

# The Pastoral Staff Letter



**Madison  
Avenue  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Issue #23**

**March 22, 2018**

## **Sunday Worship Palm/Passion Sunday March 25, 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 Does the World Want?”* will be based on the texts: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; and John 12:9-19. 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**

**Palm Sunday Brunch (Hygiene Kit Assembly), 10 am & 12:30 pm, Parish Hall**

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

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

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

**Music on Madison: Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra, 3 pm, Sanctuary**

**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*

### **Inside this issue:**

*What’s Happening on  
Saturday and Sun-  
day* 2  
& 3

*Other Events and  
Announcements* 3  
4  
& 5

*Christian Education  
at MAPC* 6  
& 7

*Bible Study Groups* 7

*Hands-on Ministries* 8

# This Saturday

## March for Our Lives, Saturday, March 24

Presbyterians from around New York City will be gathering at Rutgers Presbyterian Church, beginning at 9 am this coming Saturday to participate in the **March for Our Lives** rally, demanding that our government prioritize the lives of young people and their families by working to end gun

violence and mass shootings at schools and other public places. If you would like to participate in the March, with people from other Presbyterian Churches, please arrive at Rutgers between 9 and 9:30 am. The group will leave Rutgers at 9:30 am to join the March.

NOTE: Organizers ask

participants to register so they have a sense of the March size. Go to <https://marchforourlives.com/> click on the “Let’s March” button and enter 10023 into the “Postcode or City” prompt. This will provide a way to register and information about the New York City march and nearby



marches.

For more information, contact [Mkoenig@presbynyc.org](mailto:Mkoenig@presbynyc.org).

# This Sunday

## Palm Sunday Brunches with Hygiene Kit Assembly and Offering of Letters, Sunday, March 25



Please come join in a time of fellowship after each Sunday morning worship service on Palm Sunday. We will enjoy brunch, assemble hygiene kits for people who have been through disasters or who are living in extreme poverty, and participate in this year’s Bread for the World Offering of Letters urging congress to continue funding for programs that reduce hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the globe. The suggested donation for brunch is \$10. For children under 12, we ask for a donation based on your child’s appetite.

Please come to the Parish Hall after worship on Palm Sunday for brunch, fellowship, outreach and advocacy!

## One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering



This Lent we will continue the tradition at MAPC of collecting the *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* on Palm Sunday. You will find an envelope for this offering in your bulletin. Please return the envelope with your contribution to the church anytime this morning or soon afterwards. Children’s “fish banks” should be brought to worship this Sunday.

The PC(USA) uses this offering as a means to connect with the global church. It is through this special collection that the church shares God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world. It provides relief to those recently affected by natural disasters, provides food to the hungry, and opportunities to empower the poor and oppressed.

You can find an interactive map of the span of recipients from this offering here: <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs.html>.

## Adult Education, 10:10 am, Dana Chapel

We highly encourage you to join us for Adult Education following the 9 am worship service this Sunday. We know that there are many opportunities to choose from this Sunday, but this educational program will not disappoint!

Our Adult Education series, which began March 18 and continues this Sunday, March 25, is presented by Reverend Dr. Beth Hessel. The Reverend Hessel is the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia and an

Associate Stated Clerk of the Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A fourth-generation ordained Presbyterian minister, Beth pastored Presbyterian and Disciples of Christ congregations around the country and taught in colleges before completing her Ph.D. in U.S. History at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

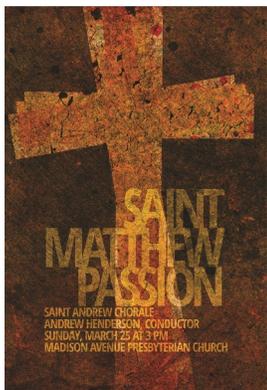
For the series, we are focusing on the unity found in its confessions of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and commitment to missions this



denomination values. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to host a member of the Office of the General Assembly!

**Sunday, March 25**  
*Fulfilling Jesus's Command: A Brief History of Presbyterians and Missions*

## Bach's St. Matthew Passion: Palm Sunday, March 25



Our resident choral ensembles, the Saint Andrew Chorale and New York City Children's Chorus, have been busy preparing this masterwork of the sacred choral literature! **This Sunday, March 25 at 3 pm**, the Chorale will be joined by the professional Saint Andrew Orchestra and soloists in a performance of Bach's monumental St. Matthew Passion. The account of Christ's passion and death from Matthew's gospel is presented through dramatically conceived recitatives and choruses, with moments of lyrical and poignant reflection in the solo arias and chorales. Tickets and will call reservations can be made in advance, or may be purchased at the door.

# Other Events & Announcements

## Donations for Easter Flowers

We are now accepting donations for the flowers that will beautify the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Gifts may be made in memory or in honor of loved ones. To make a donation, please use the special envelopes inserted into the bulletins for the next few Sundays, or download a form and return it to the church. The suggested donation for each name is \$40. In order to include the names of loved ones in the bulletin on Easter, **we must receive your donation by Monday morning, March 26.**



**Easter Flowers 2018**

I wish to contribute to the Sanctuary Easter Decorations in memory / in honor (please specify):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To include more names, please continue list on reverse. Please print clearly!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone or E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
(Suggested donation of \$40 per name)

Please make checks payable to: Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.

Please return this form with your donation using the white offering envelope, located in the pew racks and placing it in the offering plate or sending it to the Church Office (Attn. Lisette Perez-Erazo) **no later than Monday morning, March 26.**

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 921 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021  
 Tel: 212-288-8920 • Web: www.mape.com

## 2018 Special Easter Offering—Rutgers Presbyterian Church Refugee Task Force

With the daily news so full of reports of flows of desperate refugees in so many areas of the world, it's a relief to know that there is ongoing work to help at least some of them. Christians and others have buckled down to tackle this problem, registering with authorities to sponsor refugees and learning to deal with the red tape and the multitude of details involved in welcoming a family or an individual coming from years of trauma, tedium and terror to settle in an unfamiliar culture.

Members of Rutgers Presbyterian Church, directly across the Park on West 73rd Street, have developed considerable expertise in this. They began by organizing themselves to partner with Church World Service in sponsoring one

family from Syria, finding and furnishing an apartment for them just across the Hudson. The success of this first experience, led them to sponsor a second family that arrived about 13 months ago, after a brief but nerve-racking delay with the first travel ban. Now, the indefatigable members of Rutgers are working to sponsor and settle two families from Afghanistan.

Rutgers has enjoyed considerable support from the community surrounding the church, with neighbors bringing furniture and volunteering to help in other ways. While all that help and energy has been encouraging and invaluable, hard cash is still essential for this undertak-

ing, and that's one area where MAPC members can help. Session has chosen to devote this year's Easter Offering to the Rutgers Refugee Task Force for its work in sponsoring refugee families and helping them start a new life in our country. We can all participate. In response to God's command to help the helpless and in gratitude for the multiple blessings we mostly take for granted, let us all be generous on Easter morning.

Please click [here](#), choose "Giving" and look for the "Easter Offering" in the dropdown box, after hitting the "Quick Give" tab, or look for the special offering envelopes on Sundays. Thank you, in advance for your generosity

### Roof Garden Family Easter Fest, Easter Sunday, April 1, 10:15



Once again, we will have a Roof Garden family fellowship hour on Easter Sunday, between the morning worship services—a joyful gathering with Easter crafts, playtime, and refreshments. All are welcome to this time of fellowship and festivity as your children burn off some of the sugar they consumed earlier (and perhaps consume a little more). We will also have our usual fellowship time in the Church House Lobby for those who would like a less kinetic atmosphere!

### Come Welcome our New Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, Jenny McDevitt, on Sunday, April 8!

Jenny's first Sunday as MAPC's Senior Pastor is April 8. On that Sunday, we encourage everyone to come to fellowship hour in the Church House Lobby after the 9 am service to welcome Jenny and to come downstairs to the Parish Hall after the 11:15 am service for a welcome reception. There will be no adult education call that Sunday, so that everyone can enjoy fellowship between the services. There will be Christian Education for children and youth on the 5th Floor at the usual 10:10 am time. For information on Jenny, go to the MAPC website or click [here](#).



## Please Join us for Holy Week and Easter — Come to Our Services

### **Palm Sunday, March 25—9 & 11:15 am: Services of Word & Sacrament**

The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted preaching  
Choral Music at 11:15 am by Handel & Leighton

### **3 pm: Bach: St. Matthew Passion**

Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra  
Andrew Henderson, conductor

### **Maundy Thursday—March 29**

#### **7 pm: Service of Word & Sacrament with Foot Washing**

The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted preaching  
Choral Music by Ola Gjeilo

### **Good Friday—March 30**

#### **12 to 3 pm: Meditations on the Passion According to Matthew**

Gethsemane—The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett  
Peter's Denial—The Rev. Denise C. Welsh  
The Trials & Sentencing—Christina A. Cosby  
Crucifixion—The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted  
Death—The Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison  
Burial—The Rev. Beverly Dempsey

Choral Music by J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, Bob Chilcott, Ken Dake, Herbert Howells & Stephanie Martin

#### **4:30 pm: Good Friday Family Service**

An interactive, family-friendly service especially for children

#### **7:30 pm: Service of Tenebrae**

Choral Music by Chilcott, Sanders & Stainer

### **Easter Sunday—April 1**

#### **9 & 11:15 am: Festival Services of Word & Sacrament**

The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted preaching  
Choral Music by Paul Halley, G.F. Handel & Vaughan Williams & works for Trumpets, Timpani & Organ

## April Congregational Nurture Events

**Friday, April 13, 6 pm—Church Family Night**

**Sunday, April 15, 1 pm—Senior Fellowship Lunch**

**Monday, April 16, 6:30 pm—Women's Fellowship, with new Senior Pastor Jenny McDevitt**

**Tuesday, April 17, 4 pm—MAPC Book Club, discussing *Exposure* by Helen Dunmore**

**Sunday, April 22, 1 pm—Annual Hood Library Fellowship Literary Lunch**

## Highlights of the February Session Meeting

The Session met in regular session on February 27, 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 this 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

*This interactive worship service takes place at both of our regularly scheduled worship services (9 am and 11:15 am) and is designed to teach youth about the elements of Presbyterian Liturgy while offering leadership opportunities in worship each Sunday.*

### 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](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

Kids Club schedule for the remainder of the year:

March 28, 4-5 pm—We will join together as one large group to partake in baking Holy Week treats and preparing to sing on Easter Sunday.

March 30, 4:30 pm—We will hold our annual Good Friday Family Service. All are welcome to attend as we recount the last days of Jesus's earthly life and anticipate Easter.



April 4, no Kids Club

April 11, Rev. Jenny McDevitt's first day with us

May 16, last Kids Club for this school year

### Church School

*10:10 am on the 5th Floor*  
This Sunday, families are encouraged to join us for our annual Palm Sunday brunch in the Parish Hall! There will be no church school.

## Middle and High School Ministries

### T(w)een Club

*Wednesday afternoons from 4 pm to 6 pm*

T(w)eens are invited to join Tween Club at any time during the year! For more information please visit our [website](#).

Please note that there will not be T(w)een Club on April 4. We hope that you enjoy the Easter holiday and spring break season. The last

day of T(w)een Club this year is May 16th. Please see Kids Club Schedule for more details or reach out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

### Sunday Youth Hour

*Sunday Morning at 10:10 am*  
This Sunday, families are encouraged to join us for our annual Palm Sunday brunch in

the Parish Hall! There will be no Youth Hour.

### Thursday Open Table Service Group, April 5 from 6-8 pm

Come serve a warm meal prepared by our chef to our neighbors in need.

*Please stay tuned for more 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 March 28, we will pick up with Psalm 117.

### **20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting, Today, March 22, Youth Lounge)**

*Thursday, March 22, 5:30-7:30 pm, Youth Lounge*

Join us as we explore the people Jesus encountered on his way to Jerusalem this Lent! As we journey with Jesus together, we will enjoy food and fellowship. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

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

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

We continue to read Paul's letters. Currently, we are near the end of Ephesians! All are welcome to join anytime.

### **Men's Bible Study:**

The Men's Bible Study is currently on hiatus.

## 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.

## 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

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

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