

# *The Pastoral Staff Letter*

**Sunday Worship—20th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
August 19, 2018**

**Worship Schedule  
10:30 am Service**

**Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 9:30 am-12:15 pm**

This Sunday, Rev. Beverly G. Dempsey of Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and Neighborhood House will be guest preaching. Her sermon will be based on the lectionary texts: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; and John 6:51-58. Preview the latest Sunday [bulletin](#), or [listen](#) to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC's website.

**Children's Worship, 10:45 am, Phillips Lounge**

**Fellowship Hour, 11:45 am, Parish Hall**

**ESL Classes, 12 pm, Shelter Space, Community Services Room**

**Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space**



**Madison  
Avenue  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Issue #41**

**August 16, 2018**

**This is a two-week  
Pastoral Staff Letter.**

**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*

**Sunday Worship—21st Sunday of Ordinary Time  
August 26, 2018**

**Worship Schedule  
10:30 am Service**

**Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 9:15 am-12:15 pm**

This Sunday, Christina A. Cosby will be preaching. Her sermon entitled *Wandering People, A Wandering God* will be based on the lectionary texts: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; and John 6:56-69. Preview the latest Sunday [bulletin](#), or [listen](#) to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC's website.

**Children's Worship, 10:45 am, Phillips Lounge**

**Fellowship Hour, 11:45 am, Parish Hall**

**Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space**

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## A Note From Jenny

It has been an eventful week at MAPC. Our sprinkler installation and other scheduled projects continue on as anticipated. However, on Monday evening, a water line's valve failure resulted in significant flooding on floors 4 through 10 of the Church House. We have taken swift measures to both repair damages and prevent mold (and other allergen concerns). The Trustees and the Session have been kept informed every step of the way, with members of the Building and Grounds Subcommittee, in particular, lending expertise and insight. I am deeply grateful for their generous sharing of their time and talent, especially with very little notice.

Our primary concern is repair of our building, particularly staff apartments and the Day School. Roger Pierce, our Director of Administration & Finance, is working closely with contractors, insurance adjusters, and everyone in between. I am grateful for his dedication to his work, and the positive spirit he maintains even in difficult circumstances.

Fortunately, neither the Sanctuary nor the Phillips Building took on any water.

As we navigate these repairs, I ask the following of you:

- ◆ Keep MAPC, and all contractors and construction workers, in your prayers, for continued (and safe) progress.
- ◆ Extend grace toward church staff. They are working very hard under less than ideal circumstances.
- ◆ If you are looking for a way to help, for now, consider sharing an expression of gratitude in whatever form you wish—kind words or notes go a long way. If and when there are ways for the congregation to help, we will let you know. For now, we need to let the professionals do their work.

I am glad to welcome Rev. Beverly Dempsey to MAPC this Sunday. Beverly is known to many at MAPC and currently serves at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and Neighborhood House. I will miss being with you, but I will be away for an exciting reason. Our new pastoral resident, Rebecca Heilman, will be ordained Sunday at her home church in Valdeze, North Carolina. She invited me to preach at the service and I am honored to do so. Rebecca will be with us in worship beginning August 26—be sure to introduce yourself!

As summer wraps up, even with some unexpected challenges, I am so grateful to be here. I am excited for all the fall has in store, beginning with September 9! Don't miss out on opportunities to grow in faith, make new friends, and dive deeper into all MAPC has to offer.

Peace,

# Other Events & Announcements

## Worship at 9 and 11:15 am

We return to two worship services September 9! Don't forget that Adult Education, Church School and Youth Hour also start up again and occur between both morning services.

## Blessing of the Backpacks (and other bags)

Ready or not, a new academic year is almost upon us. Students, bring your backpacks or bookbags to worship (yes, to worship!) on September 9 to receive a special blessing and a small gift during the Children's Lesson. Adults, if you wish to participate, bring whatever bag accompanies you throughout your day. Let's begin the year remembering that God is with us wherever we go and whatever we do. (Tip: bring your backpacks to be blessed, and you can fill them up with anything you need for the picnic later that day!



## Fall Picnic in the Park, September 9 at 1 pm



Celebrate the start of a new program year with a picnic in Central Park! We'll gather at 1 pm (location to be announced). Sandwiches, salad, and chips will be provided; please bring some dessert to share. If you're able, bring blankets or whatever you wish to sit on. We'll have some chairs available for those who need them. Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon in the park with MAPC. Meet Rebecca, our pastoral resident, and meet Chesna and Audrey, our seminary interns. Play a few silly games with Jenny or just chat with a friend. This is a great and non-threatening event to invite some friends to join you! RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erao at [ljp@mapc.com](mailto:ljp@mapc.com). (In the event of rain or extreme heat, we'll gather in the Parish Hall.)



## Singing at MAPC

Are you interested in singing with the **Church Choir**, or our choral society, the **Saint Andrew Chorale**? The Church Choir sings anthems and provides musical leadership for our 11:15 am services and special liturgies from September through May. The Saint Andrew Chorale sings concerts as a part of the Saint Andrew Music Society concert season, often joined by orchestras and accompanied by professional instrumentalists. Rehearsals for both the Church Choir and Saint Andrew Chorale resume on **Thursday, September 6**. If you are interested, visit the Choirs page on our website, or contact Andrew Henderson: [aeh@mapc.com](mailto:aeh@mapc.com), or 212-288-8920.



## Church Family Night, Friday, September 14, 6 pm in the Parish Hall

Come kick off the fall with a fun night of fellowship! We'll enjoy dinner, complete with both child and adult beverages, a craft activity, a movie (with popcorn), and play in the gym and on the Roof Garden. Come spend time with church friends you may not have seen over the summer months. You do not need to have children at home to come to Church Family Night—it is for the whole church family (however, you do need to be comfortable with a bit of happy chaos!). Suggested donation for the evening is \$20 for adults, and a contribution of your choice for children under 12. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, [ljp@mapc.com](mailto:ljp@mapc.com).



Families enjoying Church Family Night.

## Saint Andrew Music Society: Announcing Our 54th Season



The Saint Andrew Music Society's 54th Season brochure has been sent off to the printers! While we await receiving the mailing, you can peruse all fifteen concerts taking place this season on our [website](#), ranging from performances by our very own choral society—the Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra; MAPC's community children's chorus program—the New York City Children's Chorus; students from The Juilliard School, Mannes College, and the Manhattan School of Music; and a host of recitals featuring vocalists and chamber ensembles.

## Kids Club

The Pastoral Staff is excited to invite your family to join us Wednesday afternoons from 4-6 pm for Kids Club and Wee Kids. This year, Kids Club is going to be better than ever! We hope you will join us for Bible Study, Choir, Recreation, and Dinner.

There will be more opportunities for special worship services, field trips, and more that we are excited to share with your family.

To register, please visit [mapc.com/education/childrens-ministry](http://mapc.com/education/childrens-ministry) or reach out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).



## New Youth Service Group for High School Students—MAPC Serves



The Christian Education Committee at MAPC is excited to offer you a program tailored to serving the vulnerable across our City. This year, we will share 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 in service!

**We hope you will help us reach our goal of 300 service hours this year!**

To sign up, check out the MAPC Serves tap on our website: <http://mapc.com/education/youth-ministries/>. If you would like more information, please reach out to Christina Cosby by email at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com) or by calling 212-288-8920.

## Sign Up Now for the All-Church Retreat September 28-29 at Holmes Camp and Conference Center

The all-church retreat at Holmes Camp and Conference Center will be here before you know it! In fact, we will need to give Holmes our numbers shortly after the summer holidays are over. Please look at your calendars and sign up now!

There are two options:

1. You may come up on Friday evening (with sleeping bag and towels) and enjoy dinner and a relaxed evening of fellowship and breakfast the next morning before the rest of the folks arrive, or
2. Come for the day on Saturday.



The evening meal on Friday begins at 7, and we'll enjoy games, conversation and evening prayer afterwards. We will plan on starting the program around 9:30 am on Saturday, depending on when the bus arrives.

The cost for those coming overnight is \$90 (includes lodging, three meals, and day use fee on Saturday).

The cost for those coming up on Saturday is \$30 (includes morning coffee and snacks, lunch and day use fee).

*The cost of transportation is additional!!* We have reserved a bus for those coming for the day on Saturday. The bus will leave MAPC at 7:45 am and depart Holmes to return to NYC at 4 pm. The roundtrip cost for the bus is \$50.

For those coming up on Friday evening, we will arrange carpooling, or you may take Metro North and someone will pick you up from the Southeast Station.

We will have a separate children's program on Saturday morning, while the adults share in discussion, then everyone will enjoy lunch together and afternoon activities of their choice: hiking, visiting the farm, sitting on the porch, or playing games.

If you have questions, please contact Lissette Perez-Eraza at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com)

You may sign up during coffee hour after worship on upcoming Sunday, or by contacting Lissette, or through Sign Up Genius: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-holmes](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-holmes)

## Dinner with Mayada, Monday Evening, October 15 at 6 pm

The Congregational Nurture Committee is delighted to host our third annual Dinner with Mayada. Mayada Anjari is a refugee from Syria, who, along with her family, has resettled in Jersey City with the help of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. Mayada is a wonderful cook, and Dinners with Mayada are one way she helps support her family as they establish their lives in the United States. The cookbook we have been waiting for will be available at this dinner! It is beautiful and would make a wonderful Christmas gift. The book is \$24.95, and Mayada will happily sign copies. You can preview it here: <https://www.breadandsaltbetweenus.org/>

The cost of dinner is \$40 for adults, and \$20 for children under 12. Since this is a benefit dinner, we encourage you to pay the full price, if possible. We also encourage you to invite your friends! If the full \$40 is not possible for you, please pay what you can, and the committee will subsidize the rest. The event is BYOB, and we encourage you to bring a bottle of wine to share. You can reserve your seat and pay for dinner [here](#). You can pay for both the dinner and the number of books you want at the same time. When you reserve, please let us know if you would like a book, so we will know how many to have on hand. RSVP by emailing Lissette Perez-Eraza in the church offices, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com), or by signing up during fellowship hour in the weeks prior to October 15.



## Installation Service for Jenny McDevitt



On September 23, at 3 pm, Rev. Jenny McDevitt will be installed as our Senior Pastor. Join the Presbytery of New York City for worship and a celebratory reception to follow. Rev. Tom Are, Jr., Senior Pastor of Village Presbyterian Church (Jenny's previous congregation) will preach.

## Christian Education at MAPC

### Help Needed This Summer for Children's Worship

One of the Christian education ministries of MAPC that runs year-round is Children's Worship. This is an interactive time of worship during our 10:30 am service for our youngest constituents—third graders and younger. During the summer months, this ministry is completely volunteer-led. We need your help in July and August to teach and assist with this ministry!



The lessons are straight forward and laid out in detail for you. You will receive them on Thursday afternoon the week you are teaching. Minimum advance preparation is required as all of the materials are provided, and the space will be already set-up for you. All you need to do is familiarize yourself with the weekly lesson and come to worship on the given day.

Here is a link to sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b45aaa623a4f49-summer>.

If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com) or by calling the church office.

## Children and Family Ministries

### Children's Worship

Children's Worship takes place during our summer worship service at 10:30 am. This is an interactive worship service designed specifically for children 3rd grade and under.

### Church School, Sunday Mornings beginning on Sunday, September 9, 10:10-11:10 am

Our Church School teachers are eagerly waiting to welcome your

family back to MAPC's Church School this Fall. Join us as we share in a joint opening time and engage the Bible in our peer groups. We look forward to learning and exploring God's Word together this year! To sign up or get more information, please out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).



**Kids Club is on hiatus for the summer and will resume on September 12, 2018.**

## Middle and High School Ministries

**Youth Worship is on hiatus for the summer and will resume on September 9, 2018.**

All children and youth older than 3rd grade should stay in the sanctuary with their parents during worship.

**T(w)een Club is on hiatus for the summer and will resume on September 12, 2018.**



### Thursday Open Table, September 6, 6-8 pm

Join us as we kick off the new year by serving our neighbors in need. From 6-8 pm we will serve a warm meal to those

who visit our Parish Hall. We need your help to greet the guests, plate the food, and serve the meal. Please sign-up by emailing Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto: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:

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

**Reading Through the Bible is on hiatus until September 12.**

### 20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Thursday, August 24)

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

Join us this summer as we engage God's word creatively by relating it to the stories of our individual lives. We look forward to joining together in Bible Study and sharing a meal.

### Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, August 27)

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

Come for Bible Study at 6:30 pm or join us earlier at 6 pm as we bring our dinner and share in fellowship.

Join us as we begin a new study on the minor prophets. The exact books we will be studying are still to be determined. If you have any particular interest in a minor prophet, please email or call Christina Cosby. ([cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com) or 212-288-8920)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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!"

## Fall Dates for Your Calendars

Sunday, September 9 (1 pm)  
Church Picnic in Central Park

Friday, September 14 (6 pm)  
Church Family Night

Sunday, September 23 (3 pm)  
Jenny McDevitt's Installation Service

Fri-Sat, Sept. 28-29  
All Church Retreat at Holmes

Monday, October 1 (7 pm)  
Moms Night Out

Sunday, October 7 (1 pm)  
Senior Fellowship Lunch

Monday, October 15 (6 pm)  
Dinner with Mayada

Saturday, October 20 (10 am)  
Annual Women's Brunch

Friday, October 26 (6 pm)  
Annual Church Family Night  
Halloween Bash!

Monday, October 29 (7 pm)  
Faith & Fermentation

## 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!"