

The Pastoral Staff Letter

Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 9 am & 11:15 am
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship: Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt will preach her sermon, "You Belong to God" based on the lectionary texts: Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 18:1-11.

See page 2 for more information about Sunday September 8 special events - Blessing of the Backpacks & Briefcases (at both services) and Picnic in the Park (following the 11:15 am service).

9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lobby
10:10 am	Adult Education	Parish Hall
10:20 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
12:30 pm	Fellowship Hour	Parish Hall
12:45 pm	Picnic in the Park	Central Park



Issue #87

September 5, 2019

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Sunday, September 8 - Full schedule resumes

We return to two worship services—9 am and 11:15 am on September 8. Adult Education will also start up again and occur between morning services. The Church Choir will return on Sunday, September 8, when the regular Sunday morning schedule

9/8

9 am &
11:15 am

Blessing of the Backpacks

A new academic year is almost upon us. Students, children, and adults, bring your backpacks, bookbags, and briefcases to worship on September 8 to receive a blessing.

Picnic in the Park, 12:45 pm, Central Park

Celebrate the start of a new program year with a picnic in Central Park! We'll gather at 12:45 pm inside the park near the E. 72nd entrance. 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. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com. (In the event of rain or extreme heat, we'll gather in the Parish Hall.)

Adult Education - Fall 2019

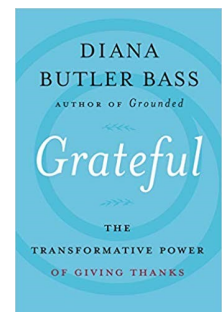
Sundays 10:10 am Parish Hall

Looking at Luke

September 8—Overview
September 15—Luke and Women
September 22—Luke and Money
September 29—Luke and Food

Faithful Living in Challenging Times

October 6—Act in Hope
October 13—Cultivate Joy
4-week book discussion on
October 20, 27, November 3, & 10
—Live in Gratitude (Book discussion of Diana Butler Bass's *Grateful*)

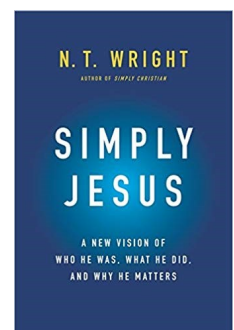


Evening Bible Study

1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7 pm, 8th Floor

The first meeting will be Monday, September 16. Refreshments will be provided. The first class will be a basic overview of the gospels, and we will begin with N.T. Wright's book, *Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did and Why He Matters*, at the October 7 meeting.

You may order the book on Amazon, available as a hardback, soft cover, or Kindle edition. In addition, the church has ordered 10 copies which are available for purchase for \$11 each. You can see Beverly Bartlett at fellowship hour during the next two Sundays if you would like to purchase the book. If you would like Beverly to hold a copy for you, please email her at bab@mapc.com.



Worship Needs You!

At its most basic root, “liturgy” means “the work of the people.” At MAPC, worship takes many people, up front and behind the scenes, to create a meaningful service during which we encounter the Holy One. There are a variety of ways to be involved — some old, some new(er). We will ensure that proper training or instruction is given so that you know exactly what to do. To indicate interest, or to ask any questions, email Rev. Jenny McDevitt at jmm@mapc.com. In most cases, you will then receive an email link to sign up as your schedule allows.

- **READING SCRIPTURE (9 & 11:15 am)** Each week, we read multiple passages from Scripture. A theological degree is not required to read aloud in worship. The full text of your reading will be provided to you by the Wednesday prior. If you have not read in worship recently, a pastor will meet with you in advance to review and rehearse. Adults and youth alike are invited to sign up.
- **GREETING / USHERING (9 & 11:15 am)** A warm greeting on Sunday morning sets the tone for everything that is to follow. As we have multiple entry points into our sanctuary, we would be glad to add numbers to those willing to help welcome our community into worship. This is a great opportunity for individuals or families. We ask greeters and/or ushers to arrive 20 minutes prior to the start of worship.
- **ACOLYTES (11:15 am service)** Bringing back an older tradition, children and youth are invited to serve as acolytes, indicating the start of worship by lighting the candles on our communion table. Acolytes will receive instruction and practice with one of the pastors in advance of serving.
- **SERVING COMMUNION (9 & 11:15 am)** Anyone ordained as an elder or deacon (whether you are currently serving, or have served in the past) is invited to serve communion. Typically, we need anywhere from two to six servers for each service. Group training will be provided each year; this year’s training will be held Sunday, September 22 at 10:10 am in the Sanctuary.
- **PREPARING COMMUNION (11:15 am service)** Ever wonder how all the communion elements appear in worship? The work of a small but faithful crew prepares the simple meal we share each week. Those prepping the meal arrive roughly 20 minutes prior to the start of worship, and remain afterwards briefly to clean up. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals or families, especially those who prefer working behind the scenes. Training is provided.
- **ASSISTING WITH CHILDREN’S WORSHIP (9 & 11:15 am)** Following the Lesson with Children and Youth, children in second grade and younger are invited to the Phillips Lounge for time together geared specifically for them. Every lesson is planned in advance, and volunteers receive the lesson plan and all materials well in advance. For safety reasons, two adults (age 18+) are needed for each service. No theological training needed — only a love of children and a desire to help them know God. (Per MAPC’s child safety policy, background checks are required for children’s worship volunteers.) Email Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com if you are interested in assisting with this important ministry.

Kids' Club Announcements

Register for Kids' Club and Wee Kids!

Join the Kids' Club and Wee Kids community for the 2019 -2020 theme, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, beginning **Wednesday, September 18**. Kids' Club is open for children who are in the 1st grade through 5th grade for bible study, music, recreation, Choir, and dinner. Wee Kids is open for children who are 3 years old to kindergarten for a biblical story time, recreation and arts, and dinner.

We are also doing some new and exciting things this year, such as a different themed dinner each week at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. We will engage in service projects, art projects, organized recreation, games, and choir. Join the Kids' Club community on Wednesday night from 4 pm to 6pm and Wee Kids from 4:45 pm – 6 pm.

For your child to attend the first day of Kids' Club and Wee Kids on September 18th, [please fill out the registration form here and return it no later than September 5th](#). Or visit our website, mapc.com, and follow the link to register. But please know that at any point throughout the year, you are more than welcome to register your child! Or email Rev. Rebecca Heilman for more information, the registration link, or with your questions. We hope you will join the 2019 – 2020 Kids' Club and Wee Kids community!

Volunteer for Kids' Club!

God calls us by name and calls us to the church to engage in all types of ministries. You may be called to Children's Ministries! The Kids' Club community is looking for several volunteers to shape our children's faith. The call descriptions are listed below, and they each require about 30 – 45 minutes of your time each Wednesday afternoon (Rev. Rebecca Heilman will guide you as we all settle into these new calls. You are not alone!):

- **Recreation & Game Disciples** (need two volunteers) – volunteers will organize fun and active games for Kid's Club participants so they can get out some of the wiggles that God gifted them.
- **Storytelling Disciples** (need two volunteers) – Make the bible story of the day come alive for the children each Wednesday afternoon. A curriculum is provided. Again, you are not alone in this call!
- **Table Parents** (need four volunteers) – Community is formed by conversation, games, and most importantly sharing a meal. Help do this by guiding a table with simple conversation starters and provided fun games while engaging in the day's theme.
- **Table Prep Disciples** (need two volunteers) – These individuals will organize the dinner theme of the day by prepping table decorations, making copies of dinner conversation starters, printing the organized table games, and helping set up anything else in our dining area.
- **Floater** (need two volunteers) – floaters help in any area that is needed for the day!

Church Family Night, Friday, September 13, 6 pm in the Parish Hall

9/13
6 pm

The first Church Family Night of the fall is right around the corner! Come have dinner, enjoy a craft activity, a movie, and play in the gym or on the Roof Garden. It's a great time to catch up with church friends you haven't seen over the summer or meet some new ones! You do not need to have children at home to come to Church Family Night—it is for the whole church family. Suggested donation for the evening is \$20 for adults, and a contribution of your choice for children under 12. Chef Jim needs to know how many to cook for, so please let Lissette Perez-Erazo know if you are coming, lgp@mapc.com.



Music at MAPC

Saint Andrew Music Society: Announcing our 55th Season

The Saint Andrew Music Society's 55th Season brochure is in the mail! Extra copies are available in the narthex and Church House Lobby to distribute to your friends! You can also peruse all fourteen concerts taking place this season on our website [in print: www.mapc.com/music/sams/concerts], 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. (See [a list of the 2019-2020 Liturgical Choral Music](#) on our website.) 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 5. If you are interested, visit the Choirs page on our website, or contact Andrew Henderson: ae@mapc.com, or 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!

Evening Bible Study (new): See page 2
1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 7 pm.

Reading Through the Bible:

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

Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, September 9)

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

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 Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com. Let's put our faith into action!

Thursday Night 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 at kfhoffman@earthlink.net to volunteer for this opportunity.

Host at the Shelter

The Shelter will resume in the middle of September.

Take this time to consider being a host for 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. If being a host is not for you, drop off some dinner, breakfast, or desert! If you would like to know more about the shelter please contact Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com.

New York Common Pantry

The New York Common Pantry is always looking for donations! Please help through gifts of **canned or dried beans, canned chicken/salmon/tuna, rice, dried pasta, canned vegetables, and peanut butter** (no glass containers). Your gifts may be dropped off in the grocery cart found in the Church House Lobby. You may also order groceries to be delivered to their site: 8 East 109th St. New York, NY 10029. They are not only looking for donations, but volunteers as well! Help pack and distribute food any day of the week. For more information, contact NYCP at 917-720-9700.

Follow MAPC on [Facebook](#) for updates and to share news and events.



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.

Monday, September 9		
6:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Phillips Lounge
Tuesday, September 10		
5:00 pm	Hood Library Fellowship	Hood Library
6:30 pm	Personnel Committee	Pastor's Study
7:00 pm	Outreach Committee	Hood Library
Wednesday, September 11		
7:30 am	Evangelism Committee	Phillips Lounge
12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
Thursday, September 12		
6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
7:00 pm	Saint Andrew Chorale Rehearsal	Sanctuary
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Friday, September 13		
6:00 pm	Church Family Night	Parish Hall
Saturday, September 14	No events scheduled	
Sunday, September 15		
9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Parish Hall
10:10 am	Adult Education	Parish Hall
10:10 am	Confirmand Interest Meeting	Dana Chapel
10:20 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
12:30 pm	Fellowship Hour	Parish Hall
3:00 pm	John Trout Memorial Service	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	John Trout Memorial Reception	Parish Hall

Baptism

Interested in having your child baptized at MAPC? Contact Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com about attending an orientation session. Baptisms are then scheduled in conversation with Senior Pastor Rev. Jenny McDevitt to ensure the timing meets the needs of your family.

Confirmation 2019-2020

Calling all 8th and 9th graders (and families)! Plans are already underway for this year's Confirmation class. Rev. Jenny McDevitt is looking forward to leading this time with you, beginning in October and concluding in April. Classes will take place following the 11:15 am worship service and lunch will be provided. If you or a family member has not yet indicated interest, email Jenny at jmm@mapc.com. She needs an email address for your parent or guardian, and the best way to be in touch with you. A gathering for all prospective Confirmands is scheduled for **September 15 at 10:10 am in the Dana Chapel**.

September

Sunday, September 8, 12:45 pm—Picnic in the Park, Central Park

Friday, September 13, 6 pm—Church Family Night, Parish Hall

Monday, September 16, 7 pm—Evening Bible Study begins (meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month), 8th Floor

Wednesday, September 18, 4:30 pm—Kids' Club kickoff

Saturday, September 21, 10 am—Saturday Family Fun, 5th Floor, Roof Garden

Thursday, September 26, 7 pm—Mom's Night Out, Offsite

October

Friday, October 4, 5 pm—Blessing of the Animals

Friday, October 25, 6 pm—Annual Church Family Night Halloween Bash!

Thursday, October 31, 4 pm—Halloween on the Sanctuary Steps

November

Saturday, November 2, 1 pm—Annual Women's Brunch

Thursday, November 14, 7 pm—Mom's Night Out, Offsite

Friday, November 15, 6 pm—Church Family Night, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 17—Hood Library Fellowship Annual Book Sale

Thursday, November 21, 7 pm—Mom's Night Out, Offsite

December

Sunday, December 1, 11:45 am—Advent Festival (On Dec. 1, one Sunday morning worship service at 10:30 am.)

Wednesday, December 4, 5:15 pm—Kids' Club Advent Service, Dana Chapel

Wednesday, December 4, 7 pm—Company of Deacons

Saturday, December 7, 9 am to 12 noon—Advent Retreat/Quiet Morning

Sunday, December 15, 4 pm—Annual Carol Sing, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 18, 6 pm—Blue Christmas, Dana Chapel