

# The Pastoral Staff Letter

## A Note From Jenny



**Madison  
Avenue  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Issue #49**

**October 18, 2018**

**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

Dear Friends,

Exhaustion is an epidemic. In the vast majority of conversations I have had this month, people have indicated they are tired. Spent. Worn out. Weary. I've looked at our church calendar and realized we have contributed to this — October has been chock-full of activities. Wonderful activities. Excellent service opportunities. Fun gatherings. Important meetings. Sustaining meals. And it warms my heart to see each one of you every time our paths cross. Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church is the church it is because of you. So it is with deep gratitude and love for you that I offer a gentle suggestion: let yourself take a break every so often. Perhaps even once a week. Jesus commanded us to honor the Sabbath not because it matters to him, but because he knew it would matter to us. A friend of mine is fond of saying, "Sabbath is a commandment, not a benefits package." We don't earn Sabbath. It is freely given. We choose whether or not we will honor it. I am as guilty as anyone else when it comes to this. I sometimes work as if I am afraid the world will stop spinning if I take a break. In those moments, it is helpful for me to remind myself how small I am, and how vast God is. It helps me gain perspective. It helps me be a better version of myself. It runs contrary to our instincts, but resting allows us to do better work, be kinder people, and minister more effectively in Jesus' name. On a day to day basis, it's easy to let ourselves get swept up in the demands on our time. We're in all of this for the long haul, though. So listen to Jesus, who loves you extravagantly. He says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." If you need permission this week, allow me to give it to you. Allow yourself some Sabbath. I promise, it is one more way we love God, love one another, and love the world.

Peace,

*Jenny*



## Sunday Worship—29th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 21, 2018

### Worship Schedule 9 am & 11:15 am

Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 8:30 am—1:00 pm

This Sunday Rev. Jenny McDevitt will be preaching her sermon entitled ***Bartimaeus: Patron Saint of Imagination*** which will be based on the lectionary texts: Jeremiah 31:7-13; Psalm 34; Hebrews 7:23-28 and Mark 10:46-52. Preview the latest Sunday [bulletin](#), or [listen](#) to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC's website.

**Quartet Rehearsal, 8:40 am, Choir Room**

**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, Church House Lobby**

**Adult Education, 10:10 am, Parish Hall (see details inside)**

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

**High School Fellowship, 10:10 am, 4th Floor Phillips Building**

**Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge**

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

**ESL Classes, 1 pm, Fifth Floor**

**Music on Madison: Samara Piano Concert, 3 pm, Sanctuary (see details inside)**

**Fall Fellowship Gathering, 4 pm, West 92nd Street**

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

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# This Saturday

Annual Women's Brunch, Saturday, October 20, 10 am to Noon



Our annual women's brunch is this Saturday! Once again, we look forward to hearing from MAPC women about their stories—what helped shaped their lives and led them to this point—and sharing our own stories around the table. This is a wonderful time of fellowship, and we encourage the women of the congregation to be there—and invite a friend! We will open the Roof Garden for spouses or caregivers and children to go play while mothers enjoy the brunch. The suggested donation for this event is \$20 (there will be mimosas). RSVP to Lissette Perez-Eraza in the church offices, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com).

# This Sunday

Adult Education: Faces of Our Faith, 10:10 am, Parish Hall

This Sunday everyone is invited to come learn about Faces of our Faith as Rev. Rebecca Heilman leads our discussion! You may be surprised at what you will learn along the way. We hope you will join us at 10:10 am in the Parish Hall.



## *Music on Madison: "Nature as Sound"*



The Saint Andrew Music Society's *Music on Madison* season continues this **Sunday, October 21 at 3 pm**, with a performance by the New-Hampshire based Samara Piano Quartet. They will offer three beloved chamber works: Mozart's Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, Brahms' Third Piano Quartet in C minor, and the Piano Quartet in A minor by Spanish composer Joaquín Turina. Admission to our *Music on Madison* concerts is \$25 (\$20 – students/seniors); children 12 and under: free. Will Call reservations may be made online in advance using a credit card, or admission can be paid at the door. Visit MAPC's [website](#) to view all 15 concerts taking place during our 2018-2019 season.

# Other Events & Announcements

Fall Fellowship Gatherings—Sow Bountifully!

The following information is to assist people in planning to attend one of our MAPC Fall Fellowship Gatherings. To make a reservation and for exact location details, please call the church at 212-288-8920, extension 8485.



Date and TimeApproximate Location

Sunday, October 21 @ 4:00-6:00 pm

West 92nd Street  
The home is wheelchair accessible.

Friday, November 2 @ 6:00-9:00 pm

West 91st Street  
The home has stairs.

Monday, November 5 @ 6:00-8:00 pm

Park Avenue about East 89th Street  
This home is wheelchair accessible.

Monday, November 12 @ 6:00-8:00 pm

East 67th Street  
The home is wheelchair accessible.

## Memorial Sunday

We are receiving the names of deceased loved ones and friends to be remembered during the services on **Memorial Sunday, November 4**. It is particularly appropriate to remember those who have died in the last year. If you have someone whose name you would like listed in the service bulletin and included in the prayers, please contact our Office Manager, Lissette Perez-Erazo at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com). **The deadline for the receipt of names is Tuesday, October 30.**



## Donate Halloween Candy and...trick or treat at MAPC!



A few of MAPC's staff members are dressing up and handing out candy on the evening of Halloween! The doors of the Narthex open at 4 pm, and will be open until 6 pm. So, bring your dressed-up family, pets, or even yourself to get some treats! The deadline to donate candy is by October 27th, so we can make sure we have enough to hand out. We hope to see you and your clever costumes!

## Church Family Night, Halloween Party! Friday, October 26, 6 pm in the Parish Hall

Dress up in your Halloween costume and come join in the fun at our annual Church Family Night Halloween Party! We'll have a yummy meal, a not-too-spooky Halloween movie, Halloween crafts, and a costume parade in the Sanctuary with spooky Halloween organ music. The suggested donation for Church Family Nights is \$20 for adults and youth over twelve, and a donation of your choosing for younger children. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com).



## Tell Me More About MAPC, Saturday, October 27, 9 am

New to MAPC? Thinking about joining, or just curious about who we are and why we do things the way we do? Looking for ways to get connected and get involved? Our next *Tell Me More About MAPC* class is Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 to 11:30 am in the Phillips Lounge. Attendance at one of these gatherings is required before officially joining, but attending doesn't commit you to joining. RSVPs are helpful so we can have enough snacks and coffee on hand for you, but consider yourself invited and welcome even if your presence is a surprise to us. The class is led by Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor. Contact Lissette Perez-Erazo at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com) with questions or to sign up.

## Faith and Fermentation, Monday, October 29, 6:30 pm

Come join us at an Upper East Side pub at 6:30 pm to discuss a topic of faith over food and beverage. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com). We'll let you know the location!



## Do You Have a Student Away at School?



If you have a student away at boarding school or college we want to know about it! A church community is often a second family to children as they grow into young adults and we want to continue to let your student know that they are important to our community. If your student is no longer at home, please share their address with Christina Cosby by email at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com), so that their church family can send words of encouragement and care packages as they continue to mark important milestones in their lives.

## Fall Dates for Your Calendars

Saturday, October 20 (10 am)—Annual Women's Brunch

Friday, October 26 (6 pm)—Church Family Night Halloween Bash!

Monday, October 29 (7 pm)—Faith & Fermentation

Sunday, November 4 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 11—Hood Library Fellowship Annual Book Sale

Sunday, November 18—Stewardship Dedication Sunday

(with brunches following the services)

Sunday, November 30 (6 pm)—Church Family Night, Parish Hall

Saturday, December 1 (9 am to 3 pm)—Advent Retreat/Quiet Day

Sunday, December 9 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 16 (4 pm)—14th Annual Carol Sing, Sanctuary

**Please feel welcome to join us for our events!**

## Look What's Happening at MAPC This Week!

### Monday, October 22

|         |                              |                 |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 6:30 pm | Women's Bible Study          | Phillips Lounge |
| 6:30 pm | Overnight Shelter            | Shelter Space   |
| 7:00 pm | Long-Term Planning Committee | Room 608        |

### Tuesday, October 23

|         |                   |               |
|---------|-------------------|---------------|
| 6:30 pm | Overnight Shelter | Shelter Space |
| 7:00 pm | Session           | Parish Hall   |

### Wednesday, October 24

|          |                            |                        |
|----------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 12:30 pm | Reading Through the Bible  | Phillips Lounge        |
| 3:45 pm  | Kids Club                  | PH, PL, Gym, 5th Floor |
| 3:45 pm  | Wee Kids                   | 4th Floor              |
| 4:00 pm  | Children's Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room             |
| 5:00 pm  | T(w)een Club               | Youth Lounge           |
| 6:00 pm  | Cocaine Anonymous          | 5th Floor              |
| 6:30 pm  | Overnight Shelter          | Shelter Space          |

### Thursday, October 25

|         |                                |               |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 6:00 pm | 20s/30s Bible Study            | Apt 10C       |
| 6:30 pm | Thursday Open Table            | Parish Hall   |
| 6:30 pm | Recovery Group                 | Library       |
| 6:30 pm | Overnight Shelter              | Shelter Space |
| 7:00 pm | Saint Andrew Chorale Rehearsal | 5th Floor     |
| 8:30 pm | Church Choir Rehearsal         | Choir Room    |

### Friday, October 26

|         |                                    |                             |
|---------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6:00 pm | Church Family Night Halloween Bash | Parish Hall, Sanctuary, Gym |
| 6:30 pm | Overnight Shelter                  | Shelter Space               |

### Saturday, October 27

|         |                         |                 |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 9:00 am | Tell Me More About MAPC | Phillips Lounge |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------|

## Christian Education at MAPC

### Volunteer this Fall with Children's Worship & Youth Worship

Are you passionate about worship at MAPC? Worship is a time that we share a set liturgy as a way to reconnect with God and one another. Moreover, worship teaches us valuable patterns that we use across many areas in our lives. Each Sunday, we share the importance of this liturgy and pattern of life with our younger generation as we worship in an interactive way. This valuable time for our families is made possible by your help! Sign-up and come experience worship in a new way!



If you have further questions or want to learn more, please feel free to reach out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com) or by calling 212-288-8920.

## Children and Family Ministries

### Children's Worship

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

### Church School Sunday Mornings at 10:10 am, 5th Floor

Our Church School teachers have planned an exciting Fall. Join us as we share in a joint opening time and engage the Bible in our peer groups. We look forward to learning and exploring God's creation and our role in taking care of it together this year! To sign up or get more information, please out to Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

### Kids Club and Wee Kids, Wednesdays, 4-6 pm, Church House

Kids and families, join us on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm for Kids Club! Join us for Bible Study, Choir, Recreation and Dinner. To register, visit our [website](#) or contact Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com). **Please note that for Halloween, Wednesday, October 31, there will be NO Kids Club.**



## Middle and High School Ministries

### Youth Worship September-May, from 9 am to 11:15 am!

Worship with your peers and friends in an interactive way in the Dana Chapel during both worship services every Sunday morning. Youth grades 4-7 are invited to join Christina Cosby for a time of worship as they learn about our worship practices at MAPC and lead their worship experience!

### Sunday Youth Hour, Sunday Mornings at 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

What characters inspire you in movies, books, and music? How do they show love toward God and others in an inspirational way? Join us on Sunday Mornings as we discover *Faces of Our Faith* as they appear in popular culture! We will use popular movie clips, characters from books, and people we personally know to explore how they live into their faith and how God calls us to do the same! Middle and High Schoolers are invited to join Christina on Sunday mornings at 10:10 am. Hope to see you on Sunday.

### T(w)een Club: Middle School Mid-Week Youth Group, Wednesday Afternoons, 5-7 pm, Church House

Middle Schoolers, we're trying something new just for you! Join us for T(w)een Club Wednesday evenings from 5-7 pm. We'll share dinner and study the Bible with Rev. Jenny McDevitt (bring all your tough questions—she's ready for you!) Haven't joined us on Wednesday nights before? This is the perfect chance to change that, and it's never too late to sign up! For more information, contact Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com) or visit our [website](#) to find the registration form. **Note: No T(w)een Club on Halloween!**

## High School Fellowship, Sunday Mornings, 10:10 am 4th Floor Phillips Building

Have you been looking for a space to call your own and reconnect with your church friends after a summer away or at camp? MAPC is excited to premiere our brand-new High School Fellowship this coming Sunday. This will be a time that you help design.

This Sunday, seminary interns, will lead us as we explore Luke in conversation and through art.

## MAPC SERVES

### New Youth Service Group for High School Students—MAPC SERVES

Join us as we embark on a new program tailored to serving the vulnerable across our City with high school students in mind. This year, we will share in service and fellowship as we meet the needs of three communities: the elderly, the homeless, and children. Each month, we will offer three service opportunities that reach these three populations. We look forward to having you join us in service this fall.

Save the Dates:

**November 1st at 6 pm**, Thursday Open Table: serving a meal to our neighbors in need.

**November 5th at 4 pm**, James Lenox House: helping residents better learn to understand and use personal electronic devices (computer, cell phone, iPad, Kindle...)

### 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*

Reading Through the Bible picks up with Proverbs 29 on Wednesday, October 24.

#### **20s/30s Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Thursday, October 25)**

*2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 pm, Apt. 10C*

Across culture and time, food and wine have been enjoyed by many. This is no different throughout Scripture. This fall we are going to look at the importance of table fellowship and the production of wine in scripture as we begin a new year. Come, as we sample food, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages from different regions around the world and discover their Biblical roots.

#### **Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, October 22)**

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

The minor prophets, who are they? What do they have to say to us today? These are the same questions we asked as we wondered what to study next. Come learn with us as we begin this new study! Joel has already surprised us as he values the rituals of worship.

Join us at 6:30 pm every other Monday or come early with a bit to eat as we enjoy fellowship with one another. We cannot wait to see you there!

## 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.

## 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)**

### 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.

## 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.

### Give Some Love to the New York Common Pantry

Far too often, a basic human necessity like food is expensive and scarce, especially in New York City. The New York Common Pantry works each year to reduce stress in people's lives by providing a pantry to those in need. The pantry continues to ask for your help! **They need canned or dried beans, canned chicken/salmon/tuna, rice, dried pasta, fresh or canned vegetables, and peanut butter.** We simply ask for no glass containers! You may drop your items off in the provided grocery carts found in the Church House Lobby or the Sanctuary Narthex. Or, since we are busy people in a busy city, you may also order groceries to be delivered to the New York Common Pantry (8 East 109th Street, New York, NY, 10029, Phone: 917-720-9700) by one of your grocers. Know that any items you give will not only impact a family, but also a child's life. And we are most thankful for that!

## 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!"