

The Pastoral Staff Letter

This Sunday

Sunday, February 24, 2019

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Schedule: 9 am and 11:15 am

Nursery: 4th floor 8:30 am—1 pm

Worship: This Sunday Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman will preach her sermon, ***Jesus: Unreasonable Expectations***, based on the lectionary texts and our sermon series, **Who Do You Say That I Am?**: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38.

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

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

Fellowship Hour, 10:00 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

SAMS Concert, 3 pm, Sanctuary

Confirmation Class, 4:15 pm, 5th Floor

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space



Issue #65

February 21, 2019

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Sunday, February 24th, 2019

Dear Friends,

This Sunday's sermon is on a challenging text. Among other things, Jesus instructs us to love our enemies. Sometimes our enemies seem tangible; other times our enemies show up as feelings or fears. In whatever form they come, however, loving them is rarely our first instinct. Jesus' words here are difficult, but I believe they are words we need to remember more and more these days. I am glad you will be able to reflect on this passage together this weekend. And I am grateful to Rev. Rebecca Heilman, who will preach in my place as I make an unexpected trip to Kansas City for the funeral of a dear friend.

Mark Ball was my friend and colleague at Village Church, where he served as Director of Music for over a decade. He was a creative and gentle soul, as fluent in theology as he was music theory. Mark served as one of my references for this job and was among my biggest cheerleaders in sending me off to be here with you. He died suddenly last Saturday of a massive heart attack. His memorial service is this Saturday, late in the afternoon. This unfortunately means there is no way for me to make it back to the city in time for Sunday morning.

So, once again, I am grateful for colleagues who are stepping up to cover my absence. I am grateful for all of you, who I know understand all too well what grief feels like, and therefore understand my need to give thanks for my friend's life this weekend. Above all, I am grateful for the promise of the Gospel which assures us that in life and in death, we belong to God.

You all will be in my prayers this weekend. I'll be back at MAPC on Tuesday morning, and hope to see you all the following Sunday when we encounter one of the stranger texts in scripture: the Transfiguration.

Peace,

Jenny

Sunday, February 24th, 2019

**10:10
am**

Adult Education: *Finding New Ways to Speak: Responding to Christ's Words through Bible Journaling* —An interactive class led by Audrey Webber, a seminary intern. Parish Hall.

There are many ways one can speak with God: through actions, through reading the Bible, by attending worship services, by singing hymns together, reading Scripture, hearing the Word preached, and communal prayer. This Sunday everyone is invited to explore finding new ways to understand and communicate with Christ through a process called Bible Journaling. This practice is often done by creating art and journaling in the pages of the Bible as a form of creative worship. Participants are invited to bring a Bible with them; however, it is not required as all supplies will be provided to respond to Christ's words in a new creative way.

A look ahead:

March 3 *The Lord's Prayer: The Education of Human Wanting*, a lecture presented by the Rev. Dr. C. Clifton Black from Princeton Theological Seminary.

March 10 GIFT (Growing in Faith Together), an intergenerational program for people of all ages to explore the daily lectionary text.

3 pm



Music on Madison: Tchaikovsky & His Contemporaries

The Saint Andrew Music Society's *Music on Madison* season continues **Sunday, February 24 at 3 pm**, with a performance by the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York, among the most preeminent Russian vocal ensembles in the United States.

The program will feature Taneyev's cantata *John of Damascus*, Arensky's *Three Quartets* for chorus and cello, an arrangement of Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise* for cello and chorus, and Tchaikovsky's rarely heard cantata, *Nature and Love*. Admission to our *Music on Madison* concerts is \$25 (\$20 – students/seniors); children 12 and under are 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 2018-2019 season.

Lent and Easter at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Saturday, March 2

Pre-Lenten Mini-Retreat: *A Lenten Feast*

9 am-12:30 pm Parish Hall

The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

See page 5 for details and registration information.

Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday

8:30-10 am Ashes-on-the-Go — Sanctuary steps

12 pm and 7 pm — Sanctuary

The Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman preaching

5:15-5:30 pm Kid-friendly Worship — Dana Chapel

Sundays in Lent

March 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7

9 am and 11:15 am — Sanctuary

Wednesday Evening Classes: *Cultivating and Letting Go*

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

7-8:30 pm — Parish Hall

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday

9 am and 11:15 am — Sanctuary

The Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt preaching

Thursday, April 18

Maundy Thursday

7 pm — Church House Lobby

The Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt preaching

Friday, April 19

Good Friday

12-3 pm Service of Devotion — Sanctuary

4:30 pm Worship for Children & Families — Sanctuary

7:30 pm Service of Tenebrae — Sanctuary

Sunday, April 21

Easter

9 am and 11:15 am Festival Services — Sanctuary

The Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt preaching

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, Parish Hall

3/2 It is more common to think of Lent as a time of fasting, not feasting. One overarching 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

3/2
9 am



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. Future dates—April 13 and May 11, in the Phillips Lounge.

Church Family Night, March 8, Parish Hall

3/8
6 pm

Come enjoy a hearty meal, a movie, a craft, play time in the gym, and conversation. This is a great time to get to know other members of the MAPC family. All members of the MAPC community are welcome, whether you have children at home or not—it is **Church** Family Night, not Church **Family** Night! Suggested donation is \$20 for adults, and a donation of your choice for children under 12. Chef Jim needs to know how many to cook for, so please let us know you are coming! RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com.

Children, Youth, 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

Anyone age 3-5th grade is welcome to come to Church School on the 5th floor. This time allows kids to explore the lectionary text for the week with their friends and teachers. If you are interested in being a church school teacher, we need your help! For more information reach out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Kids Club and Wee Kids, Wednesday afternoons, 4-6 pm, Church House

It is never too late to sign up for Kids Club, an afterschool program on Wednesday for kids age 3-5th grade. This Wednesday program runs from 4 to 6 pm and includes a time for play, a Bible Story, and choir. The program concludes with dinner at 5:30 p.m. for the whole family. More information can be found on our [website](#) or by contacting Christina Crosby.

Youth Worship, 9 am and 11:15 am Youth Worship is a time for peers to encounter God through an interactive worship service in the Dana Chapel and takes place during both worship services every Sunday morning. Youth grades 4th-7th are invited to join Christina Cosby for a time of worship as they learn about our worship practices at MAPC and lead their own worship experience!

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

This Winter middle schoolers are invited to come and explore identity together, "*What Makes Me Who I Am?*" This time allows students to reflect on the factors that make them unique and the many variables that influence their personhood. This study will feed into our next focus, "*Who Am I as a Child of God?*"

Save the Dates: Preparation for Youth Sunday will begin April 7th. Youth Sunday will be on June 2 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 to explore what matters and does not matter in Jesus' eyes. "*Jesus Doesn't Care: Jesus Accepts Everyone for Who They Are*" is our new topic for discussion this winter. All youth grades 6th-8th grades are invited to join the fun and discussion. This Wednesday's afterschool program includes study hall from 4-5 pm, choir at 5 pm, dinner at 5:30 pm for the whole family, and a time of Bible study with games at 6 pm.

Signups for the 2018-2019 academic year are always welcome. Email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com, and she will assist you.

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

This winter join Chesna and Audrey for a time of creativity and faith-centered conversation. Come and bring your friends for a time of art, Bible Study, and fellowship. Your presence makes our group better!

Youth Service Group for High School Students—MAPC Serves

All High School Students are invited to serve the vulnerable across our City. In fact, their help is needed to reach our service goal of 300 hours of service this year. So far, they have made it half way as together they served for 150 hours thus far. Contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Preview the latest Sunday [bulletin](#), or [listen](#) to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC's website.



Stewardship

We continue to make progress toward our 2019 stewardship goal of \$750,000. As of February 20, we have received pledges totaling **\$645,875**.

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>

Volunteer this Winter

Children's Worship and Youth Worship
Come experience worship in a new way.

Visit [Sign Up Genius](#) to volunteer in February.

Bible Studies at MAPC

Looking for a place to read Scripture together and to get to know people at MAPC? Come to one of our Bible Studies. Newcomers are always welcome! For more information, visit the Adult Education page at mapc.com.

Reading Through the Bible:

Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 pm, Library
Reading Through the Bible will meet next on February 27 at 12:30 pm and will read Isaiah 57.

20's/30's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is **Thursday, February 28th**) 6:00 pm, 10th floor.

If you want to know more about 20's and 30's Bible Study email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is **Monday, March 11th**)

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

The minor prophets—who are they? What do they have to say today? These are the same questions Women's Bible Study asked inspiring a study of the minor prophets in the Old Testament. The minor prophets are full of wisdom and insight into the Biblical world. More so, they have a lot to teach people today.

Women's Bible Study invites women of the church to come to learn more about the history of God's people and invite their inspiration to influence lives.

Join MAPC on [Facebook](#)

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 two 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 East Side 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!"

This Week at MAPC



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.

Monday, February 25

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Tuesday, February 26

6:00 pm ESL Evening Classes 5th Floor
6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space
7:00 pm Session Meeting Parish Hall

Wednesday, February 27

12:30 pm Reading Through the Bible Hood 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
6:00 pm T(w)een Club Phillips Lounge
6:00 pm Cocaine Anonymous 5th Floor
6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Thursday, February 28

6:00 pm 20's/30's Bible Study 10th Floor
6:30 pm Thursday Open Table Parish Hall
6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space
6:30 pm Recovery Group Hood Library
7:00 pm Saint Andrew Chorale Rehearsal 5th Floor
8:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Friday, March 1

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Saturday, March 2

9:00 am Tell Me More About MAPC 8th Floor
9:00 am Lenten Mini-Retreat Parish Hall

New York Common Pantry Grocery Carts

The basic human necessity of food can be 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, 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!