

The Pastoral Staff Letter

This Sunday

Sunday, January 20, 2019

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Schedule: 9 am and 11:15 am
Nursery: 4th floor Phillips Building, 8:30 am—1 pm

Worship: This Sunday Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt, will preach her sermon, *Jesus: Savior of the World*, based on the lectionary texts and our sermon series, **Who Do You Say That I Am?:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

Children's Worship, 9:15 am & 11:30 am, Phillips Lounge
Youth Worship, 9:15 am & 11:30 am, Dana Chapel
Fellowship Hour, 10:10 am & 12:30 pm, Lobby
Adult Education, 10:10 am, Dana Chapel
High School Fellowship, 10:10 am, 4th Floor Lounge
Middle School Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge
Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor
Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room
ESL Teacher Meeting, 1 pm, Fifth Floor
Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space



Issue #59
January 17, 2019

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Who Do You Say That I Am?
a sermon series about who Jesus is and why he matters today

- January 13
Jesus: Son of God
- January 20
Jesus: Savior of the World
- January 27
Jesus: Teacher of Old Ways, Today
- February 3
Jesus: Hometown Prophet
- February 10
Jesus: Compelling Leader
- February 17
Jesus: Reversing Everything We Know
- February 24
Jesus: Unreasonable Expectations
- March 3
Jesus: Always Ahead of Us

The Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt preaching • worship Sundays at 9 & 11:15 am • 921 Madison Avenue at 73rd Street • mapc.com

This Sunday, January 20, 2019

Adult Education: “*Who is Jesus: Reflections on Jesus from a South African Perspective*,” 10:10 am, Dana Chapel



This Sunday, join Dr. Dirk Smit from Princeton Theological Seminary for a lecture on Jesus Christ set against the background of the Confession of Belhar, one of the newest confessions added to the constitutional documents of the PC(USA).

The Confession of Belhar has its roots in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and is an outcry of faith. The Belhar Confession addresses three main issues: the unity of the church, reconciliation, and the justice of God.

Dr. Smit holds an MA (Philosophy, Stellenbosch), DTh (Stellenbosch), DPhil (h.c.) (Umeå, Sweden), and PhD (h.c.) (Protestant Theological University, Groningen). His appointments include Honorary Professor of the Humboldt University, Berlin (Germany), Extraordinary Professor of Stellenbosch University (South Africa), Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin), and Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). Smit currently serves as a professor of theology at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey.

Over the past three decades, Smit has emerged as one of South Africa’s most significant theologians. He has written extensively, in both English and Afrikaans, on the legacy of the Reformed tradition and its relevance to contemporary theological, social, and political questions. He has been a particularly prominent and influential voice in the church’s repudiation of apartheid.

A look ahead: January 27 – Jerusha Rhodes, Union Theological Seminary: Jesus from a Muslim Perspective
February 3—Christina Cosby, Jesus as Community Centered

Events

Pizza and Game Night, Friday, January 18, Church House 5th Floor, 6 pm

Middle and High School students are invited to join us on Friday, January 18 for pizza and game night. We will play *Minute to Win It* and have plenty of fun prizes available. Come eat pizza, play games, and bring one friend! We look forward to seeing you next week. Please RSVP so we know who to expect, you can email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Annual January Fellowship Event: Friday Night Fireside Jazz, January 25, from 6 to 9 pm



Above: Guests at the Annual January Fellowship Event in 2018

Come enjoy an evening of good food, great music and lively fellowship in the Church House Lobby. Chef Jim is preparing a New Orleans inspired menu, the jazz trio is booked, there will be a fire in the fireplace, and childcare will be offered on the 5th Floor if that makes it easier for you to attend. The suggested donation for the evening is \$40, and we ask for a donation of \$15 per child if you need childcare.

Sign up in the Church House Lobby after worship on Sundays in January, or you can respond to Lissette Perez-Erao in the church offices, lgp@mapc.com. Please indicate if you will need childcare.

Hood Library Awareness and Appreciation Sunday, January 27th, Church House Lobby

Sunday, January 27th, is the annual **Hood Library Awareness Sunday**. This year, the Library would also like to show its appreciation for all of you who support and use it, and so you will find some extra goodies to enjoy during fellowship hour! You will also find a couple of tables full of books in the Church House Lobby—some for borrowing and some for purchasing. Please take time to browse the tables, and if you haven't already discovered it, please make sure and find the Library when you are in the building. You are sure to find something of interest to borrow!

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 lead by our seminary interns, Audrey and Chesna, designed specifically for children 3rd grade and under.

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

Come explore the lectionary text each week with your friends and church school teachers! Every Sunday, we meet on the 5th floor at 10:10 am. Anyone age 3-5th grade is welcome to join. If you are interested in being a church school teacher, we need your help! For any questions or more information reach out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Kids Club and Wee Kids, Wednesday afternoons, 4-6 pm, Church House

Kids and their families are invited to join us on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm for Kids Club. It's never too late to sign up, visit our [web-site](http://www.mapc.com) or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com to register. Dates to keep in mind: No Kids Club, February 20th, Public School Break

Middle School Ministries

Youth Worship, 9 am and 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 (Middle School), Sunday Mornings at 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

This Winter we will explore Identity together, "What makes us who we are?" Together we will explore the factors that make us unique and the many variables that influence our personality. This study will feed into who we are as children of God.

Save the Dates: Preparation for Youth Sunday will begin April 7th. Youth Sunday will be on June 2 at 10:10 am.

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

Join Christina Cosby and Rebecca Heilman on Wednesday afternoons as we explore what matters and doesn't matter in Jesus' eyes. *Jesus Doesn't Care: you may be surprised at what matters most to Jesus*, is our new topic for exploration together this winter.

We hope your family will join us for choir at 5 pm, dinner at 5:30 pm, and a time of Bible study at 6 pm. You don't want to miss out as there will be plenty of time for fun and games too. If you haven't signed up for the 2018-2019 academic year yet, it is never too late. Email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com and she is happy to assist you.

High School Fellowship, Sunday Morning, 10:10 am, 4th Floor Lounge

This winter we are continuing our Bible Journaling as we read Luke's Gospel with Chesna and Audrey. Come and bring your friends for a time of art, Bible Study, and fellowship. Your presence makes our group better!

MAPC Serves Opportunities

Youth Service Group for High School Students—MAPC Serves

Join us as we serve the vulnerable across our City with high school students in mind. We will be sharing 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.

Upcoming Opportunities:

February 4 James Lenox House

February 7 Thursday Open Table

Join MAPC on [Facebook](#)

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 3

The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the 11:15 am worship service on February 3. The meeting includes the election of officers, a final report of our 2018 finances, a presentation of the 2019 budget, and approving the terms of call for installed pastors.

Rev. Jenny McDevitt will provide a brief summary of the past year and share some plans for the year to come. A light lunch and fellowship will follow in the Parish Hall. While only members may vote, all are invited to attend.

Third Grade Bibles—February 3rd at both worship services

If you have a child in third grade, we would love to gift them with a Bible on **February 3rd** during worship. Giving third graders Bibles is a long-standing tradition of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church that is

shared with many other churches across the country. If your family has a member in third grade please send their name to Christina Cosby at, cac@mapc.com, so that we can make sure everyone is

included. If your child is older than third grade and needs a Bible we are happy to include them, as everyone deserves to have access to the Word of God in language easy for them to understand.

MAPC Welcomes New Director of Communication

We extend a hearty welcome to Teri Tynes as our new Director of Communication.



Teri is an experienced writer, editor, and digital communications specialist with a background in the arts, higher education, and faith-based communications. A native of Dallas, Texas, Teri attended Oberlin College and The University of Texas at Austin where she received a M.A. in American Civilization. Following several years in teaching and print journalism, she moved to New York in 2006, shifting her interest toward online journalism and digital strategy.

From 2012 to 2015, Teri managed the digital communications of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, including the agency's email marketing, website development, social media, and mobile platforms. In recent years, Teri has worked as an editorial and digital marketing consultant for artists and nonprofit arts organizations, helping raise their online profiles through best practices in digital strategy.

Teri is excited to join the staff of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and to help enhance the church's communications—and we are excited that she is here!

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 12:30-1:30 pm, Library

Reading Through the Bible meets every week at 12:30 pm and currently is reading Isaiah 31.

20s/30s Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Thursday, January 24)

This fall we enjoyed reading about wine throughout scripture. This Winter we will pick up with a new study. Do you have suggestions or questions of faith you want answered? If the answer is yes to either of those questions email them to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, January 28)

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 reflect on the minor prophets in scripture, history, and their importance in our lives today.

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!

Hands-on Ministries

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, email [Rebecca Heilman](mailto:Rebecca.Heilman@mapc.com) at rmh@mapc.com. Let's put our faith into action!

The Thursday Open Table

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](mailto:Kathy.Hoffman@earthlink.net) at kfhoffman@earthlink.net to volunteer for this opportunity.

Host at the Shelter

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 7:00 am. Contact [Rebecca Heilman](mailto:Rebecca.Heilman@mapc.com) at rmh@mapc.com for more information.

Come to the Shelter Open House Sunday, February 10th, following the 11:15 a.m. service and learn more.

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](mailto:Robin.Strashun@searchandcare.org) 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!"

This Week at MAPC



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 or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

Monday, January 21

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — Church House closed.

6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Tuesday, January 22

6:00 pm Joint Trustees & Session Meeting Parish Hall
 6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Wednesday, January 23

12:30 pm Reading Through the Bible Library
 3:45 pm Kids Club Parish Hall, PL, 5th Floor, Gym
 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, January 24

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

Friday, January 25

6:00 pm Friday Night Fireside Jazz Church House Lobby
 6:30 pm Overnight Shelter Shelter Space

Saturday, January 26

No Events Scheduled

Sign Up Now for Triennium, July 16-20!

Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a time for Presbyterian Youth in grades 9-12 from all over the world to gather in one place to celebrate our common faith in God. This is a gathering of about 5,000 youth and chaperones at Purdue University that join together in worship, share in fellowship, and engage in conversation with one another during small group sessions.

The summer’s theme is “*Here’s My Heart.*” To learn more visit Triennium’s event website [here](#). If you are interested in joining this year’s trip to Purdue University, please reach out to Christina Cosby by phone at 212-288-8920 or email at cac@mapc.com.



New York Common Pantry Grocery Carts

The basic human necessity of food can be 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, 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!

Bring on the Pasta, MAPC!

The Super Bowl is just around the corner, but let's not forget another competition - the New York Common Pantry's 3rd Annual Pasta Bowl! They are looking for boxes upon boxes of dry (not fresh) pasta. If at all possible, they prefer whole wheat. Last year NYCP collected over 11,000 pounds of pasta for families in need of a warm meal. So bring on the pasta, MAPC! Bring a box (or five) to the Church and drop it in the food cart located in the front lobby by February 14th. Let's see how much pasta MAPC can donate this year! If a donation works better for you, good news! A \$1.00 donation = 1 lb of pasta. Online donations may be made at nycommonpantry.org. Please select "Pasta Bowl" & Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Any questions? Contact Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com.

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.

Tell Me More About MAPC, March 2

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, we periodically host a "Tell Me More About MAPC" conversation.

The next gathering will be held **March 2, 2019**, at 9 am in the Phillips Lounge. Childcare provided with advance request. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Eraza lgp@mapc.com.