

# PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead

## This Sunday, February 23, 2020 Worship at 9 am and 11:15 am Transfiguration Sunday

### Worship Details:

Rev. Rebecca Heilman will preach a sermon titled, "Jesus: Between the Uncanny and Marvelous" based on the texts Exodus 24:12 - 18, Psalm 99, and Matthew 17:1 - 9.

8:30 am	Nursery Opens	4th Floor
9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
10:10 am	Fellowship Hour	Lobby
10:10 am	Coloring for Kids	Lobby
10:10 am	Adult Education: Facing Racism	Parish Hall
10:10 am	Youth Fellowship (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> graders)	2nd Floor Gym
11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
12:30 pm	Fellowship Hour	Lobby
12:30 pm	Coloring for Kids	Lobby
1:00 pm	Confirmation: Faith and Science	Parish Hall
1:00 pm	ESL Classes	5th Floor

Interested in reading scripture? Click [here](#) to sign up.

Wish to serve communion? Ordained elders or deacons click [here](#) to sign up.

### Adult Education Sunday Morning Series

February 23 through March 29 at 10:10 am, Parish Hall

#### **A Discussion of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Churchwide Antiracism Policy *Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community***

During these six weeks, we will discuss the PC (USA) policy on Facing Racism, using the study guide designed to go with it. As the introduction to the policy states, "This is not a time for timidity. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long held strong convictions regarding the sinfulness of racism and the need to struggle against it. Speaking our own convictions now, with clarity and power, could make a tangible difference in the current struggle."

The topics for each week include:

Week 1: Biblical Imperative to Antiracism

Week 2: Envisioning a New Way of Life Together

Week 3: PC(USA) and Racial Reconciliation

Week 4: Racism 101

Week 5: Enduring Legacy of Racism in the US

Week 6: Responding as a Community of Faith

It will be helpful, though not necessary, if you can read the policy ahead of time. [You can find the Antiracism Policy here.](#)

Please come join in this discussion. Now more than ever it is critical and faithful to address racism and work to be an anti-racist community.

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## February and March Events

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### **Young Adult Gathering at the Manse**

**Friday, February 21 at 6 - 8 pm, the Manse**

All young adults—whether single, married, or a family with young children—are invited to the Manse (where MAPC's senior pastor lives) on Friday, February 21 from 6-8 pm to enjoy a light dinner and time to connect with other young adults in the congregation. Contact Rev. Rebecca Heilman at [rmh@mapc.com](mailto:rmh@mapc.com) to RSVP, or get directions, or ask questions. Hope to see you there!

### **Music on Madison**

**Friday, February 21 at 7:30 pm, Sanctuary**

The organ students from the Manhattan School of Music return to our *Music on Madison* series performing a program of varied organ masterworks by Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn and Alain on MAPC's fine Casavant Frères Organ. They will be joined by soprano Christina Dalmazio (MSM '18) in performances of works by Haydn, Mozart & Fauré. Admission is \$10 and admission can be purchased online in advance; Children 12 and under & MSM students & faculty: free.

### **Fridays for Children**

**Friday, February 28 at 5 - 6 pm, 5th Floor**

All elementary age children and younger are invited to the 5th Floor for our Fridays for Children program on February 28th at 5 pm! We will read the book *When God Made Light* by Matthew Paul Turner with a service project and games to follow. There will also be 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 Church Family Night will commence in the Parish Hall with delicious food, a children's movie and lots of time to get to know other members of MAPC! Email Rev. Rebecca Heilman at [rmh@mapc.com](mailto:rmh@mapc.com) to sign up early or for more information. If it's your first time attending, fill out this form or fill out the form the night of Fridays for Children. All forms will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Other dates and themes for Fridays for Children:

April 3—When I Pray for You

May 15—When God Made the World

### **Church Family Night**

**Friday, February 28, 6 pm, Parish Hall**

The next Church Family Night is Friday, February 28 at 6 pm in the Parish Hall! Come enjoy a tasty dinner, fellowship, a craft, movie, or gym time. It's a relaxing evening

and a great way to get to know members of the MAPC community. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Eraza at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com). Suggested donation: \$20 for adults, a donation of your choosing for children under 12.

### **Moms' Night Out**

**Thursday, March 12 at 7 pm, Location TBD**

MAPC Moms, it's time for another night out! Come enjoy a relaxing dinner together at an UES restaurant. Whether your children are infants, school-aged, or in college, you are welcome. This is an opportunity to share parenting wisdom or enjoy non-child-related conversation, and simply enjoy the company of other MAPC moms. RSVP to Rev. Beverly Bartlett, [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com). When we know how many are attending, we'll make a reservation and let you know the restaurant.

### **MAPC On the Town**

**Sunday, March 15 at 2 pm, Symphony Space (Broadway at 95th St.)**

April Martin, Director of Youth Ministry here at MAPC, sings the role of Nora in the premiere of composer Raymond Luedeke's opera, "A Doll's House." The plot is based on Henrik Ibsen's classic play by the same title.

Join us for this modern, new 3-act opera in concert at Symphony Space (Broadway at 95th Street). We will leave directly from church after the 11:15 am service, taking the bus to Symphony Space. We will arrange for sandwiches at coffee hour or on the go! Tickets are \$15 with group code. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Eraza, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com), or watch for a sign-up sheet during fellowship hours on Sundays! Please let us know as soon as possible if you can attend so we can buy tickets.

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## **Lenten Worship at MAPC**

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### **Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, February 26, all day**

There will be lots of opportunities to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday at MAPC and we hope you will join us for as many as you are able!

**Ashes to Go, 7:30—9:30 am, Sanctuary Steps**

**Ash Wednesday Midday Service, 12:00 - 1:00 pm, Sanctuary**

**Youth Rehearsal for Family Service, 5:30 - 6:00 pm, Dana Chapel**

**Youth and Family Service, 6:00 - 6:15 pm, Dana Chapel**

**Family Fellowship, 6:20 - 6:45 pm, Front Lobby**

**Ash Wednesday Evening Service, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Sanctuary**

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### **Holy Week Services:**

**Palm Sunday, April 5**

Worship in the Sanctuary at 9 & 11:15 am

**Wednesday, April 8**

A Seder Celebration in the Parish Hall at 6 pm

### **Maundy Thursday, April 9**

Table Worship in the Lobby at 6:30 pm

### **Good Friday, April 10**

Service of Devotions in the Sanctuary from 12-3 pm

Family Service in the Lobby at 4:30 pm

Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

### **Easter Sunday, April 12**

Worship in the Sanctuary at 9 & 11:15 am

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## **Wednesday Evening Lenten Series**

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*In the Wilderness: On Being Lost, Found and Formed by God*

**March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1**

**A light supper at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall (donations welcome)**

**Program begins at 7:00 pm**

During the six Wednesdays of Lent, we will gather to reflect on the theme of wilderness. What are the wildernesses God's people have experienced in the past and are living through currently? What happens in the wilderness? How does God form us and lead us in the wilderness? Come join in this journey through Lent as we remember God's promises to lead us through the wilderness, with the sure hope of the promised land ahead of us and the assurance of the resurrection.

### **March 4 and 11, Rabbi Perry Berkowitz and Rabbi Leah Berkowitz**

*Journey into the Wilderness: Then, Part I; and Now, Part II*

In both sessions we will examine the theme of wilderness through Biblical and post-Biblical sources. What did wilderness mean for ancient Israel, and what is its role in contemporary times—what does it mean for us theologically, spiritually, and ethically in 2020?

### **March 18 and 25, The Rev. Udo Middelman, *Living East of Eden (Genesis 3:24)***

What does it mean to be living in a natural, social and political wilderness—apart from the wholeness of the Garden of Eden and unable to return to it until God's reign is complete.

### **April 1, The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett, *Our Own Personal Wildernesses***

How does God form us and lead us through our own personal wildernesses? As part of the evening's program, there will be an opportunity to use MAPC's labyrinth as a form of walking meditation or prayer, or participate in a guided experience of contemplative prayer.

### **April 8, A Seder Celebration, beginning at 6 pm**

**Led by Rabbi Perry Berkowitz and Rabbi Leah Berkowitz**

Come join with members of the East Side Synagogue as Rabbis Leah and Perry lead a joyous Seder celebration. The Seder is the annual Passover celebration that recounts the story of the Israelites' release from Egyptian bondage as found in the Book of Exodus. It features liturgy, music, singing, explanation and inspiration. The purpose of the Seder is not only to focus on the past but how the past impacts the present and future. A highlight is not only the eating of ritual symbolic foods but the traditional

celebratory feast, a sign of freedom (and plenty delicious!). The Seder is mostly in English, joyous, and fun. An added treat is to experience during Holy Week the story and foods that Jesus and his disciples, faithful Jews, experienced, and learn how it influenced subsequent Christian practice.

There are two options for the Seder (Both options are per person):

1. One is the modified dinner for \$25 which includes the ceremonial wine, ritual foods and appetizers. This portion of the Seder lasts about two hours.
2. The second option, for those who wish to have the full multi-course traditional meal and stay for the whole evening, is to add an additional \$40 for a total of \$65. The entire evening lasts about four hours—and passes very quickly!

It is important that no one is excluded for financial reasons. Please contact Rev. Beverly Bartlett if you have any concerns, [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com).

**PREREQUISITE FOR ATTENDANCE:** An open heart as we personally leave slavery for freedom and experience holy joy!

*Since numbers must be given to the caterer in advance, we need to know if you are coming by Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church office, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com), and let her know if you are coming for the first part (for \$25), or the entire dinner (for \$65).*

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## Adult Education

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### Monday Evening Bible Study

The Evening Bible Study is currently studying the Gospel according to Mark, using Douglas Hare's commentary on Mark (the Westminster Bible Companion series) as a resource. You can find a new or used copy online. The Evening Bible Study meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month at 7 pm on the 8th Floor. ***The next meeting is Monday, March 2.*** All are welcome! You can jump in at any time. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Bartlett at [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com). There are beverages, snacks, fellowship and good discussion, and there is always more room at the table!

### Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. This long-running group meets at 6:30 pm in the Phillips Lounge. You are welcome to bring a sack dinner at 6 pm and enjoy a time of fellowship before the Bible study begins. They are currently studying the Psalms and all MAPC women and friends are welcome. *If you are interested in joining the Women's Bible Study, please contact Rev. Bartlett for the current location, as they are meeting at an Upper East Side Nursing Home/Rehabilitation Center to accommodate some of the members.*

### Reading Through the Bible

For several years now a small group has been meeting on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 in the Phillips Lounge to read through the Bible, cover to cover, skipping nothing, the whole thing! They are currently making their way through the minor prophets — the end of the Old Testament is in sight! Even if you have not been with them from the beginning, you are welcome to join in this adventure at any point. Drop in as you can!

### 20s/30s Bible Study

Be on the lookout for our next gathering! Please contact Rev. Rebecca Heilman at [rmh@mapc.com](mailto:rmh@mapc.com) with any questions.

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## Service Opportunities

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](mailto:rmh@mapc.com).

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### **Rutgers Presbyterian Church Refugee Ministry and First Friends of NJ and NY**

About a month ago, Rutgers Presbyterian Church and the organization, First Friends of NJ and NY, introduced their refugee and immigration ministries to MAPC. They provided opportunities for you to volunteer and do some good work with people who are suffering most. [Check out those volunteer opportunities here!](#)

### **MAPC Serves**

March 9 is the next chance for youth to help the residents of the James Lenox House trouble-shoot with technology/phone issues and play board games or cards. To sign up, email Director of Youth Ministries, April Martin at [aem@mapc.com](mailto:aem@mapc.com). Once a month from 4-5:30 pm. Meet in the lobby.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## The Youth of MAPC

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### **Shake Shack Sundays**

#### **March 1 & March 29, following the 11:15 am Worship Service**

Meet in the lobby and walk to Shake Shack to eat lunch and catch-up with other youth who attend MAPC and with the Director of Youth Ministries, April Martin.

### **Gym Time**

Come to the 2nd Floor Gym to play basketball with April Martin in between services

on Sunday mornings. 10:10-ish to 11:00 am every Sunday. Get to know other youth and practice your basketball skills.

### **Pizza & Game Night**

**Friday, March 6 at 6 pm - 8pm, 5th Floor & Gym**

Email April Martin at [aem@mapc.com](mailto:aem@mapc.com) to reserve a spot. Enjoy pizza, soft drinks, board games, time to play in the 2nd Floor Gym and fellowship.

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## **Children's Ministries on Sundays**

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### **Children's Worship at 9:15 & 11:30 am in the Phillips Lounge.**

After the Lesson with Children during Worship, second graders and younger are invited to join two teachers in the Phillips Lounge for Children's Church to learn more about the day's Scripture and connect their faith to a children's book. They return to the sanctuary during the Doxology so that they have the option to join us for Communion.

### **Children's Worship Bags at 9 & 11:15 in the Narthex.**

Some children may want to stay in the Sanctuary and they are more than welcome to do so! So don't forget to grab a Worship Bag in the Narthex. There's a children's worship bulletin, a children's bag, a weekly coloring page, and activities to engage with the worship service. We recommend the red bags for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and older and the blue bags for 1<sup>st</sup> graders and younger. Return them to the Narthex at the end of worship and don't forget to grab one the next week!

### **Nursery opens at 8:30am on the 4th Floor.**

There is a Nursery for toddlers and younger on the fourth floor of the Church House building. The receptionist or usher can guide you in the right direction.

### **Coloring for Kids after each service in the Church Lobby.**

Grab a cookie, a crayon, and then take a seat around the children's table in the Church House Lobby. Coloring pages (and sometimes crafts) are provided so you can grab some coffee and chat.

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## **Weekly Calendar February 24 - March 1**

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### **Monday, February 24**

6:30 pm Women's Bible Study, UES Nursing Home

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter, Shelter Space

### **Tuesday, February 25**

7:00 pm Session, 8th Floor

### **Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday**

7:00 am Ashes to Go, Sanctuary Steps

12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary  
12:30 pm Reading Through the Bible, Phillips Lounge  
5:30 pm Youth Rehearsal for Family Service, Dana Chapel  
6:00 pm Youth and Family Service, Dana Chapel  
6:20 pm Family Fellowship, Front Lobby  
6:30 pm Overnight Shelter, Shelter Space  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Evening Service, Sanctuary

### **Thursday, February 27**

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter, Shelter Space  
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, February 28**

5:00 pm Fridays for Children, 5th Floor  
6:00 pm Church Family Night, Parish Hall  
6:30 pm SAMS Benefit Evening, Offsite

### **Saturday, February 29**

No MAPC events scheduled

### **Sunday, March 1**

8:30 am Nursery Opens, 4th Floor Nursery  
9:00 & 11:15 am Worship, Sanctuary  
9:15 & 11:30 am Children's Worship, Phillips Lounge  
10:10 & 12:30 pm Fellowship Hour, Lobby  
10:10 & 12:30 pm Coloring for Kids, Lobby  
10:10 am Adult Education: Facing Racism, Parish Hall  
10:10 am Youth Fellowship (6th-12th graders), 2nd Floor Gym  
12:30 pm Shake Shack Sunday for Youth, Offsite  
1:00 pm English as a Second Language, 5th Floor

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## **MAPC on Social Media**

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### **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/](https://www.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](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](https://www.instagram.com/mapc_nyc)

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## Other

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### Baptism

Interested in having your child baptized at MAPC? Contact Rev. Rebecca Heilman at [rmh@mapc.com](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto:lgp@mapc.com) or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

### Stewardship Update: Pledge 2020

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2020. As of February 20, we have received 129 pledges totaling \$695,562. 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.

### 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 to serve communion here: <https://signup.com/go/FPKymKv>

