

The Pastoral Staff Letter

A Note From Jenny



**Madison
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church**

Issue #44

September 14, 2018

**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

Dear Friends,

Earlier this week, the Presbytery of New York City gave final approval to the worship service that will install me as your Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. There hasn't been any doubt that the event would take place, but as Presbyterians, we are very connectional...which means we don't often do things by ourselves. Though this sometimes slows down our efficiency, in the end it makes us stronger and wiser.

All of which is to say—I hope you will join me on Sunday, September 23, at 3 pm in our Sanctuary. The New York City Children's Chorus is participating, the MAPC choir is debuting two new (to us) pieces, some of my previous colleagues from other churches will help lead worship, and through it all, we will celebrate the ways God is moving here at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. We have made an effort to ensure that the entire church family feels welcome, including kids. There will be a special bulletin for children, a time for children and youth in the worship service and kid-friendly items at the reception following the service in the Parish Hall.

It is a tremendous honor to be your pastor. In our short time together, we've been through a lot—the decision to keep our Overnight Shelter open, the installation of a sprinkler system in the Church House, the arrival of new staff members, a flood on several floors of the Church House. 16 new members, two baptisms, and the list goes on and on. I cannot wait to see what the next years hold. (I hope and pray we are done with floods.) I know this much: there will be joys and sorrows, dreams realized and challenges faced, careful planning and unforeseen surprises. Above all, I know that we will face it together, and that God will be in the midst of it with us.

I hope you can join us on September 23—both in the morning, and at 3 pm!
Peace,

Jenny

Sunday Worship—24th Sunday of Ordinary Time September 16, 2018

Worship Schedule

9 am & 11:15 am

Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 8:30 am—1:00 pm

This Sunday Rev. Jenny McDevitt will be preaching her sermon entitled *Lady Wisdom: Identity in a Time of Crisis* which will be based on the lectionary texts: Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:14-18 and Mark 8:27-38. Preview the latest Sunday [bulletin](#), or [listen](#) to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC's website.

Quartet Rehearsal, 8:40 am, Choir Room

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, Church House Lobby

New Member Reception, 10:10 am, 8th AR

Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor

Adult Education, 10:10 am, Parish Hall (see details inside)

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room

ESL Teaching, 1 pm, 5th Floor

Baptism Orientation, 1 pm, Pastor's Study

Shelter Orientation, 1 pm, Shelter Space

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

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This Sunday

Adult Education: *Faces of Our Faith*, 10:10 am, Parish Hall

Faces of Our Faith appear throughout scripture, and they include us too. One way we see the lives of Biblical characters reflected in our world is through spiritual practices. Come join us during this education hour as we explore the lectionary text through *Lectio Divina*.



Learn More About MAPC's Shelter



According to the [Coalition for the Homeless](#) census, nearly 64,000 men, women, and children slept in a NYC shelter each night by the end of 2017. No doubt, an overwhelming number that tears at our hearts. Thankfully, MAPC is highly aware and active in providing a shelter for about 12 men caught in the brutal system of poverty. Therefore, all of you are invited to learn more about MAPC's nightly shelter at the Outreach Committee's Shelter Open House **this Sunday, September 16th from 1-3 p.m.** Come and educate yourself on the ins and outs of the shelter and homelessness. You attending will not automatically volunteer you, but it will give you an opportunity to know more about the city we live in and people we share it with. Please send any and all questions to Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com.

Other Events & Announcements

Pizza and Game Night, Next Friday, September 21, from 6-8 pm Church House

Join your church friends as we embark on another year of adventure *Amazing Race* style! Come join the games, as we have some friendly compaction while sharing food and fellowship. To RSVP email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.



Installation Service for Jenny McDevitt



Next Sunday, 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.

Welcome Our 2018-2019 Seminary Interns



Chesna Hinkley enjoys exploring ways that her passion for academics feeds her faith, alongside the life of a congregation.



Audrey Webber creatively engages scripture and is passionate about finding ways to make sure everyone feels welcomed and included in worship, by creating innovative worship experiences.

Welcome our 2018-2019 seminary interns from Princeton Theological Seminary. Chesna Hinkley and Audrey Webber have joined our pastoral staff, as they further explore their call to ministry and embark on their final year of seminary. Chesna and Audrey will lead us in worship, inspire us through adult education, and be active in the faith formation of our children. Their main responsibilities will be Sunday morning worship, Children’s Worship, teaching during the 10:10 Christian Education Hour, and being active with our Kids Club program on Wednesday afternoons. They are eager to join us this Sunday and we are thrilled to welcome them into the life and ministry of MAPC!

A Note From Rebecca

...What an honor it is to finally be with you! And let me tell you, I am overjoyed to call this place and all of you my home.

I grew up in the small town of Valdese, North Carolina, where I was baptized and raised in Waldensian Presbyterian Church like my father, grandmother, and great grandfather....Your pastoral residency provides the space to learn, grow, and continue the journey of discernment. I often say, “I am walking and willing.” And, as your first pastoral resident, I have never been more thrilled to walk with you and more willing to love you! So, for the next three years, will you walk with me on this journey through my humble learning moments and, frankly, willing to follow the Spirit, wherever she may take us? I sure am! I look forward to listening to your holy stories, embracing all those in need, and opening my heart to this church and God’s urban ministry!

With Love and Peace,

Rebecca Halman 0



To see Rebecca’s full note, check our staff page on the [website](#).

Saint Andrew Music Society: Announcing Our 54th Season



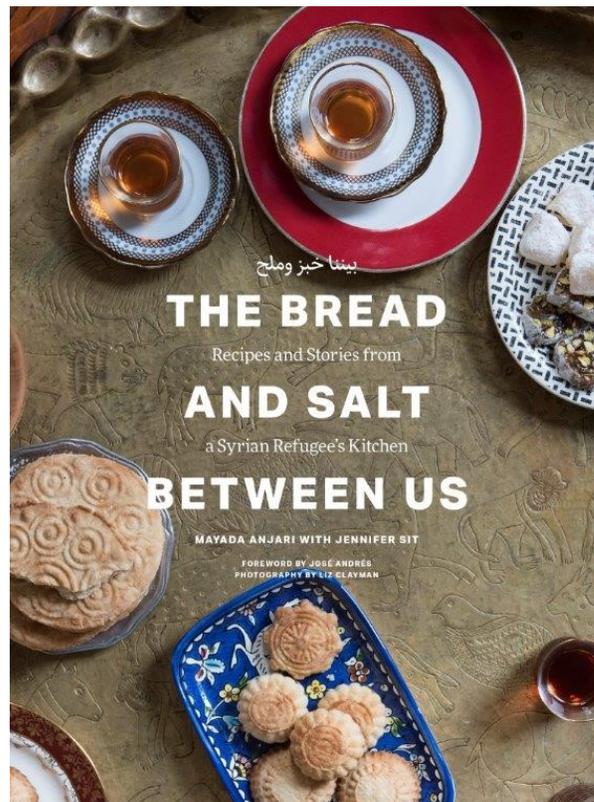
The Saint Andrew Music Society's 54th Season brochure has been sent off to the printers! While we await receiving the mailing, you can peruse all fifteen concerts taking place this season on our [website](#), ranging from performances by our very own choral society—the Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra; 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.

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 today, **Thursday, September 6**. If you are interested, visit the Choirs page on our website, or contact Andrew Henderson: ah@mapc.com, or 212-288-8920.

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 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! We got an advance copy in the mail, and it is stunning! *Food and Wine* lists it as one of the best cookbooks coming out this fall:

<https://www.foodandwine.com/news/fall-cookbooks>. 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. 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—we also encourage you to invite friends! 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 through the MAPC website, or by emailing Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com, or by signing up during fellowship hour in the weeks prior to October 15.

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

If you haven't done it yet, it's time to sign up for the retreat!

You can either:

1. 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. The cost for overnight is \$90, which includes lodging, three meals, and day use fee on Saturday. Children under 2 are free, and for children between ages 2 and 12, the overnight cost is \$57.50.
2. Come for the day on Saturday. The cost is \$30, which includes morning coffee and snacks, lunch and day use fee. For children under 12, the Saturday cost is \$17.50. Children under 2 are free.

Time frames:

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.

We will end Saturday afternoon by 4 pm.



Transportation:

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 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.

Please note, transportation costs are in addition to the retreat costs listed above.

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, playing gaga (ask a kid, if you don't know what this is!) chatting on the porch, or playing games.

If you have questions, please contact Lissette Perez-Eraza at lgp@mapc.com

You may sign up during coffee hour after worship on upcoming Sundays, or by contacting Lissette, or through Sign Up Genius: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-holmes. You can make payments online [here](#).

Look What's Happening at MAPC This Week!

Monday, September 17

Note: SESSION PACKET MATERIALS DUE

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Tuesday, September 18

4:00 pm MAPC Book Club Library

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

7:00 pm Congregational Nurture Committee Phillips Lounge

Wednesday, September 19

8:00 am Trustees Parish Hall

12:30 pm Reading Through the Bible Phillips Lounge

3:45 pm Kids Club PH, PL, Gym, 5th Floor

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

6:00 pm Day School Committee 8th AR

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Thursday, September 20

1:00 pm Spiritual Growth & Faith Sharing James Lenox House

6:30 pm Thursday Open Table Parish Hall

6:30 pm Recovery Group Library

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

7:00 pm Saint Andrew Chorale Rehearsal 5th Floor

8:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Friday, September 21

6:00 pm Pizza & Game Night 5th Floor, Gym

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Saturday, September 22

No Events Scheduled

Fall Dates for Your Calendars

Sunday, September 16 (1 pm)—Shelter Orientation, Basement Shelter

Sunday, September 23 (3 pm)—[Jenny McDevitt's Installation Service](#)

Fri-Sat, Sept. 28-29—[All Church Retreat at Holmes Presbyterian Camp](#)

Monday, October 1 (7 pm)—Moms Night Out, Offsite (TBD)

Sunday, October 7 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall

Wednesday, October 10—Blessing of the Animals

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

Sunday, November 4 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 11—Hood Library Fellowship Annual Book Sale

Sunday, November 18—Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Sunday, November 30 (6 pm)—Church Family Night, Parish Hall

Saturday, December 1 (9 am to 3 pm)—Advent Retreat/Quiet Day

Sunday, December 9 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 16 (4 pm)—Annual Carol Sing, Sanctuary

Please feel welcome to join us for our events!

Christian Education at MAPC

Volunteer this Fall with Children's Worship & 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 younger generation as we worship in an interactive way. This valuable time for our families is made possible by your help! Sign-up and come experience worship in a new way!

If you have further questions or want to learn more, please feel free to reach out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com or by calling 212-288-8920.

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

Our Church School teachers have planned an exciting 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 creation and our role in taking care of it together this year! To sign up or get more information, please out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.



Kids Club and Wee Kids

Kids and families, join us on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm for Kids Club! This year is going to be better than ever! Bible Study, Choir, Recreation and Dinner all begin on September 12th. To register, visit our [website](http://www.mapc.com) or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Middle and High School Ministries

Youth Worship September-May, from 9 am to 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

Who are the people you look up to? How do they show love toward God and others in an inspirational way? Join us on Sunday Mornings as we discover *Faces of Our Faith!* We will use popular movie clips, characters from books, and people we personally know to explore how they live into their faith and how God calls us to do the same! Middle and High Schoolers are invited to join Christina on Sunday mornings at 10:10 am.

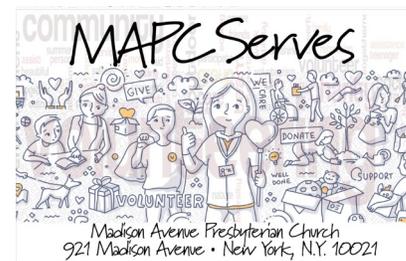
T(w)een Club: Middle School Mid-Week Youth Group, Wednesday Afternoons, 5-7 pm, Church House

Middle Schoolers, we're trying something new just for you! Join us for T(w)een Club Wednesday evenings from 5-7 pm. We'll share dinner and study the Bible with Rev. Jenny McDevitt (bring all your tough questions—she's ready for you!) Mary Huff is directing a youth choir that won't be the same without you, so bring your joyful singing voice. We'll mix in some games, crafts, service options, and other activities from time to time, too. Haven't joined us on Wednesday nights before? This is the perfect chance to change that. (Want to come by right after school? That's okay, too. There will be study-hall space and snacks available for you. To register, contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com or visit our [website](http://www.mapc.com).



New Youth Service Group for High School Students—MAPC SERVES

Join us as we embark on a new program tailored to serving the vulnerable across our City with high school students in mind. 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! Stay tuned for more details coming on September 13!



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 or by calling 212-288-8920.

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 picks up in Proverbs 12 on September 19.

20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Thursday, September 27)

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 pm, Youth Lounge

Across culture and time, food and wine have been enjoyed by many. This is no different throughout Scripture. This fall 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: (Next Meeting is Monday, September 24)

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

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! Joel has already surprised us as he values the rituals of worship.

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!

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**

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 or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

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!

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. 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 (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 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!"