

# *The Pastoral Staff Letter*

**Sunday Worship  
February 18, 2018  
1st Sunday in Lent**



**Madison  
Avenue  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Issue #18**

**February 15, 2018**

## **Worship Schedule**

**9 am and 11:15 am service**

**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 will be preaching. His sermon entitled *“What Would Life be Without Temptation?”* will be based on the texts: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; and Mark 1:9-15. 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**

**NO Youth Worship**

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

**Adult Education, 10:10 am, Dana Chapel (*see details inside*)**

**NO Youth Hour**

**Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor**

**Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room**

**ESL Classes, 1 pm, 5th Floor**

**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  
and Instagram!**

*See you in church!  
The Pastoral Staff*

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# This Sunday

Adult Education, 10:10 am, Dana Chapel

This Sunday, Udo Middelman continues his presentation, *“God’s Constitution for Justice, to Unmask Evil, and to Benefit All People”* with the second session of the two-part lecture series that focuses on the Ten Commandments.

Here is a short summary of his presentation:

*God’s Law are not club rules for members to respect, but a description of where factual reality differs from fabrications. After years of Egyptian slavery, God extracts Israel out of a pagan mindset and gives the Ten Commandments to become the essential foundation of a moral, truthful, and compassionate society anywhere in the human experiment. Neither natural nor human powers dictate what is normal, right, or true. People, uniquely made in the image of God, shall choose to express that image when we create, love, instruct, have compassion, oppose evil, heal what is broken, and color what is bland, for the benefit of all.*

**February 18** — *“No Other Human Race: The Difference of Man and the Difference it Makes”*  
A Discussion on Commandments 5-10

We hope you plan to join us Sunday morning as we continue to reflect on the Ten Commandments.

## Other Events & Announcements

The Rev. Jenny McDevitt Elected Pastor/Head of Staff



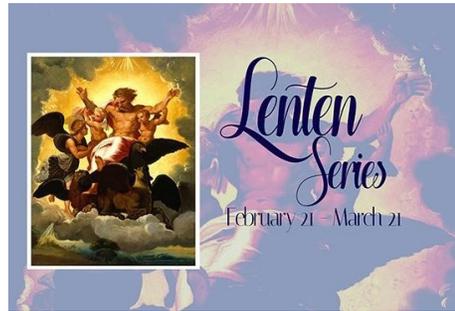
On January 21, 2018, the Rev. Jenny McDevitt was elected the new Pastor/Head of Staff of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. For information on Jenny, go to the MAPC website or click [here](#).

Farewell Luncheon for Eric Springsted,  
March 11, 1 pm in the Parish Hall



Eric’s last Sunday with us will be Easter. We will have a luncheon to say farewell and thank you for his 2 1/2 years of service, leading us through this time of transition, after the 11:15 service on Sunday, March 11. Please come celebrate Eric’s time with us and wish him and Brenda well as they move into retirement. Children are welcome and we will have a craft table for them. The suggested donation for lunch is whatever you would like to give!

Lenten Series Led by Dr. Eric Springsted  
 Wednesdays, February 21—March 21, 6:30-8:30 pm, Parish Hall  
 “Living Life Sacramentally: Faith and the Importance of the Imagination”



We hear arguments for and against Christian faith. But arguments, at best, test our faith. At its real heart is the ability for us to imagine, to see the world as being God’s creation, including seeing a sacrifice at its core. In these five sessions, we will look at what role the religious imagination plays in our living faith, especially in living life sacramentally, that is, as a way of partaking in God’s own life by engaging God’s presence in the world. This will also consider how important the arts—poetry, music, painting and sculpture are to religious faith. They are not just window dressing, but expressions of what can be seen in God’s world.

**Session I: February 21**—“Faith and the Religious Imagination”

**Session II: February 28**—“Slain from the Foundation of the World”: Christ’s Atoning Death

**Session III: March 7**—Presbyterianism: Sacramental or Revivalist?

**Session IV: March 14**—The Mystical Presence

**Session V: March 21**—The World as Sacrament

MAPC Book Club,  
 Tuesday, February 20,  
 at 4 pm in the Library



Please join the MAPC Book Club this coming Tuesday to discuss *Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan.

Church Family Night  
 Friday, March 2  
 6 pm in the Parish Hall

Just a couple of weeks until the next Church Family Night! Come join the fun on Friday, March 2 for dinner, a craft activity, movie, gym play and conversation. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wlds@mapc.com](mailto:wlds@mapc.com). Suggested donation of \$20 for adults and a donation of your choice for children 12 and under.

Moms’ Night Out  
 Monday, March 5 at 7 pm

MAPC Moms—let’s go to dinner! It’s been a while since we have gotten together. All moms are welcome to a relaxed evening out at an Upper Eastside Restaurant. We’ll choose the restaurant when we have an idea of how many are coming. RSVP at Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wlds@mapc.com](mailto:wlds@mapc.com).

## News from Rutgers Presbyterian Church's Refugee Task Force

Rutgers Presbyterian Church is co-sponsoring two more families through their partnership with CWS. The families are coming from Afghanistan on Special Immigrant Visas—meaning, one of the parents was employed in Afghanistan by, or on behalf of, the U.S. government or the Security Assistance Force and experienced an ongoing serious threat as a consequence of their employment. A family of three—mother, father and 2-year old son—is scheduled to arrive today, February 8. A family of eight—mother, father, 3 daughters and 3 sons ranging in age from 6 months to 13 years—arrive on February 22.

Most of the items needed to help furnish the apartments for these families have been secured, but financial donations are welcome and may be given to [Refugee Relief Fund](#), to help meet ongoing needs.



**Update on the first two families from Syria**—all four adult children in the Khoja family have now obtained full-time jobs in New York City. The parents are enrolled in intensive ESL and literacy programs and the two younger daughters are in public school.

This past year also continued our partnership with the Abdulhamid family who arrived a year before. Several “Dinner with Mayada and Friends”



were held at Rutgers with three other churches (including MAPC) during 2017, providing much-needed income to supplement Ahmad's earnings from his full-time job as a parking attendant at a nursing home.



In the past year, our work created many opportunities for volunteers to be of service. Dozens of church members, friends and neighbors donated goods and money. A church member worked with one of the Khoja adult children to help improve her writing skills, and another taught ESL to both families. A New York City public school teacher tutored the Abdulhamid children each week, and several members of our CSA farm share program continue to take turns tutoring the two

school-aged children in the Khoja family on Sunday afternoons. And a team of volunteers is preparing cookbook with Mayada, [The Bread and Salt Between Us: Recipes and stories from a Syrian refugee's kitchen](#), which will be published in September 2018 by Lake Isle Press. Sales of the book will provide additional income to the family and to our Refugee Relief Fund.\*

As we prepare to help two new families, we are also developing a long-term plan for the next few years of our work. We look forward to sharing our plan in the spring.

Thank you again for your generous support and participation in these efforts.

With warm regards,  
Nancy Muirhead, Chair  
Refugee Task Force

Dave Mammen, Director of Administration, Programs and Special Projects



\*If you would like to assist the two Afghani families in getting resettled, please contact Beverly Bartlett, [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com), and she will get you in touch with the appropriate person at Rutgers.

*The photos included here are from last year's "Dinner with Mayada" events held at MAPC.*

## Highlights of the November Session Meeting

The Session met in joint session with the Trustees on January 23, 2018. For more information click [here](#).

# 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 [9 am worship service](#), or the [11:15 am worship service](#) 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 [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

## 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

*There will be no youth worship on February 18, youth are welcomed to remain in the sanctuary with their families.*

### Kids Club

*Wednesday afternoons from 3:45-6 pm*

There will be no Kids Club on February 21, due to the Public School winter holiday. Enjoy your week off, and we look forward to seeing you on February 28!

### 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

*Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm*

There will not be T(w)een Club on February 21 due to the public school holiday.

### Sunday Youth Hour

*Sunday Morning at 10:10 am*  
President's Day Weekend, February 18 there will not be Youth Hour!

### 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!



*Please stay tuned for more Winter 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:**

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

On February 21, we will pick up with Psalm 94.

### **20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting, Thursday, February 22 and Fellowship Event, February 23)**

*Thursday, February 23, 5:30-7:30 pm, Youth Lounge*

Come enjoy a meal and a time of Bible Study together. All are welcome, and feel free to bring a friend. If you would like more information, please reach out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

*Friday, February 23, 7 pm, Offsite*

For our much overdue Fellowship event, we will go to Duet 48 for karaoke to celebrate recent accomplishments of members of our group! If you would like more information on the time and date, please reach out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

### **Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, February 26, 2018)**

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

We will begin reading Ephesians!

### **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-Eraza at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto: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.



## Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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**We're on the  
web  
[www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com)**

### 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 [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@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](mailto:kfhoffman@earthlink.net) 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 [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@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](mailto: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!"