

The Pastoral Staff Letter

Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 9 am & 11:15 am Christ the King Sunday

Worship: Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett will preach her sermon, "The Reign of Christ in a Broken World" based on the texts Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1: 68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.



9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
10:10 am	Fellowship Hour & Book Sale	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 & Book Sale	Parish Hall
1:00 pm	ESL Classes	5th Floor
3:00 pm	Saint Andrew Chorale Concert	Sanctuary

Issue #98

November 21 & 28, 2019

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Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 10:30 am First Sunday of Advent (only one service)

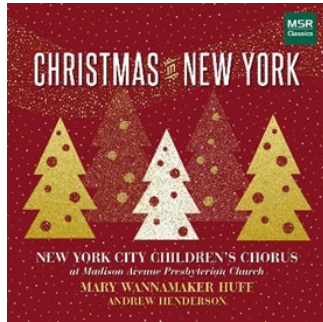
Worship: Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt will preach her sermon, "The Way of the Past: Keep Awake" based on the texts Isaiah 21:1-5 ; Psalm 122; and Matthew 24:36-44.

See page 7 for December 1 schedule.

Prepare the Way
Worship with us this Advent
 Sundays at 9 & 11:15 am

Dec. 1	The Way of the Past: Keep Awake
Dec. 8	The Way of the Prophet: Cry Out
Dec. 15	The Way of the Desert: Rejoice and Blossom
Dec. 22	The Way of Joseph: Dream Big
Dec. 24	The Way of Jesus: Draw Near

NYCCC Benefit and CD Release



Please join us for the 7th Annual New York City Children's Chorus Benefit, and the CD release of our new recording, *Christmas in New York*, on **Friday, November 22** from 6 to 8:30 pm in the Church House Lobby and Sanctuary. Get into the Christmas spirit with wassail punch, figgy pudding and other delicious holiday hors d'oeuvres by the award-winning Bartleby & Sage, and support MAPC's own community children's chorus program as you bid on our silent and live auctions and listen to special performances by the Allegro, Concert Choir, and In Harmony ensembles. Tickets may be purchased online biddingforgood.com/nycchildrenschorus. CDs can now be ordered at nycchildrenschorus.org or wherever you download your favorite music!

Sunday, November 24

Hood Library Fellowship Annual Book Sale

On **Sunday, November 24**, the Hood Library Fellowship will have tables full of books for sale in the Church House Lobby during the fellowship hours between services. Please come browse the books while you enjoy your coffee, tea, cookies and conversation! You'll find fiction and non-fiction, and "coffee table" books. Come buy Christmas gifts for the readers and book lovers on your list, or stock up on your own reading material for the winter months. The proceeds for the book sale will go to support Open Table.

Saint Andrew Chorale and Orchestra



On **Sunday, November 24** at 3 pm the Saint Andrew Chorale and Orchestra will open their 55th season with two mid-twentieth century choral masterworks: Poulenc's *Gloria* and the ebullient, full orchestration of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Choristers from the New York City Children's chorus will perform Randall Thompson's *The Place of the Blest* for treble chorus and orchestra, which is featured on their soon-to-be-released recording, *Christmas in New York*. Tickets: \$30 (\$25 - Seniors 62+/Students); Children 12 & under are free!

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4315572>

Sunday, December 1

Advent Festival, Sunday, December 1st after the 10:30 am Worship Service (Remember, just one service on this Sunday!)

Let's start the season of Advent with MAPC's first ever churchwide Advent Festival!



All members, families, ages, and friends are welcome for lunch in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 am service with various activities to follow – Advent wreath-making, ornament making, cookie decorating, and a service project.

The labyrinth will be available in the gym for reflective prayer, and Advent calendars and devotions will be distributed to use at home as we wait for light to enter the world. We'll close the festival with Advent devotions. A free-will offering will be received for lunch, and there will be a minimal suggested donation for wreath-making to help cover the cost of materials. There will be something for everyone,

and you won't want to miss it!

December

Company of Deacons Gathering, Wednesday, December 4, 7 pm Parish Hall

The Board of Deacons invites all MAPC members who have previously been ordained as a deacon to the annual “Company of Deacons” gathering on December 4, beginning at 7 pm. There will be time for refreshments and fellowship, and Rev. Bartlett will lead a discussion on the themes of Advent and the role they play in our lives. Advent is a season of expectation, waiting and hope, a time of looking to the coming of Christ into the world—as we celebrate his birth and as we expect and hope for the ultimate return of Christ to bring the fulfillment of God’s realm, making all things new. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo, lgp@mapc.com.

12/4
7 pm

Adult Education, Sundays December 8, 15, and 22, 10:10 Parish Hall

Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes

On these three Sundays we will reflect on the openings of the four gospels—Matthew and Luke that have birth narratives, and Mark and John who take a different approach in telling of Jesus’ coming into the world. Rev. Bartlett will lead these classes, using Dr. Cynthia Campbell’s book, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: An Advent Study*. If you would like to order the book, it is available from Amazon (or order through your local bookstore!), but it is not necessary to read the book to participate in the classes!

12/8 -
12/22

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. Scripture reading sign up (no prerequisites): <https://signup.com/go/jzLorCa>
- **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. Communion sign up (must be ordained as an elder or deacon): <https://signup.com/go/FPKymKv>

Adult Education Survey

The former Christian Education Committee has been divided into two separate committees: Children and Youth Ministries and Adult Education. The Adult Education Committee has created a quick survey and encourages all MAPC members to fill it out. Are you a regular at our Sunday morning Adult Education classes? Have you never been able to attend? Is Evening Bible Study your thing? Is there a particular topic you would like to discuss or learn more about? Are there times that would be more convenient for you?



We want to know all of this and more! Please click on the link below and fill out the form on the church’s secure website.

Link to Survey: <https://www.mapc.com/education/adult-education/mapc-adult-education-survey/>

MAPC Day School Application

MAPC families with young children are invited to apply to The Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School, which offers innovative programming for children ages 4 month through 5 years old. Our classes for babies and toddlers are open to the public. Our preschool application deadline (for children who will be between two and five years old by August 31, 2020) is **Saturday, November 30**. Please see our website at <https://www.mapcds.org> for information and our online application.

due
11/30

Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 11th @ 6pm, Parish Hall

The Christmas Pageant will be a bit different this year. Before December 11th, we plan to film the children and youth of MAPC performing the pageant and reading scripture. We are doing this in hopes of drawing in children and youth who may not be able to attend, but would still like to participate. **Therefore, we will film a portion of the pageant on Sunday, December 1st at the Advent Festival. All ages – infant through youth are welcome!** On that day, your child will wear a costume and perform the scene while an older child reads the Scripture. If you are unable to be present on Sunday, December 1st, please email Rev. Rebecca Heilman (rmh@mapc.com) and we will set up a time for your child to be filmed for the pageant.

12/11

6 pm

Then on **Wednesday, December 11th at 6pm join us for the showing of the pageant and a Congregational Dinner.** In between each lesson, we will carol until our hearts are full! Hope you will join us!

Christmas Eve Family Worship

Tuesday, December 24th @ 5pm, Sanctuary

If you are in town and want to worship with your family, join us for our Christmas Eve Family Worship. **This is another opportunity for your child to participate in a pageant-like worship service.** This year, we are doing it a bit differently. We have created light weight cut-out foam figurines. Throughout the service, while listening to the Christmas story, children and youth will slowly carry the figurines to the front of the sanctuary to create the nativity scene. There are plenty of opportunities for your family to be involved! Your child may want to carry one of the light weight foam figurines to the front of the sanctuary during worship or read scripture. Your family may want to light the Advent candles or be greeter at the beginning of worship. You are welcome however you would like to be involved. [Email Rev. Rebecca Heilman](mailto:Rev.Rebecca.Heilman) for more information. Rehearsal date for the Christmas Eve Family Service: TBD

12/24

5 pm



#1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

amazonsmile

Shop Amazon and Support MAPC!

Did you know that when you shop for the holidays at

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1624076>

AmazonSmile donates to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church?

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: 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 7 pm, 8th Fl. (The next meeting is **December 2.**) The group is currently reading N.T. Wright's book, *Simply Jesus*.

Women's Bible Study is currently on hiatus and will resume January 13, 2020. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm, Library.

Reading Through the Bible: Wednesdays, 12:30 pm-1:30 pm, Phillips Lounge. This Wednesday we will be reading Ezekiel.

20s/30s Bible Study
1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday, 6 pm, 8th Fl. Email Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com for details.

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.

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

Take this time to consider being a host for the shelter! Two shifts are offered each evening, Mondays through Thursday. 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.

Monday, November 25		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Tuesday, November 26		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Wednesday, November 27		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Thursday, November 28		
6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Day - Church House closed Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Friday, November 29		
	Day after Thanksgiving - Church House closed	
Saturday, November 30		
9:00 am	Sanctuary Decorating	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 1		
	First Sunday in Advent	
	Christmas Angels Gifts Due	
9:30 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
9:45 am	New Member Reception	8th Floor
10:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
10:45 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
11:45 am	Advent Festival	Parish Hall
11:45 am	Confirmation - Advent Festival	Parish Hall
1:00 pm	ESL Classes	5th Floor
Monday, December 2		
9:00 am	Christmas Angel Gift Sorting	Phillips Lounge
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Evening Bible Study	8th Floor
Tuesday, December 3		
5:00 pm	Hood Library Fellowship	Hood Library
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

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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.

Wednesday, December 4

12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Company of Deacons	Parish Hall

Thursday, December 5

1:00 pm	Spiritual Growth & Faith Sharing	James Lenox House
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
7:00 pm	Carol Sing Rehearsal	Choir Room
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Friday, December 6

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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Saturday, December 7

No events scheduled

Sunday, December 8

	Second Sunday of Advent	
9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
10:10 am	Adult Education	Parish Hall
10:10 am	Fellowship Hour	Lobby
10:10 am	Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grade)	Parish Hall
10:10 am	Open Playtime Toddlers -11 yrs	Gym/Roof Garden
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
1:00 pm	Confirmation Class: Scripture	8th Floor
1:00 pm	Senior Fellowship Lunch	Parish Hall
1:00 pm	ESL Classes	5th Floor

A number of recovery groups meet regularly at the church throughout the week. For a current list of groups and meeting times, please see mapc.com/supportgroups.

Pledge 2020

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2020. Like ministry itself, we need everyone's participation. Pledge cards are available in the pew racks, in the Narthex, or by calling the church office. You may also pledge or give online at mapc.com/giving.

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.