

The Pastoral Staff Letter

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

Worship: Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt will preach her sermon, "The Way of the Desert: Rejoice and Blossom" based on the texts Matthew 11:2-11; Luke 1:47-55; and Isaiah 35:1-10.

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)	Gym
10:10 am	Coloring for Kids	Lobby
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	15th Annual Carol Sing	Sanctuary



Issue #100

December 12, 2019

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O Come All Ye Faithful
Christmas at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Family Service 5 pm December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion 10:30 pm December 24
(prelude begins 10:15 pm)

Christmas Day Lessons and Carols 11:15 am December 25

Sunday Worship 10:30 am December 29

Sunday, December 15

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

Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes

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!

Carol Sing

Sunday, December 15, at 4 pm, Sanctuary



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. Seasonal readings and poetry will be read by Meg Connor Johnson and Dominic Gurney, and the audience will be invited to join in the singing of Christmas Carols. A 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 at the end of the concert.

NYCCC CD Release

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 hours in the Church House Lobby on the Sundays December 15 and 22.

For more information about the recording or to purchase a copy with free shipping within the USA or for Will-call pick-up at the MAPC receptionist desk, visit:

www.nycchildrenschorus.org/media.html. The recording can also be purchased on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, or wherever you download your favorite music!



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 Sunday 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**.

Christmas at MAPC

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 24, at 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: Sunday, December 22 at 1 pm in the Sanctuary.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship

Tuesday, December 24, at 10:30 pm, Sanctuary.

Prelude 10:15 pm

Join us for our evening Christmas Eve candlelight worship service as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the light entering the world. We will be joined by guest instrumentalists.

Christmas Day Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 25, at 11:15 am, Sanctuary

Join us for the traditional Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Day. Alternating scripture readings and traditional carols tell the story of the Jesus' birth—from angelic prophecy to the birth in the manger to the visit of the Magi.

Sunday, December 29—one service only at 10:30 am.

Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman will be preaching.



Coming in January 2020 (a new year and a new decade!)

Church Family Night

Friday, January 10, 2020, 6 pm in the Parish Hall

The next Church Family Night is around the corner, following close on the heels of the holidays. Make sure Friday, January 10 is on your calendar! Come enjoy a delicious dinner in the Parish Hall, conversation, a craft activity, movie and playtime in the gym—you can do it all, or simply enjoy sitting with friends. This is for everyone in the MAPC church family, not just families with kids at home! It's a great way to unwind on a Friday evening—and you don't have to worry about what's for dinner and whose preparing it! The suggested donation for adults is \$20, and we ask that you make a donation for children under 12 based on their appetite! Chef Jim needs to know how many to cook for, so please let us know if you are coming. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com.

Moms' Night Out

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 7-10 pm

Every couple of months, MAPC Moms get together for a night out, usually at an Upper East Side restaurant. Moms' Night Out helps create a strong community among MAPC moms with children of all ages, and provide a valuable opportunity to share our wisdom on various parenting issues, and perhaps even have a non-child-related conversation! RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com.

Annual January Fellowship Event

Friday Night Fireside Jazz

January 24, 2020, 6 - 9 pm in the Church House Lobby

Come enjoy an evening of good food, great music and lively fellowship in the Church House Lobby. Chef Jim is preparing a New Orleans inspired menu, the jazz trio is booked, there will be a fire in the fireplace, and childcare will be offered on the 5th Floor if that makes it easier for you to attend.



The suggested donation for the evening is \$40, and we ask for a donation of \$15 per child if you need childcare.

Sign up in the Church House Lobby after worship on Sundays in January, or respond to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com. Please indicate if you will need childcare. This is an evening you won't want to miss!

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.

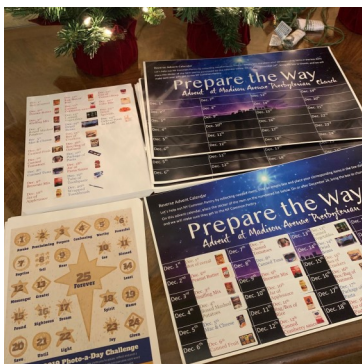
Shop Amazon and Support MAPC!

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

smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1624076

Christmas Joy Offering

Keep a watchful eye out for the Christmas Joy Offering on **December 22, 24, and 25**. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The generosity of Presbyterians means a brighter future and enhanced opportunities for leaders to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



Advent Calendar Food Drop-off

Please bring your boxes full of gathered items from your Advent Calendar to the church lobby by Christmas Day. The church staff will make sure your non-perishable items get delivered to the NY Common Pantry. Please leave your filled boxes in the shopping cart in the church lobby.

Stewardship Update: Pledge 2020

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2020. As of December 12, we have received **115** pledges totaling **\$659,000**.

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

Sunday Morning Adult Education in Early January

A Faithful Response to “The Alien in Your Land” (Lev. 19:34)

On **January 5 and 12** the Adult Education classes on Sunday mornings at 10:10 will focus on refugee resettlement and immigration issues. We will be hearing about Rutgers Presbyterian Church’s continuing work with the refugee families they have resettled and learning about ways we can provide support.

In conjunction with the theme for these two Sundays, we encourage MAPC members and friends to attend the First Friends Volunteer Orientation Workshop, Tuesday, **January 7**, 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 7 West 83rd St. For more information or to register for the training and information evening, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-friends-volunteer-orientation-workshop-tickets-84948413993>

Evening Bible Study

The Evening Bible Study will finish discussing N. T. Wright’s book *Simply Jesus* this coming Monday, **December 16** at 7 pm

on the 8th floor. We will begin discussing Mark’s Gospel on Monday, **January 6**. Please note, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, our second Evening Bible Study in January will be held on Wednesday, **January 22** (7 pm on the 8th floor).

All are welcome! Since we are starting a new study, January 6th is a good time to jump into the Evening Bible Study. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Bartlett at bab@mapc.com. There are beverages, snacks, fellowship and good discussion, and there is always more room at the table, so please join us!

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.

20s/30s Bible Study

The next meeting is in January. 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.

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>

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.

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.

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



Next Week at MAPC

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Monday, December 16

6:30 pm

Overnight Shelter

Shelter Space

7:00 pm

Evening Bible Study

8th Floor

Tuesday, December 17

12:00 pm

Paul Volcker Memorial Service

Sanctuary

6:30 pm

Overnight Shelter

Shelter Space

6:30 pm

Budget Committee Meeting #2

8th Floor

Wednesday, December 18

8:00 am

Trustees

Phillips Lounge

12:30 pm

Reading Through the Bible

Phillips Lounge

6:00 pm

Blue Christmas Service

Dana Chapel

6:30 pm

Overnight Shelter

Shelter Space

7:00 pm

Blue Christmas Service Fellowship

Phillips Lounge

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

no events scheduled

Saturday, December 21

no events scheduled

Sunday, December 22

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)

Gym

10:10 am

Coloring for Kids

Lobby

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

Church Choir Rehearsal

Choir Room

1:00 pm

Family Service Rehearsal

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-Eraza at lgp@mapc.com or 212-288-8920.