the 10:30 am Worship Service

Our Business Manager, Richard Frey, is retiring at the end of May, after almost 25 years at MAPC! Many of you who have served on Session or the Board of Trustees have had the opportunity to work with Richard and know how valuable his years with us have been. For those of you who haven't worked with Richard, he has been a major player in keeping MAPC running for the past quarter century. Please come say thank you and farewell on June 3 after morning worship.



In lieu of a purse, Richard has asked that donations be given to the scholarship fund Richard and his wife Janet have established at Richard's high school, Lancaster Mennonite School. The Frey Endowed Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to residence hall students from varied racial/ethnic backgrounds. The current recipients are students from Nigeria. To contribute to the Frey Scholarship Fund in honor of Richard's years of service to MAPC, you may place your gift in the offering plate, or you can give online through the MAPC [website](#) (click on the "Giving" tab and in the drop-down box you should find "Richard Frey Gift"). You may also send a check to MAPC, 921 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021, attn: Carmen Olmeda.

## All Church Retreat September 28-29 at Holmes Camp and Conference Center



Mark your calendar now for the All Church Retreat in the fall! We are having it a little earlier this year and are hoping for beautiful weather for outdoor activities. We'll have plenty of room for those who want to come up and enjoy an evening of fellowship on Friday, and we will plan to start the program around 9 or 9:30 on Saturday for those who come for the day. We'll have more details as we get closer to summer.

## Christian Education at MAPC

### Volunteers Needed for Children's Worship

Children's Worship needs your help this summer! If you can help assist in Children's Worship this summer, please contact Christina Cosby at (212) 288-8920 x8480, or by email at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

### 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.*

Children's Worship will continue over the summer months, and it will take place at our 10:30 am worship service beginning on May 27th.

#### Kids Club

*Wednesday afternoons, September through May from 3:45-6 pm*

Yesterday concluded our Kids Club program for this school year! We enjoyed learning, playing, and singing with your families through the year, as we followed the church's liturgical calendar. We are looking forward to another wonderful sea-



son next year with even more special events added to our time together! Sign-ups for next year will begin soon, but you are always welcome to sign-up early by contacting Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

### Middle and High School Ministries

#### Youth Worship

We will conclude our program this Sunday by leading the adults in worship for Youth and Confirmation Sunday (please see page 2 and 3 for details). On May 27th, we will switch to our summer schedule with one worship service at 10:30 am. During the

summer months, youth are encouraged to stay in the Sanctuary to worship with their families.





**T(w)een Club**

*Wednesday afternoons,  
September through May,  
from 4 to 6 pm*

Yesterday concluded our T(w)een Club program for this school year! We enjoyed learning, playing,

and singing with your families through the year as we followed the church's liturgical calendar. We are looking forward to another wonderful season next year with even more special

events added to our time together! Sign-ups for next year will begin soon, but you are always welcome to sign-up early by contacting Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

*Please stay tuned for more service opportunities coming up, or go to the MAPC [website](#) for a complete list or click here to find an [easy-to-print](#) calendar.*

## 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:**

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

On May 23rd, we will pick up with Psalm 145.

**20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Thursday, May 24)**

*2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 pm, Apt. #10C*

Join us for food and Bible Study. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

**Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, June 12)**

*2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge*

Hospitality takes many forms, but how does God call us to engage with those we are called into community with? Join us as we continue our study on *Hospitality: A Journey Through Scripture and History*. Bible study begins at 6:30, and all are welcome to bring dinner for fellowship at 6 pm. We look forward to seeing new faces at our next session.

## 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 val-

uable 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.

## Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

921 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
Phone: 212-288-8920  
Fax: 212-249-1466

**We're on the  
web  
[www.mapc.com](http://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-Erazo at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto: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 Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@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](mailto:kfhoffman@earthlink.net) to volunteer for this opportunity (formerly known as Shelter Dinner)

### 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 Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@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](mailto: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!"