

The Pastoral Staff Letter

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 9 & 11:15 am Second Sunday of Advent

Worship: Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt will preach her sermon, "The Way of the Prophet: Cry Out" based on the texts Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; and Matthew 3:1-12.



Issue #99

December 5, 2019

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 gr)	5th Fl; Youth Lounge
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	Lobby
1:00 pm	Confirmation Class: Scripture	8th Floor
1:00 pm	Senior Fellowship Lunch	Parish Hall
1:00 pm	ESL Classes	5th Floor

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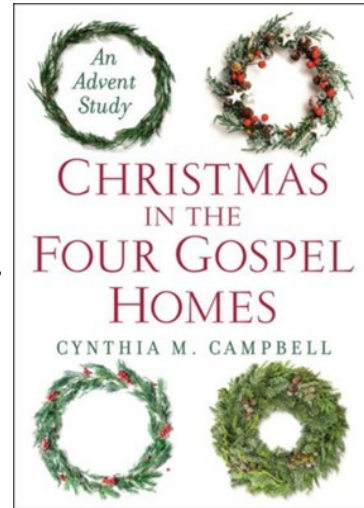


Sunday, December 8

Adult Education, Sundays December 8, 15, and 22, 10:10 am 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!



Senior Fellowship Lunch

MAPC Seniors and friends will have lunch together Sunday at 1 pm in the Parish Hall following fellowship hour. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10.

NYCCC CD Release

Christmas shopping?

Our New York City Children's Chorus's new recording, *Christmas in New York*, has been released. Copies of the CD can be purchased for \$13 during fellowship hour in the Church House Lobby on the Sundays in December leading up to Christmas, and directly from the NYCCC website at www.nycchildrenschorus.org/media.html. The recording can also be purchased on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, or wherever you download your favorite music!

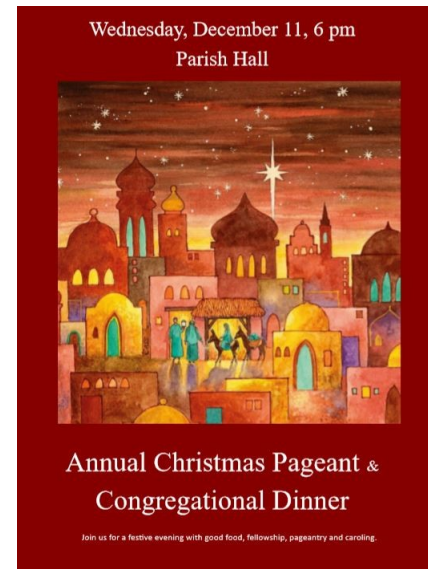


December

Annual Christmas Pageant & Congregational Dinner

Wednesday, December 11th @ 6pm, Parish Hall

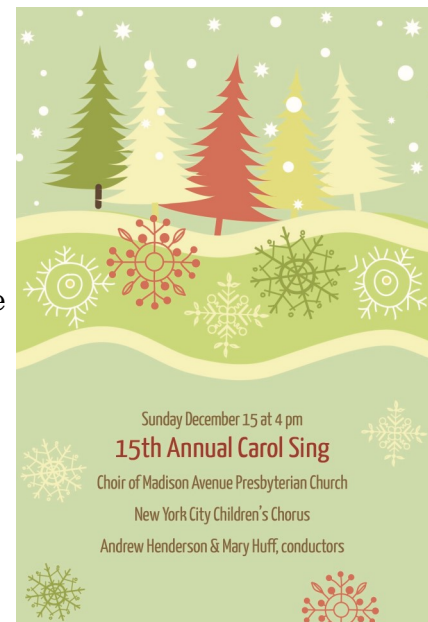
The children and youth of MAPC will shine an extra light this holiday season with their 2019 Christmas Pageant! Gather on Wednesday, December 11th at 6 pm in the Parish Hall for a Congregational Dinner, the viewing of the Annual Christmas Pageant, and carols mixed in between. Hope you will join us!



Carol Sing

Sunday, December 15, at 4 pm, Sanctuary

MAPC's Carol Sing is next Sunday, December 15 at 4 pm. The Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and the New York City Children's Chorus will sing Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* along with other pieces of seasonal choral music. We will be delighted by seasonal readings and poetry read by Meg Connor Johnson and Dominic Gurney, and the audience will be invited to join in the singing of hearty Christmas Carols in the seasonal resplendence of our decorated Sanctuary. A festive reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Admission is free, but a free-will offering in support of the Saint Andrew Music Society will be taken after the concert.



Christmas Flowers

Poinsettias will once again grace the sanctuary this Christmas season. Gifts may be made in memory or in honor of loved ones. To make a donation, use the special insert in the bulletin or [fill out the form online](#). Place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church office. The suggested donation for each name is \$40. In order to include the names in the Sunday bulletins on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we must receive your donation by **Wednesday, December 18**.



Scene from our first Advent Festival on December 1. Thank you so much for attending and participating. The festival was a great success! You are welcome to pick up Advent calendars, still available in the Lobby.

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 18, at 6 pm

For some of us, this season feels like anything but “the most wonderful time of the year.” This quiet, contemplative service will include song, scripture, prayer, communion, and candle lighting. All are welcome in the Dana Chapel on Wednesday, December 18, at 6 pm. Refreshments will follow in the Phillips Lounge.

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](#) for more information. Rehearsal date for the Christmas Eve Family Service: TBD

Giving

Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Need a gift for the person who has it all? Searching for a gift that helps create a better world? Consider the Presbyterian Giving Catalogues found in the pew racks. Buy piglets or chickens for a community farm; help educate a child, empower women, or donate a garden well. Show someone in your life how much you love them by providing an act of love for our neighbors in their honor.

Shop Amazon and Support MAPC!



Did you know that when you shop for the holidays at AmazonSmile donates to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church?

smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1624076



Members of the 2019-2020 Confirmation Class help out with the congregational dinner on Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 17.

Stewardship Update: Pledge 2020

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2020. As of December 2, we have received pledges totaling **\$632,602**.

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.

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 16.**) 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

Next meeting: December 12, 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.

Worship Needs You!

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, and signing up is easy. We will ensure that proper training or instruction is given so that you know exactly what to do.

- **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. Sign up for scripture reading (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. Sign up for serving communion: <https://signup.com/go/FPKymKv>
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MAPC on Social Media



Facebook

Follow MAPC on Facebook for news, reminders, events, and pictures from everyday life at the church. It's a good way to engage in fellowship and to know what's going on each week. facebook.com/MadisonAvenuePresbyterian/



SoundCloud and iTunes

Listen to Sunday sermons from MAPC on the streaming platforms SoundCloud and iTunes. SoundCloud also allows users to share the audio files and compile playlists. Download the SoundCloud app or listen on the web: https://soundcloud.com/mapc_sermons On iTunes, download the podcast app and search for Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.



Instagram

Look for mapc_nyc in the app and follow us. https://www.instagram.com/mapc_nyc

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.

Next Week at MAPC

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Monday, December 9		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Zimbabwe Partnership Committee	Pastor's Study
Tuesday, December 10		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Wednesday, December 11		
8:30 am	Buildings and Grounds Committee	7th Fl. Conference Rm.
12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
4:15 pm	MAPC Children & Youth Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
5:00 pm	Caroling at James Lenox House	James Lenox House
6:00 pm	Congregational Dinner & Christmas Pageant	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Thursday, December 12		
6:00 pm	20s/30s Bible Study	8th Floor
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 13		
6:30 pm	no events scheduled	Shelter Space
Saturday, December 14		
6:00 pm	Sanctuary Decorating	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 15		
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)	5th Fl; Youth Lounge
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	Lobby
1:00 pm	ESL Classes	5th Floor
4:00 pm	SAMS: 15th Annual Carol Sing	Sanctuary

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.