

The Pastoral Staff Letter

**Sunday Worship
December 10, 2017
2nd Sunday of Advent**



**Madison
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church**

Issue #10

December 7, 2017

Worship Schedule 9 am & 11:15 am

**Infant Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 8:30 am—1 pm
Toddler Nursery—4th Fl. Church House, 8:30 am—1 pm**

This Sunday, The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted is preaching. His sermon entitled ***“Where Righteousness Is at Home”*** will be based on the texts: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-15; and Mark 1:1-8. Preview the latest Sunday bulletin, or listen to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC’s website.

Children’s Worship, 9:15 am & 11:30 am, Phillips Lounge

Youth Worship, 9:15 am & 11:30 am, Dana Chapel

Fellowship Hour, 10 am & 12:30 pm, Lobby

**Church School/Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:10 am,
Parish Hall**

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room

Teen Brunch, 12:45 pm, Youth Lounge

Senior Fellowship Lunch, 1 pm, Parish Hall

ESL Classes, 1 pm, 5th Floor

Confirmation Class, 1:15 pm, Youth Lounge

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

To Check out the Church’s Calendar:

Go to the website at
[http://www.mapc.com/
calendar/calendar/](http://www.mapc.com/calendar/calendar/)

MAPC is on Facebook!

*See you in church!
The Pastoral Staff*

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This Friday

Yoga for Every Body, December 8 and 22, 9 am on the 5th Floor



Come enjoy a relaxing hour of yoga in this very busy month. You will feel much more grounded as you face the December whirl of activity and demands. Everyone is welcome, regardless of experience. Please bring a mat (we have a few available to borrow, if you don't have one) and any yoga props you own: blocks or straps. We begin at 9 am on the 5th floor, and ask for a \$20 donation to help cover the teacher's fee.

This Sunday

No Adult Education

There is no Adult Education this Sunday. We look forward to having you in attendance at the annual Christmas Pageant next Sunday. The Christmas Pageant is a joint effort of our Church School families and Kids Club participants.

Pageant Dress Rehearsal

This Sunday is a mandatory Dress Rehearsal for all Kids Club and Church School families who are involved in this year's presentation of the Christmas Pageant. Please join us in the Parish Hall at 10:10 am.

A reminder that if your child is participating in the pageant we ask that he/she is simply dressed in black and white on December 17, 2017.

December 17, at 10:10 am everyone is invited to the Parish Hall for a time of fellowship as we enjoy this year's pageant of the Christmas story together.



Senior Fellowship Lunch, Sunday, December 10 at 1 pm in the Parish Hall



MAPC Seniors and friends, please come downstairs to the Parish Hall after coffee hour to enjoy a relaxing time of fellowship with a light lunch on Sunday, December 10. Suggested donation for lunch is \$10.

Teen Brunch

This Sunday, all Tweens and Teens are invited to the Youth Lounge following the 11:15 am worship service for our monthly Teen Brunch. We will enjoy a time of fellowship and explore how the week's lectionary passages call us to respond faithful through service to others.

Welcome to the World

Congratulations to the Gemma family on the birth of Cyril Weitzner Gemma to member Jon and Nicole Gemma on November 29th. Beaming grandmother is MAPC Deacon Penny Gemma.

In My Father's House

We extend our sympathies to MAPC member and President of the Board of Trustees, Nancy Rabstejnek Nichols following the death of her sister, Evelyn Rocquemore this past week.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They will rest from their labors and their deeds follow them. Rev. 14:13



Other Events & Announcements

James Lenox House Service Group

Monday at 3:50 pm, meet in Church House Lobby (or join us at James Lenox House if you need to arrive late for any reason)

This Monday, we invite all Middle and High School students to volunteer at James Lenox

House, as we seek to build intergenerational community while assisting the residents that live there with technology needs, reading mail, sorting papers, wrapping presents, and so much more.

It is important that you let us know if you plan to volunteer in advance. If you plan to attend this service opportunity, please contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com, as space is limited.



Christmas Joy Offering



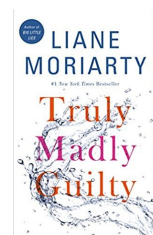
A Presbyterian tradition for over seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering support the PCUSA Board of Pensions for assistance programs. Through these Assistance Programs, the Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers, including pastors and others, by providing funds to help them through difficult times.

In addition, the Christmas Joy Offering helps the Presbyterian Church (USA) support its racial ethnic schools and colleges by providing scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic operating costs. These institutions develop leaders in the church and in society, and they enable students to discover and pursue their professional goals. Please plan now for your Christmas Joy Offering!

This year's Christmas Joy Offering will be received in worship December 17, 24, and 25. Please consider making a gift to support this offering, using either one of the special offering envelopes that will be in the bulletins later this month, or online at <http://www.mapc.com/giving/donation>, being sure to apply your donation to "Christmas Joy" in the drop-down list.

MAPC Book Club on Hiatus until January 16, 2018

The MAPC Book Club, has decided to take a break until January 16. The book for the January meeting will be *Truly, Madly, Guilty* by Liane Moriarty. Please pick up a copy and plan to join the book group at 4 pm, January 16 in the Hood Library—you have plenty of time to read it!



Donations for Christmas Flowers

We are now accepting donations for the poinsettias and wreaths that will beautify the Sanctuary during the Christmas season. Gifts may be made in memory or in honor of loved ones. To make a donation, please use the special insert in the bulletins for the next few Sundays, or print out a

PDF copy [here](#). You may place your completed form and contribution in an envelope in the offering plate, or mail it to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the Church Offices. The suggested donation for each name is \$40. In order to include the names of loved ones in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and Christ-

mas Day, **we must receive your donation by Monday morning, December 18.**



Assist Ministries with Alternative Christmas Gifts This Year



On any ordinary day, we might enjoy a breakfast of scrambled eggs, have a ham sandwich lunch, and maybe some roast chicken for dinner. Many of us drink water throughout the day, straight from the tap, knowing it is safe. If we fall ill, we go to our doctor or emergency room, trusting that we will be seen promptly and receive good care.



Imagine living somewhere where these experiences are impossible

or at least very difficult to come by.

Every year at this time, MAPC joins together for an Alternative Gift Fair to support three mission organizations that provide essential services for people in countries where food, medical services, and jobs are badly needed. It is our way of giving Christmas gifts to people around the world that we hope will encourage their independence and sustainability. This year, we will not have a particular day assigned but invite you to continue to purchase gifts from the same ministries.

Through the Presbyterian Mission Agency, you can fund animals like chickens, pigs, or fish; or wells, rainwater catchment systems, bags of seeds and farming tools; or training programs that will help families survive and start a farming business. See presbyteriangifts.org/gifts/ for details and to donate.

Donations to Church World Service can be earmarked to literacy classes, birthing kits, or disaster emergency relief, among many options. Research or donate at cwsbestgifts.org.

Your contribution to the Medical Benevolence Foundation can be earmarked to provide medical care for people in 19 underdeveloped countries throughout the world. Check mbfoundation.org/donate-now/give-an-alternative-gift/ for more information or to donate.



The above are just a few examples of the types of support these three organizations provide.

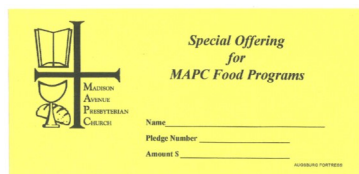
13th Annual Carol Sing: December 17 at 4 pm

The Saint Andrew Music Society's 13th Annual Carol Sing is on **Sunday, December 17 at 4 pm**, Andrew Henderson & Mary Huff conducting. The Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and the New York City Children's Chorus will sing works by Halley, Holst, Leontovich, Luboff & Willan. In addition to these musical offerings, we will be delighted by seasonal readings and poetry read by Lyn Baier & David Carleton. As always, the audience will be invited to join in the singing of hearty Christmas Carols in the seasonal resplendence of our decorated Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Admission is Free!

Ushers and Greeters Needed for Sunday and Special Worship Services

We benefit from two small teams of greeters during our worship services who greet members, friends, and visitors; distribute bulletins; collect our offering; and assist people attending worship. We could use several additional people to help in these ministries on Sunday mornings. If you would be willing to help in this way, please contact Andy Smothers at ads@mapc.com. We also need greeters for our special services this holiday season. If you would be willing to serve on Sunday, December 24 (11:15 am, 5 pm, and 10:30 pm services) or Monday, December 25 (11:15 am service), please contact Andy.

Thank You for the Food Offering!



Thanks to all who participated in the Food Offering on December 3! We collected \$566 which will all be used to offset the rising costs of our various feeding ministries here at MAPC. The next Food Offering will be received Sunday, January 7. If you missed this opportunity to donate, you can also make an online gift anytime by selecting "Food Offering" beside the gift amount you designate. Thank you!

Save these Dates! January Congregational Nurture Events:

Though it is hard to think past Christmas, January will be upon us very soon, and there are many fellowship opportunities to put on your calendars:

Monday, January 8—Moms' Night Out at an UES restaurant

Tuesday, January 16, 4 pm—

MAPC Book Club starts up again, meeting in the Hood Library

Friday, January 19, 6 pm—Church Family Night in the Parish Hall

Friday, January 26, 6 to 9 pm—Friday Night Fireside Jazz

Sunday, January 28, 1 pm—Library Awareness Sunday Author Luncheon (*Please note this is a change from the original date published in MAPC Life. The Senior Fellowship Lunch scheduled for this Sunday will join this event.*)

Highlights of the November Session Meeting

The Session met in regular meeting on November 28, 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

Update on Harare City Church—New Photos!

Those who watch news related to Zimbabwe are likely aware of the rapid changes that have happened in the last three weeks, as the military took control of the country, long-time President Mugabe resigned, and a new president has been installed. We have continued to be in contact with our partners there; though, they have not shared very extensively regarding the events—perhaps due to security and safety concerns. Please continue in prayer for our partners in Zimbabwe.

In the midst of these significant

events, the synod has continued work on City Church in Harare. We are including a few photos on the status of the church received December 5. They have made significant progress on brickwork and installing window and door frames. Many will remember that MAPC funded the super-structure for the building.



Shelter Dinner is Now “Thursday Open Table”

The Outreach Committee has chosen to rename our weekly dinner for those who are food insecure from Shelter Dinner to Thursday Open Table, realizing that the pro-

gram has no appreciable connection to our shelter program. If you would be willing to volunteer to serve around 120 hungry neighbors from 6-8 pm on Thursday nights,

contact Kathy Hoffman at kfhoffman@earthlink.net to be added to her recruitment list. Those already on the Shelter Dinner list will automatically be maintained.

Join Us For a Celebration of Christmas—All Are Welcome!

13th Annual Carol Sing: Sunday, December 17 at 4 pm

Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
& New York City Children's Chorus
Seasonal Choral Music, Audience Carols, Readings & Poetry

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24

11:15 am: Service of Word & Sacrament for 4th Sunday of Advent

5 pm: Family Service with Christmas Tableau

10:30 pm: Candlelight Communion Service—

Prelude begins at 10:15 pm
Choral works by Holst, Gjeilo & Willcocks,
with guest instrumentalists
The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted preaching

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 11:15 am

Service of Lessons & Carols
Carols & Anthems sung by the Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday after Christmas: Sunday, December 31 at 11:15 am

Service of Word and Sacrament



Christian Education at MAPC

Call for Children's Worship and Youth Worship Volunteers

This Advent season we encourage you to discern new ways to engage in ministries of MAPC. Children's and Youth Worship are always in need of volunteers. Volunteering is simple and requires no preparation ahead of time. Your role is simply to engage in the worship experience with the youngest generation of MAPC!

The mission of this ministry is to provide a time during the regularly scheduled worship services for children to engage in a liturgy designed for them, and a Bible lesson that mirrors the Sunday sermon. Our hope is this experience allows parents and children the opportunity to discuss the day's scripture passage together.

If you would like to sign-up or have questions, please contact Christina Cosby, cac@mapc.com or (212) 288-8920 x8480.

Children and Family Ministries

Children's Worship

Children's worship takes place during both Sunday services (9 am and 11:15 am), and is an interactive worship service designed specifically for children 3rd grade and under.

4th grade and up are invited to attend.

Kids Club

Wednesday afternoons from 3:45-6 pm
Families are always welcome to sign up for this year's Kids Club.

Youth Worship

Youth worship occurs during both Sunday Services (9 am and 11:15 am). All children

At Kids Club we are busy preparing for this year's presentation of the annual Christmas Pageant, which takes place on December 17th.



Teachers have led their classes in reading the Christmas Story and understanding the meaning behind this season for our lives. Throughout the month of December, this will be a primary focus of our time together.

For more information in regards to Kids Club, visit the MAPC [website](#).

or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Church School

10:10 am in the Parish Hall
This week there is a mandatory dress rehearsal for all

Church School participants who are in this year's Christmas Pageant (See [page 2](#) for more details.)

Middle and High School Ministries

T(w)een Club

Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm

Tweens and Teens are always welcome to join us on Wednesday afternoons for this after-school program designed with them in mind. More information can be found on the [website](#).

Sunday Youth Hour

Sunday Morning at 10:10 am, in the Youth Lounge

Youth: Thursday Open Table Volunteer Opportunity (formerly "Shelter Dinner")

Today, Thursday, December 7 at 6 pm in the Parish Hall

Shelter Dinner now has a new name, Thursday Open Table, but the premise remains the same.

We will serve a warm meal to our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity.

It is important that you let us

know if you plan to volunteer in advance. If you plan to help this evening, please contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com to make sure that space is available (we can only take 10 volunteers at a time).



Please stay tuned for more Fall service opportunities coming up, or go to the MAPC [website](#) for a complete list or click here to find an [easy-to-print](#) calendar.

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! For more information, go to <http://www.mapc.com/christian-ed/adultclasses/>.

Reading Through the Bible:

12:30 pm-1:30 pm, Phillips Lounge

Reading Through the Bible meets every Wednesday in the Phillips Lounge. On December 13th we will pick up with Psalm 54.

20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Thursday, December 14, 2017)

5:30-8 pm, in the 4th Floor Apartment

Come enjoy a holiday meal, fellowship, and Christmas festivities as we decorate Christmas cookies for our Men's Shelter.

Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, December 18, 2017)

1st and 3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge

Currently, we are studying Paul's letters. Come join us for an enriching conversation as we read Colossians!

Men's Bible Study:

The Men's Bible Study is on hiatus and will resume in January, 2018.

Stay Connected to Worship at MAPC

Did you know that even if you're away or unable to make it to church that you can listen to Sunday worship services at MAPC? Sermons and service highlights (including scripture

lessons, hymns and anthems) are uploaded afterwards, and are permanently accessible. They can be downloaded to your electronic device or listened to directly on MAPC's website: [peruse](#) this val-

uable online resource today! Once ready for print, our Sunday bulletins are also uploaded to our website on Thursday afternoons and are made permanently available for download.

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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New York, NY 10021
Phone: 212-288-8920
Fax: 212-249-1466

**We're on the
web
www.mapc.com**

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.

Thank You for Filling the New York Common Pantry Grocery Carts

The New York Common Pantry, the city's largest private food pantry and long-time MAPC Outreach partner, is asking for your continued support: canned or dried beans, canned chicken/salmon/tuna, rice, dried pasta, fresh or canned vegetables, and peanut butter. Please—no glass containers. You can drop off items in the grocery carts in the Church House Lobby or the Sanctuary Narthex, or you could even order groceries to be delivered through one of your grocers. (8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029, Phone: 917-720-9700). Thank you for taking seriously Christ's command to "feed my sheep!"

Clothing Donations Needed for Women and Men

The Homeless Outreach Program at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, one of MAPC's long-term outreach partners, continues to see a dramatic increase of homeless persons seeking assistance. Both casual and business clothing for men and women, as well as new undergarments, are among their most urgent needs. If you have clothing items in clean and neat condition, we encourage you to take them to the Jan Hus Clothes Pantry at 351 East 74th Street at 1st Avenue. The clothes pantry is available to take donations Monday through Saturday from 8 am-8pm and on Sunday from 9 am-3:30 pm. NOTE: Please bring all clothing to Jan Hus **directly**—clothing may no longer be left in the coatroom off of the MAPC Church House Lobby.

Hands-on Ministries

Ways to get involved at MAPC with hands and hearts!

"Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." 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, e-mail Andy Smothers at ads@mapc.com. Let's put our faith into action!

The Thursday Open Table Needs YOU!

Can you spare 2 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 vol-

unteer for this opportunity (formerly known as Shelter Dinner)

Host at the Shelter

Hosts are needed for the Shelter! The Shelter is comfortable and the experience of helping these men get their lives back on track is one that will change your heart. Two shifts are offered each evening. Early evening hosts volunteer from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; overnight hosts volunteer from 8:30 pm to 7 am. Contact Andy Smothers at ads@mapc.com for more information.

Search and Care

Can you spend an afternoon with an elderly person on the Upper

Eastside to walk their pet, go with them to a doctor's appointment, help them shop, balance their checkbook or even just offer them the gift of companionship? If so, contact Robin Strashun at SandC@searchandcare.org.

New York Common Pantry

The New York Common Pantry offers opportunities for volunteers to help pack and distribute food to the working poor on Saturday mornings and other times each week. MAPC has supported this very well-organized and effective organization since its inception 30 years ago. This is a wonderful way to follow Christ's command to "feed my sheep!"