

The Pastoral Staff Letter

Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 9 & 11:15 am Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship: Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt will preach her sermon, "The Way of Joseph: Dream Big" based on the texts Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 80; and Matthew 1:18-25.

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	Family Service Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Sunday, December 29, 2019 at 10:30 am First Sunday of Christmas

Worship: Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman will preach her sermon, "No Cheap Comfort" based on the texts Isaiah 63:7-9 and Matthew 2:13-23. (see page 10 for Dec 29 calendar)



Issue #101

December 19 & 26, 2019

Inside this issue:

<i>Sunday</i>	1-2
<i>Christmas at MAPC</i>	2
<i>Coming in January</i>	3-5
<i>Letter from Zimbabwe</i>	6-7
<i>Giving</i>	7
<i>Stewardship Update</i>	7
<i>Bible Studies</i>	8
<i>Hands-on Ministries</i>	8
<i>MAPC Calendar</i>	10-11

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

921 Madison Avenue @ 73rd St. mapc.com 212.288.8920

Sunday, December 22

Adult Education, Sunday December 22, 10:10 am
Parish Hall

Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes

This Sunday we will finish our reflections on the openings of the four gospels, looking at the first chapter of John. Rev. Bartlett will lead this class, using Dr. Cynthia Campbell's book, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: An Advent Study*. It is not necessary to read the book to participate in the class!

NYCCC CD Release

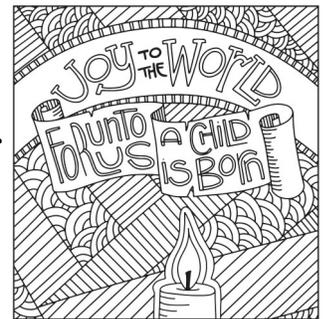
Copies of our New York City Children's Chorus's new recording, *Christmas in New York*, can be purchased for \$13 during fellowship hours in the Church House Lobby on Sunday, December 22. Visit: www.nycchildrenschorus.org/media.html for more info.

Christmas at MAPC

Christmas Eve Family Worship

Tuesday, December 24, at 5pm, Sanctuary

If you're in town and in the spirit to worship on your own or with your family, join us for our Christmas Eve Family Worship Service! While we listen to the Christmas story and sing out in joy, children and youth will slowly create the nativity scene with figurines. This service is child-friendly, so all wiggles and noise are welcome!

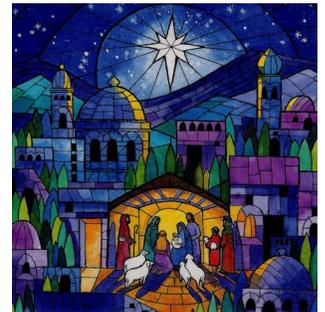


Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship

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.

NYCCC Media Appearances

MAPC's New York City Children's Chorus has a number of radio and television appearances scheduled this month with the release of their new CD, *Christmas in New York* – tune in if you can!

Saturday, December 21: NYCCC sings live from Times Square on *Good Morning America*, 6-9 am.

Sunday, Dec. 23: Excerpts from our recording *Christmas on Madison Avenue* will be featured on WXXI's "With Heart and Voice" on Public Radio Stations throughout the country or at withheartandvoice.org.



Wednesday, January 1: the NYCCC sings *Auld Lang Syne* on the TODAY Show for New Year's Day, 6-9 am.

January 2020

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. On January 5th, Dave Mammen and The Rev. Laura Jarvis will be with us to talk about Rutgers Presbyterian Church's continuing work with the refugee families they have resettled, and share with us ways we can provide support. On January 12th, Victor Salama, Executive Director of First Friends of NJ and NY will be our guest speaker. Mr. Salama will speak about the situation at the southern border, how detainees end up in the jails in northern New Jersey, and the work of First Friends in providing supportive services while they are in prison and after their release.

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>

January 2020 Events

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-Eraza in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com.

Shelter Open House

Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 1pm, Shelter Space

Interested in our Men's Shelter? Visit our shelter at 1pm on Sunday, January 12 to learn more about the volunteer opportunities. The shelter leaders are specifically in need of overnight hosts (8:30 pm – 6:30 am) and are always looking for early shift hosts (6:30 pm – 8:30 pm). Questions? Please contact Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@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-Eraza in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com.

January 2020 Events

Fridays for Children

Friday, January 24, 2020 at 5 – 6pm, Parish Hall



All elementary age children and younger are invited to the Parish Hall for our Fridays for Children program!

We will read the book *When God Made You* by Matthew Paul Turner and connect it to the world we live in. There will be crafts and games, as well as choir for all ages with Mary Huff, MAPC's Associate Director of Music and Director of the NYC Children's Chorus.

Following Fridays for Children, MAPC's Fireside Jazz (see below) will begin in the Front Lobby with

delicious food and excellent jazz tunes! Your child(ren) are welcome to join you or we will provide childcare on the 5th floor. Email Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com to sign up early or for more information. You're also welcome sign your child(ren) up at the church on the night of the 24th. All forms will be provided.

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 wonderful 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-Eraza in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com. Please indicate if you will need childcare. This is an evening you won't want to miss!

Letter from Zimbabwe

Friends,

Recently, we received a message from the Rev. Kingstar Chapati, General Secretary of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Harare Synod, providing us with insights into the situation there, which has deteriorated politically and economically in recent months. Added to these setbacks is the devastation caused by Cyclone Idai in March of 2019. We have been in partnership with CCAP Harare Synod for over ten years, both visiting there and delegates traveling here.

As the situation continues in Zimbabwe, we will continue to keep our friends in our prayers and we invite you to do the same.

Peace,

Rebecca

Dear MAPC,

Thank you very much for always remembering us. Here the Lord is keeping us and His Church safe, although we are passing through hardships.

CCAP Harare Synod is still surviving and struggling to implement her programs due to economic instability. In October, we were supposed to send 12 delegates to General Assembly which was scheduled for 16 to 19 October, but we failed to raise money for transport and contribution to the General Assembly, because of the economic challenges of our country. Fortunately Blantyre Synod gave an apology because of other commitments; hence the General Assembly meeting was postponed to early next year 2020. For us, it became a chance to continue sourcing for the funding of that meeting.

For my work as the General Secretary, I just thank God who allowed me to be in this office at the time like this when things are so hard. We are busy trying to put systems in place. The unemployment rate of 94% has affected the Church in a negative way, since many members are unable to contribute positively to the church, which makes it difficult to implement our programs. Costs have gone up and fuel is hard to find.

Continue remembering CCAP Harare Synod in prayers. The country was hit by Cyclone Idai in the Eastern part which destroyed crops, livestock, and many people lost lives and many others were left homeless. As if this was not enough, the rest of the country was hit by drought. Because of that, water is not readily available in most urban areas including most locations in the capital city Harare. It is much better for those who have boreholes. Many people in the rural areas are living by

food aid and in some areas some livestock are dying due to lack of drinking water and proper grassing. We note with great concern the impact of climate change caused by global warming.

In all this situation, we thank God that we continue serving and ministering to his people. We also thank Him for sustaining the work of this office, as we hope that one day all will be well again.

At the moment we are expecting rains soon, as we are entering summer now and hope for revival of all.

Continue remembering us.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Kingstar Chipata
GENERAL SECRETARY
CCAP HARARE SYNOD

Giving

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.

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 19, we have received **118** pledges totaling **\$666,452**. 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

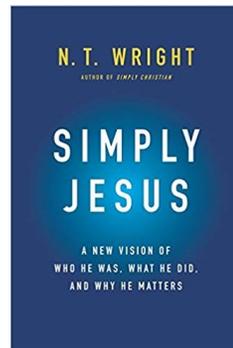
Sunday Morning Adult Education in Early January

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

Please see page 3 for full description.

Evening Bible Study

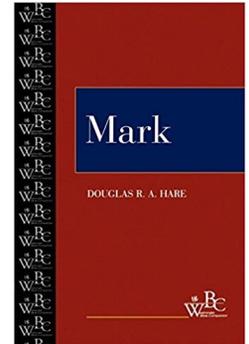
The Evening Bible Study will discuss the final chapter of N. T. Wright’s book *Simply Jesus* on Monday, January 6 at 7 pm on the 8th floor. After that we will begin discussing Mark’s Gospel.



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). To assist us in our study of Mark, we will be using Douglas Hare’s commentary, “Mark”, part of the *Westminster Bible Companion* series. Rev. Bartlett has a couple of copies available

(for \$25 each), [or you may order a new or used copy on Amazon.](#)

All are welcome! Since we are starting a new study, this 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.

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

15th Annual Carol Sing

Did you miss the 15th Annual Carol Sing? You can watch the concert on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/UM1EcxvI2j8>

December 23 — January 5 at MAPC

Monday, December 23		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve	
4:00 pm	Family Service Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service	Sanctuary
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
10:15 pm	Christmas Eve Prelude	Sanctuary
10:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day	
10:15 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
11:15 am	Christmas Day Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
Thursday, December 26		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Friday, December 27	no events scheduled	
Saturday, December 28	no events scheduled	
Sunday, December 29		
9:30 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
10:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
10:45 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
11:45 pm	Fellowship Hour	Lobby
Monday, December 30		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Tuesday, December 31		
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Wednesday, January 1	New Year's Day—Church House closed	
Thursday, January 2		
1:00 pm	Spiritual Growth & Faith Sharing Group	James Lenox House
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Saint Andrew Chorale Rehearsal	Sanctuary
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Friday, January 3	no events scheduled	
Saturday, January 4	no events scheduled	
Sunday, January 5		
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

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.