

The Pastoral Staff Letter

This Sunday

Sunday, January 27, 2019

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Schedule: 9 am and 11:15 am

Nursery: 4th floor Phillips Building, 8:30 am—1 pm

Worship: This Sunday Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt will preach her sermon, *Jesus: Teacher of Old Ways, Today*, based on the lectionary texts and our sermon series, **Who Do You Say That I Am?**: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

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

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

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

Adult Education, 10:10 am, Parish Hall

High School Fellowship, 10:10 am, 4th Floor Lounge

Middle School Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room

ESL Classes, 1 pm, 5th Floor

Confirmation Class, 4:15 pm, Youth Lounge

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space



Issue #61

January 24, 2019

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Who Do You Say That I Am?
a sermon series about who Jesus is and why he matters today

January 13
Jesus: Son of God

January 20
Jesus: Savior of the World

January 27
Jesus: Teacher of Old Ways, Today

February 3
Jesus: Hometown Prophet

February 10
Jesus: Compelling Leader

February 17
Jesus: Reversing Everything We Know

February 24
Jesus: Unreasonable Expectations

March 3
Jesus: Always Ahead of Us

The Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt preaching • worship Sundays at 9 & 11:15 am • 921 Madison Avenue at 73rd Street • mapc.com

This Sunday, January 27, 2019

Adult Education: “*Jesus from a Muslim Perspective*,” 10:10 am,
Parish Hall



This week we explore Jesus as a teacher. The Christian tradition clings to Jesus’ teachings as a way of life and a way to relate to God. However, many religious traditions recognize Jesus as a great teacher, including our Muslim brothers and sisters.

This week join us for Adult Education as we discover who Jesus is from the perspective of Islam. We are delighted to have Dr. Jerusha Rhodes with us this Sunday for lessons about Jesus from a Muslim perspective.

Dr. Rhodes is currently a professor of Islam and Ministry at Union Theological Seminary here in New York City. Her research focuses on theologies of religious pluralism, comparative theology, and Muslima theology.

Dr. Rhodes earned a Ph.D. in Theological and Religious Studies with a focus on Religious Pluralism at Georgetown University in 2011. She also received an M.A. in Islamic Sciences at the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences, and an M.A. in Theological and Religious Studies at Georgetown University. Before joining the Union faculty in July of 2012, she was Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Theology at Georgetown University. She has published two books and various other journal articles and book chapters. You are invited to learn more about Dr. Jerusha Rhodes and her various works on her [website](#).

February 3—Christina Cosby, Jesus as Community Centered

February 10—Intergenerational Sunday, Jesus as a Leader

Hood Library Awareness and Appreciation — Church House Lobby

Sunday is **Hood Library Awareness Sunday**. The Hood Library Fellowship would like to show their appreciation for all of you who support and use the library, and so you will find some extra goodies to enjoy during fellowship hour! You will also find a couple of tables full of books in the Church House Lobby—some for borrowing and some for purchasing. Please take time to browse the tables, and if you haven’t already discovered it, please make sure and find the Library when you are in the building. You are sure to find something of interest to borrow!

NYCCC In Harmony sing at Mary Manning Walsh, Sunday, January 27th, 2:30 pm

The high school choir, In Harmony, of the NYC Children's Chorus will perform a one-hour concert on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 pm for the residents of Mary Manning Walsh Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at York & 72nd Street. Music will include excerpts from Schubert's *Mass in G*; Vivaldi's *Gloria*; *The Sound of Music*; a few Gershwin favorites; as well as Paul Halley's *Freedom Trilogy*. Other outreach concerts include performances at Terence Cardinal Cooke on March 3 and at the James Lenox House on March 12.

February

For All the Saints

A memorial service will be held for MAPC member Pat O'Connell on Saturday, February 2 at 11 am in the Sanctuary. A luncheon/reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Pat died on January 23, 2019. We give thanks for the Gospel which reminds us "in life and in death, we belong to God."

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 3rd

The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the 11:15 am worship service on February 3. The meeting includes the election of officers, a final report of our 2018 finances, a presentation of the 2019 budget, and approving the terms of call for installed pastors.

Rev. Jenny McDevitt will provide a brief summary of the past year and share some plans for the year to come. A light lunch and fellowship will follow in the Parish Hall. While only members may vote, all are invited to attend.

Third Grade Bibles—February 3rd at 11:15 am service

If you have a child in third grade, we would love to gift them with a Bible on **February 3rd** during the 11:15 am service. Giving third graders Bibles is a long-standing tradition of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church that is

shared with many other churches across the country. If your family has a member in third grade please send their name to Christina Cosby at, cac@mapc.com, so that we can make sure everyone is

included. If your child is older than third grade and needs a Bible we are happy to include them, as everyone deserves to have access to the Word of God in language easy for them to understand.

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 lead by our seminary interns, Audrey and Chesna, designed specifically for children 3rd grade and under.

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

Come explore the lectionary text each week with your friends and church school teachers! Every Sunday, we meet on the 5th floor at 10:10 am. Anyone age 3-5th grade is welcome to join. If you are interested in being a church school teacher, we need your help! For any questions or more information reach out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

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](http://www.mapc.com) or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com to register. Dates to keep in mind: No Kids Club, February 20th, Public School Break

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!

Sunday Youth Hour (Middle School), Sunday Mornings at 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

This Winter we will explore Identity together, "What makes us who we are?" Together we will explore the factors that make us unique and the many variables that influence our personality. This study will feed into who we are as children of God.

Save the Dates: Preparation for Youth Sunday will begin April 7th. Youth Sunday will be on June 2nd at 10:10 am.

T(w)een Club: Middle School Mid-Week Youth Group, Wednesday afternoons 5-6:30 pm, Church House

Join Christina Cosby and Rebecca Heilman on Wednesday afternoons as we explore what matters and doesn't matter in Jesus' eyes. *Jesus Doesn't Care: you may be surprised at what matters most to Jesus*, is our new topic for exploration together this winter.

We hope your family will join us for choir at 5 pm, dinner at 5:30 pm, and a time of Bible study at 6 pm. You don't want to miss out as there will be plenty of time for fun and games too. If you haven't signed up for the 2018-2019 academic year yet, it is never too late. Email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com and she is happy to assist you.

High School Fellowship, Sunday Morning, 10:10 am, 4th Floor Lounge

This winter we are continuing our Bible Journaling as we read Luke's Gospel with Chesna and Audrey. Come and bring your friends for a time of art, Bible Study, and fellowship. Your presence makes our group better!

MAPC Serves Opportunities

Youth Service Group for High School Students—MAPC Serves

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.

Upcoming Opportunities:

February 4th James Lenox House

February 7th Thursday Open Table

Join MAPC on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mapc)

February

Instrumentalists in Worship during February

On the first three Sundays in February we will be joined by guest instrumentalists who will enhance our 11:15 am worship services. On Sunday, February 3, we will be joined by a string quintet and members of our children's choir in excerpts from Schubert's Mass in G. On February 10 we will hear works by Paul Halley and J. S. Bach with soprano saxophone, and on February 17 flutist Gretchen Pusch will play works for chorus and flute by Fred Gramann and John Weaver.

MAPC Moms' Night Out, Thursday, February 7th, 7 pm

Our next MAPC Moms' Night Out is Thursday evening, February 7. Yes, this is a change from our usual Monday! We had several people request that we try a different evening. We will meet at 7 pm at an Upper East Side Restaurant to enjoy dinner and conversation together. What busy mom doesn't need a relaxing evening out? This is a wonderful way to get to know other MAPC moms and share our wisdom and experiences—or talk about something completely non-child related! RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com



Shelter Open House Sunday, February 10th

Would you like to learn more about our shelter? **Come to the Shelter Open House Sunday, February 10th, following the 11:15 a.m. service.** Learn about volunteer opportunities and our guests who stay in our building each night. We are looking for early shift (6:30 pm – 8:30 pm) and late shift (8:30 pm – 6:30 am) hosts 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. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Heilman (rmh@mapc.com).

Stewardship Update

We continue to make progress toward our 2019 stewardship goal of \$750,000. As of January 21, we have received pledges totaling \$638,000.

To put this in perspective: **if each of our members increased their pledge by only \$200, we would surpass our goal.** While many have given, and given generously, we need everyone's participation to continue our legacy of ministry in and to the city.

Please prayerfully consider a faithful, financial commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. You can pledge [online](#) or by calling the church office at 212-288-8920.



<http://www.mapc.com/pledge-2019>

February

Senior Fellowship Lunch, Sunday, February 10th, 1 pm

MAPC Seniors and friends, come have lunch together in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 10th. After enjoying some time at fellowship hour, please make your way downstairs for a light lunch and fellowship. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10.

Sign Up Now for Triennium, July 16-20

Interest meeting, February 10th, Youth Lounge



Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a time for Presbyterian Youth in grades 9-12 from all over the world to gather in one place to celebrate our common faith in God. This is a gathering of about 5,000 youth and chaperones at Purdue University that join together in worship, share in fellowship, and engage in conversation with one another during small group sessions.

The summer's theme is "Here's My Heart." To learn more visit Triennium's event website [here](#). The Presbytery of New York City has asked that all interested candidates for this year's delegation to fill out this interest [survey](#). We

will hold an informational meeting at MAPC on February 10th following the 11:15 am worship service in the youth lounge. If you are interested in joining this year's trip to Purdue University, please reach out to Christina Cosby by phone at 212-288-8920 or email at cac@mapc.com.

Bring on the Pasta, MAPC! (By February 14th, Please)

The Super Bowl is just around the corner, but let's not forget another competition - the New York Common Pantry's 3rd Annual Pasta Bowl! The pantry is looking for boxes upon boxes of dry (not fresh) pasta, preferably whole wheat. Last year NYCP collected over 11,000 pounds of pasta for families in need of a warm meal. Please bring a box (or five) to the church and drop it in the food cart located in the front lobby by February 14th. Let's see how much pasta MAPC can donate this year! Or donate online. A \$1.00 donation = 1 lb of pasta. Online donations may be made at nycommonpantry.org. Please select "General Donation" & type Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church into the "this donation is in honor of" line. Or, type "for pasta bowl" into the "please notify the following of my gift" line. If you have questions, contact Rebecca Heilman at rmh@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 12:30-1:30 pm, Library

Reading Through the Bible meets every week at 12:30 pm and will pick up with Isaiah 37.

20s/30s Bible Study: (Next Meeting is today, January 24) 6:00 pm, 10th Floor. 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: (Next Meeting is Monday, January 28)

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 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!

Hands-on Ministries

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](mailto:Rebecca.Heilman@mapc.com) at rmh@mapc.com. Let's put our faith into action!

The Thursday Open Table

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](mailto:kfhoffman@earthlink.net) at kfhoffman@earthlink.net to volunteer for this opportunity.

Host at the Shelter

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. Contact [Rebecca Heilman](mailto:Rebecca.Heilman@mapc.com) 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? If so, contact [Robin Strashun](mailto:Robin.Strashun@searchandcare.org) 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!"



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.

This Week at MAPC

Monday, January 28

6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study	Phillips Lounge
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Tuesday, January 29

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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Wednesday, January 30

12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Library
4:00 pm	Kids Club	PH, PL, 5th Floor, Gym
4:00 pm	Wee Kids	4th Floor
4:15 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
5:00 pm	T(w)een Club	Youth Lounge
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Thursday, January 31

6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Recovery Group	Library
7:00 pm	Saint Andrew Chorale Rehearsal	5th Floor
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Friday, February 1

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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Saturday, February 2

11:00 am	Patricia O'Connell Memorial Service	Sanctuary
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March

A Lenten Feast: Mini-Retreat in Preparation for Lent Led by the Rev. Beverly Bartlett, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life Saturday, March 2nd, from 9 am to 12:30 pm, Church House Lobby

It is more common to think of Lent as a time of fasting, not feasting. The over-arching theme of Lent is repentance—turning around and returning to God, and the goal of repentance is being one with God, which is indeed a feast for the soul. In this morning together, we will look at some of the scripture passages for the season of Lent and reflect on ways to make this season meaningful for our lives of faith. What Lenten discipline can we take on that will help us strengthen our relationship with God and discern God's word and path for our lives? In what ways can we turn around and open our hearts to the feast of God's presence?

Psalm 63:5 says, "My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast." In Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, the son repents, turns around, and the father greets him with open arms and celebrates his return with a feast.

Come and join in this morning of reflection, conversation and prayer as we look at ways in which our path of Lenten repentance can become a feast. We will share in a light breakfast to begin the morning, join in a morning prayer service, look at some of the scripture passages for Lent together, and have time for silent prayer, including an opportunity to walk the labyrinth. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com. Contact Beverly Bartlett if you have questions, bab@mapc.com.



Tell Me More About MAPC, March 2

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, we periodically host a "Tell Me More About MAPC" conversation. The next gathering will be held **March 2, 2019**, at 9 am on the 8th Floor. Childcare provided with advance request. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo lgp@mapc.com.

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.