# The Pastoral Staff Letter

# The Rev. Jenny McDevitt Elected Pastor/Head of Staff



On January 21, 2018 at a special congregational meeting following the 11:15 am service, the Pastor Nominating Committee presented its recommendation to the congregation to elect the Rev. Jenny McDevitt as the new Pastor/Head of Staff of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Committee gave a detailed report explaining why Jenny was their choice, and how they decided upon her after an eighteen month search. Many questions were taken from the congregation, and the vote was taken. Jenny was overwhelmingly affirmed.

Jenny is a native of Michigan, and a graduate of Kenyon College and Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA. She served as a Minister in Residence at First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI, under a fellowship funded by the Lilly Foundation, and then as an Associate Pastor in Virginia Beach, VA. For the last five years, she has been Pastor of Pastoral Care at the Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS, a church of five thousand members.

One last step remains to be taken. On January 30, she will be examined by the Presbytery of NY to be taken into membership. After leave taking from Village, and moving to New York, where she will live in the manse, her first Sunday will be April 8.

We are all delighted and have great hopes in all that she will bring to MAPC. We also all give our deepest thanks to the Pastor Nominating Committee for their dedicated, selfless, and careful work over the last year and a half.



#### Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

**Issue #15** 

January 25, 2018

# To Check out the Church's Calendar:

Go to the website at http://www.mapc.com/ calendar/calendar/

MAPC is on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram!</u>

See you in church! The Pastoral Staff

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# Sunday Worship January 28, 2018 4th Sunday After Epiphany

Worship Schedule 9 am and 11:15 am service Infant Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 10 am—2 pm Toddler Nursery—4th Fl. Church House, 10 am—2 pm

This Sunday the Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted will be preaching. His sermon entitled "Who Speaks for God?" will be based on the texts: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; and Mark 1:21-28. Preview the latest Sunday <u>bulletin</u>, or <u>listen</u> 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

Library Awareness Sunday, 10 am, Library/Lobby

Adult Education, 10:10 am, Parish Hall (see page 3 for more details)

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor

MAPC Children's and T(w)een Choir Rehearsal, 10:15 am, Sanctuary

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room

Teen Brunch, 12:45 pm, Youth Lounge

Library Awareness Author Luncheon, 1 pm, Parish Hall

ESL Classes, 1 pm, 5th Floor

Confirmation Class, 1:15 pm, Youth Lounge

Music on Madison: Steinberg Duo, 3 pm, Sanctuary (see page 4)

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space

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# **Friday**

# Tomorrow, 6 to 9 pm, Friday Night Fireside Jazz



It's not too late to sign up for Friday Night Fireside Jazz, but you need to act now! Come enjoy an extended cocktail hour with jazz in the Church House Lobby, beginning at 6 pm tomorrow. If you came last year, you will remember that the food, music, fellowship and overall vibe were fabulous! The suggested donation for the evening is \$40 per person. Where else can you enjoy an evening of beverages, delicious food, engaging conversation and good music in NYC for \$40?

We will offer childcare on the 5th Floor, and ask parents to contribute \$15 per child for the evening. Come enjoy a fun evening of fellowship with the MAPC community! RSVP <u>online</u>, or to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, <u>wdls@mapc.com</u>.

# This Sunday

#### Adult Education

Sharon Boersma presents, "The Life and Times of John Knox: Scots Firebrand in the Cause of the Reformation" this Sunday, January 28, at 10:10 am!

Many of us know that somehow, at some time, the Scot, John Knox, had something to do with the founding of the Presbyterian Church. He certainly did! Yet the Scots reformation was well underway before his contributions, and he

did not live to see the founding of the Presbyterian Kirk of Scotland.

His life has echoes of the lives of Martin Luther and John Calvin. He was alive during their lifetimes and knew Calvin well as a personal friend. Yet he was a product of the rough and wild Scots terrain, historically and sociologically. He was a swash-buckling rebel, a captured galley slave, helped stabilize Eng-



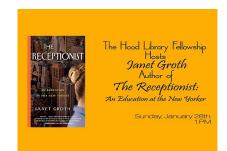
land's Anglican Church, learned theology as well as social theory in Calvin's Geneva, married twice, the second time to a 17year-old!

Come on Sunday to learn more about the fascinating life and times of John Knox.

# Sunday, January 28, 1 pm, Meet the Author Luncheon for Library Awareness Sunday

The Hood Library Fellowship will be offering something new for their annual Library Awareness Sunday—a lunch in the Parish Hall with special guest speaker Janet Groth, author of *The Receptionist: An Education at the New Yorker. The Receptionist* is a thoroughly enjoyable trip through years that celebrate a high water mark in American writing.

Janet Groth, Emeritus Professor of English at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, also has taught at Columbia, Vassar, Brooklyn College, and the University of Cincinnati. She has held positions as a Fulbright lecturer and as a Visiting Fellow at Yale.



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# Music on Madison: Steinberg Duo

This **Sunday**, **January 28 at 3 pm**, the Steinberg Duo: Louisa Stonehill, violin & Nicholas Burns, piano, will perform a program entitled "Meeting of Musical Minds." One New Year's Day 1888, violinist Adolf Brodsky arranged a "chance" meeting between Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Grieg. To celebrate the unlikely friendships that were formed during that dinner party, the Steinberg Duo will explore works by these great composers: Brahms's *Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor*, Grieg's *Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor*, and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir d'un Lieu Cher*. Admission is \$25 (\$20 – Students/Seniors); Children 12 and under: free. Will Call tickets are also available in advance online.



# Other Events & Announcements

# Spiritual Growth and Faith Sharing Group February 1, 1 pm in the Library of James Lenox House

This group of MAPC members and James Lenox House residents meets on the first and third Thursday of the month for a time of prayer and reflection on scripture. It is an open group and you are encouraged to come. We gather at 1 pm, and finish between 2 and 2:30. James Lenox House is right around the corner from the church on 73rd Street.

# Thursday Open Table, Service Opportunity for Youth, February 1, 6 pm

We need your help to ensure that our neighbors in need can receive a warm meal in a relaxed environment! Our Thursday Open Table meal program focuses on feeding anyone who comes to our church on Thursday evenings in need of a meal. We serve about 100 people each week. If you would like to sign up for this service event, please email Christina Cosby at <a href="mailto:cac@mapc.com">cac@mapc.com</a>. This is



a great way to get service hours while helping the vulnerable in our community.

### Annual Congregational Meeting—February 4



The annual meeting of the congregation Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church will take place after the 11:15 service on Sunday, February 4. The meeting will hear reports from the committees and programs of the church. It will also vote on candidates for elders, deacons, and trustees, as well as any motions regarding by-laws. We will meet in the Parish Hall, where sandwiches will be served. Childcare is available.

Candidates for Elder: Class of 2021 (all for a  $second\ term$ )

Curtis Field, Edmund Herrold, Kathy Hoffman, Barbara Iverson, Dorothy Kleinert Candidates for Deacon: Class of 2021 (all for a second term)

Susan Anderson, John Carr, Karen Jolis, Pat Jones, Joyce Kadzakumanja, Patricia O'Connell, Cesar Rochez, Alicia Sheen Issue #15 Page 5

#### **Candidates for Trustee:**

Class of 2020: Chris Trinka (to fill a vacant unexpired term); Class of 2021: (for a second term) Mark Coles, Elaine Cook;

(for a first term) Mark Glotfelty, Jennifer Sterlacci

In addition, three recommendations for changes in the by-laws will be made. 1) To decrease the size of the Session from 18 to 15, the size of the Deacons from 30 to 24, and the size of the Trustees from 15 to 12. This will be accomplished by attrition. 2) To consider any member of a board who has failed to attend 60% of the board's meetings in a given year without excused absences to have resigned. 3) To elect six people to the Congregational Nominating Committee, with one those being elected as an alternate in the case that one of the first five cannot serve.

# Meet the Composer & Hear the 'Premiere'!



On Sunday morning, February 4, we will welcome Minnesota composer Jocelyn Hagen to MAPC. Ms. Hagen will be the presenter at our 10:10 am Christian Education series program, describing her work as a composer and her approach to setting texts. The Church Choir will be present to offer a special "sneak preview" of Ms. Hagen's new work, *Have You Not Heard* — the first commission made possible through a special music endowment fund provided by longtime MAPC members, Gordon and Lillian Hardy. At the 11:15 am service that day, we will hear the official 'premiere' of her new work—a setting of a text from Isaiah appointed for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. For more information about Jocelyn Hagen and her compositions, please visit: <a href="https://www.jocelynhagen.com">www.jocelynhagen.com</a>.

# Ash Wednesday Services February 14, 12 noon and 7 pm

There will be two services on Ash Wednesday at MAPC: one at 12 noon and the other at 7 pm. Our preacher for the day is Christina A. Cosby. The service will include an Invitation to the Lenten Discipline, the Imposition of Ashes, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Join us for either service as we enter into the season of Lent.



### Highlights of the November Session Meeting

The Session met in joint session with the Trustees on January 23, 2018. This annual joint meeting heard a presentation of the budget for 2018. The proposed budget incorporates the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Financial Committee, which were approved at the November Session Meeting and which were presented to the trustees in December. These include a restructuring of the Global Ministry Fellowship program, wherein the fellow will now become a Pastoral Resident, functioning with a portfolio similar to the former Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Outreach (more on this in a future letter); a 10% cut across the board for most programs; a restructuring of the funds for Outreach. After considerable discussion, the two boards went to their own respective meetings. The Session approved the budget. In other business, Kate Baier was elected clerk of session for 2018, and Chris Trinka as church treasurer. A modest tuition hike of 4% was approved for the Day School, and a search committee for the new Pastoral Resident position was approved.

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# Christian Education at MAPC

# Volunteers Needed for Children's Worship

Children's Worship is in need of your help! If you can help assist in Children's Worship in the New Year, please sign up for the <u>9 am worship service</u>, or the <u>11:15 am worship service</u> here. This ministry is a success thanks to your willingness to volunteer. If you have questions or need assistance signing up, please contact Christina Cosby at (212) 288-8920 x8480, or by email at <u>cac@mapc.com</u>.

# 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.

#### **Youth Worship**

Youth worship occurs during both Sunday Services (9 am and 11:15 am). All children 4th grade through 7th grade are invited to attend.

#### **Kids Club**

Wednesday afternoons from 3:45-6 pm Families are invited to join Kids Club at any time! For more information please visit our website, or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

#### **Church School**

10:10 am on the 5th Floor Come ready to sing hymns, engage in a Bible story and activity! We look forward to seeing you!



# Middle and High School Ministries

#### T(w)een Club

We dnesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm

Tweens are invited to join T(w)een Club at any time during the year! For more information please visit our website.

#### **Sunday Youth Hour**

Sunday Morning at 10:10 am

This year we will study the elements of worship, their significance, and their meaning in our daily life in preparation for planning Youth Sunday later in the Spring. All are encouraged to take part in this meaningful study—especially if you would like to participate in leading worship on May 20th.

#### James Lenox House

James Lenox House is a residential community for seniors 55 years of age and older. Each month we help with technology needs, reading mail, and engage in intergenerational community. Our next service date is February 26, we hope that you can make it!



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Please stay tuned for more Winter service opportunities coming up, or go to the MAPC <u>website</u> for a complete list or click here to find an <u>easy-to-print</u> 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 <a href="http://www.mapc.com/christian-ed/adultclasses/">http://www.mapc.com/christian-ed/adultclasses/</a>.

#### Reading Through the Bible:

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

On January 31st, we will pick up with Psalm 79.

#### 20s/30s Group: (Meeting Today, Thursday, January 25, 2018)

5:30-8 pm, Offsite

This week we are meeting offsite for a fellowship event! We will go to Duet 48 for karaoke to celebrate recent accomplishments of members of our group! If you would like to join, please RSVP to Christina Cosby at <a href="mailto:cac@mapc.com">cac@mapc.com</a>.

#### Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, February 12, 2018)

2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge

We will continue our study of Paul's letters. Come join us for an enriching conversation as we finish reading Colossians!

#### Men's Bible Study:

The Men's Bible Study is currently on hiatus.

### 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 valuable 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.

### 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 <a href="mailto:lgp@mapc.com">lgp@mapc.com</a> or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

#### Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

We're on the web www.mapc.com

### 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 **direct-ly**—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 Christina Cosby at <a href="mailto:cac@mapc.com">cac@mapc.com</a>.
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 <u>kfhoffman@earthlink.net</u> to volunteer 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 Christina Cosby at <a href="mailto:cae@mapc.com">cae@mapc.com</a> 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!"