

The Pastoral Staff Letter

Sunday Worship
October 1, 2017
17th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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 is preaching his sermon entitled *“The Interests of Others”* based on the texts: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; and Matthew 21:23-32. This being the first Sunday of the month, prayers for Healing & Wholeness will be offered during communion.

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

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

Adult Education, 10:10 am, Parish Hall (*more info inside*)

Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:30 am, Choir Room

Teen Brunch, 12:45 pm, Youth Lounge

ESL Classes, 1 pm, 5th Floor

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space



**Madison
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church**

Issue #1

September 28, 2017

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](#)!

See you in church!
The Pastoral Staff

Inside this issue:

*What’s Happening
Tomorrow* 2

This Sunday 2-3

*Other Events and
Announcements* 3, &
5

*Outreach & Evange-
lism* 4

*Christian Education
at MAPC* 6-7

Bible Study Groups 7

Hands-on Ministries 8

Tomorrow!

Church Family Night is Tomorrow!! September 29 at 6 pm

The first Church Family Night of the fall is tomorrow! Please join in the fun beginning at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. We begin the evening with dinner, have beverages for people of all ages, popcorn, a movie suitable for the young children, and the elementary-aged and older kids

often go play in the gym after dinner. It is a fun night of fellowship. We ask for a donation of \$20 for adults, and a donation for your child, based on their appetite. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, wlds@mapc.com.



Families enjoying Church Family Night.

This Sunday

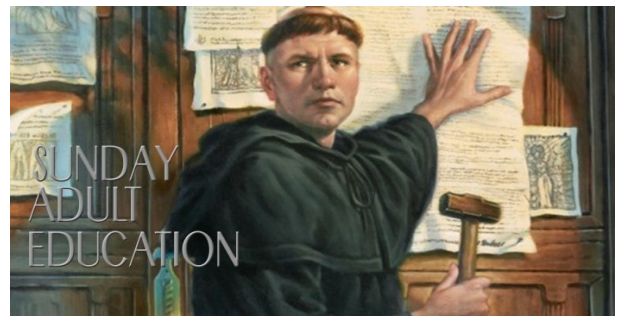
Adult Education

Join us in the Parish Hall at 10:10 am as Sharon Boersma presents, *"The Life and Times of Martin Luther."*

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year, we will hear many voices calling us to reverence the memory and work of Martin Luther and John Calvin. We will hear other voices confronting us with words and deeds of theirs which might make us defensive or embarrassed. These great reformers should neither be worshipped nor condemned.

They are human, like us. They are the folks next door, the parishioners in the pew ahead, fellow souls in the holy Catholic Church, and members of the communion of saints. We should get to know them better. But if we took them out for coffee, it might take only ten minutes of conversation for us to feel that they are aliens from another planet! The realities of life, which formed them five hundred years ago, were quite different than those forming us in the twenty-first century.

Come to Christian Education sessions on October 1st to meet Martin Luther and John Calvin and the world in which they lived. Next Sunday, Sharon will introduce us to John Calvin. We hope to see you there!



October marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Peace & Global Witness Offering October 1

What you've known as the Peacemaking Offering has been transformed into the Peace & Global Witness Offering. This offering will have a greater global reach, more significant impact, and bring peace to people through Christ. The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be received during both the 9 am and 11:15 am worship services on Sunday, October 1, which is also World Communion Sunday. Each congregation is invited to designate 25% of the proceeds to a program of its choice. MAPC has chosen this year to give this portion to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to assist with recovery efforts after the various hurricanes and floods these last few months. Gifts may also be made online by selecting "Peace" from the dropdown list.

Music on Madison: Andrew Henderson in Recital

This Sunday, October 1 at 3 pm, Dr. Andrew Henderson will open the Saint Andrew Music Society's 53rd Season with a recital of César Franck's masterful *Trois Chorals* —among the most beautiful 19th Century works for organ, coupled with contrasting works by Johann Sebastian Bach, including the *Prelude & Fugue in B minor* and excerpts from the *Orgelbüchlein*. 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 2017-2018 season.



Andrew Henderson, Director of Music & Organist

Shelter Open House/Orientation—October 1 at 1 pm



Our Men's Shelter is still working to build back to a 7-night-a-week program and needs your help. Would you be willing to volunteer periodically for our evening or overnight shifts? Men are screened before arriving at the shelter and are often

nearly ready to leave the shelter system. Men, women and couples are welcome to volunteer as hosts for either shift. Two shifts are available. Our evening hosts welcome guests and heat food for our guests from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm among other tasks. Our overnight hosts sleep in a separate and locked room within the shelter and help prepare breakfast in the morning. Overnight hosts serve from 8:30 pm to 7 am. Shelter Leaders will be leading an Open House/Orientation in

the MAPC Shelter Space at 1 pm on Sunday, October 1. Attendance does not signify a commitment to volunteer but is a great chance to learn more about homelessness in New York City and our MAPC/St. James' Shelter. It can also be a way to start your training to become a volunteer. Contact Andy Smothers at ads@mapc.com for more information.

Other Events & Announcements

Highlights of the September Session Meeting

The Session met on September 26 in its first meeting since the summer hiatus. A number of items were passed, including renewing annual grants to three Presbytery partners, and giving support to Ruth Brown, the PC(USA) Mission Co-worker who will be working in Zimbabwe. The session also pledged support for a seminary student for four years at Justin Mwale Seminary in Malawi. Richard Frey announced that he will retire on May 31, 2018. The Session also spent a half hour discussing an article "Choosing Church", which looks closely at what people who get a lot out of church actually get, and thus what makes for a healthy church. The Session recommends it to any member who might also be interested. It is available at <https://www.cardus.ca/comment/article/5114/choosing-church/>.

Consider MAPC Membership Through the Next Inquirers Class on Saturday, October 14 at 9 am

Have you been thinking about membership at MAPC or been wondering what kind of commitments that might involve? Are you not interested in membership, but want to know more about the congregation and our faith? Join Rev. Andy Smothers for the upcoming Inquirers class on Saturday, October 14, from 9 am to approximately 3 pm in the Phillips Lounge.

The classes are informal and interactive—the perfect way to find out more about MAPC and our beliefs! Light refreshments and a light lunch will be served; dress is casual.

What will we cover? We will explore

the beliefs of our faith through our creeds shared with the church universal and with other reformed denominations. We'll recall the history of the Christian Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our journey will continue with MAPC's history, its current programs, and a tour of our facilities. Finally, we'll talk about our church governance and how we live our lives together as a church and as people sent out into the world.

If you would like to attend or have questions, please contact Andy Smothers, Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism, at ads@mapc.com or 212-288-8920.



Rev. Andy Smothers,
Interim Associate Pastor

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Response to Hurricanes



A Texas National Guardsman carries a resident from her flooded home following Hurricane Harvey in Houston.

It is expected that 450,000 people will seek help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency after Hurricane Harvey. Hurricane Irma is believed to have caused more than \$50 billion in damage. The entire island of Puerto Rico is without power after Hurricane Maria. Islands in the Caribbean Sea are devastated. Please pray for those affected.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), an entity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has begun accepting donations for recovery work related to hurricanes Harvey and Irma. We expect they will be doing the same soon regarding Hurricane Maria. If you would be willing to donate to this cause, you may do so online by selecting "Disaster Relief Fund."

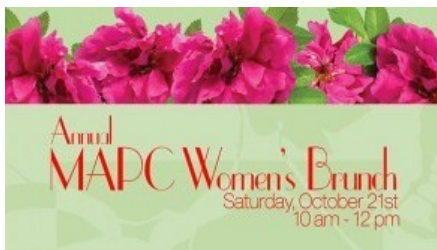
Upcoming Congregational Fellowship Events

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming fall fellowship events:

Monday, October 16, Men's Fellowship Oktoberfest, 7 pm, Roof Garden



Saturday, October 21, Annual Women's Brunch, 10 am to Noon, Parish Hall



Saturday, October 21, Families with Young Children (concurrent with Women's Brunch—spouses or caregivers can take children to play on the Roof, while moms enjoy brunch)



Friday, October 27, Church Family Night Halloween Bash! 6 pm, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 12, Annual Library Fellowship Book Sale during Fellowship Hour

Monday, November 13, Dinner with Mayada and Friends, 6:30 pm, Parish Hall
Congregational Dinner with Syrian meal prepared by Mayada Anjari, one of the Syrian refugee families Rutgers Presbyterian Church has helped to resettle. *Please note, the date listed for this event in the fall issue of MAPC Life was incorrect. November 13 is the correct date.*

CROP Walk

This year's CROP Walk takes place on October 15, 2017 with registration beginning at 1:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for youth, families, and our larger church community to come together to support the fight against hunger in our neighborhood. If you would like to participate in this year's event you may register directly on the Crop Walk [website](#), and choose MAPC as your team. For more information, feel free to contact Christina Cosby, cac@mapc.com or (212) 288-8920 x8480.



If you are unable to sign-up to walk, consider contributing financially to help our team reach our goal. The funds raised directly support programs in our neighborhood, including our Men's Shelter and Shelter Dinner programs.

MAPC is currently one of the top teams signed up for this year's CROP Hunger Walk, NYC. Help us continue to be a top supporter of the fight against hunger in the city we love!

Christian Education at MAPC

Call for Children's Worship and Youth Worship Volunteers

MAPC believes in the importance of incorporating children in worship through an interactive environment tailored to their needs. For this reason, we provide a time during the regularly scheduled worship service for children to engage in a liturgy designed for them, and a Bible lesson that mirrors the Sunday sermon. Our hope is this experience allows parents and children the opportunity to discuss the day's scripture passage together. This ministry of MAPC heavily depends on your willingness to volunteer. If you would like to sign-up or have questions, please contact Christina Cosby, cac@mapc.com or (212) 288-8920 x8480.

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 will resume this Sunday, September 10, 2017 and will occur during both Sunday Services (9 am and 11:15 am). All children 4th grade and up are invited to attend.

Kids Club

It is not too late to sign up for this year's after school program at MAPC. Kids Club this year takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 3:45-6:00 pm.

If your family wishes to participate in this year's program, please fill out the registration form which can be found on the [website](#) and return it to Wendy De Los Santos wlds@mapc.com.

Church School

Church School takes place each Sunday morning during the 10 am hour. This time is designed for elementary-aged children to join together in song and Bible study. To register, please fill out the Children Ministries' form that can be found [here](#) on the website. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday!



Christina A. Cosby,
Director of Christian
Formation at MAPC

Middle and High School Ministries

T(w)een Club

This after-school program is designed with Tweens in mind. The first half hour of the program is a time to focus on homework while enjoying a healthy snack. Through the remainder of the afternoon, we will enjoy fellowship, Bible study, choir, and conclude by sharing a meal. This program is for students in 6th grade and older. To register, please fill out the registration form that can be found on the

MAPC [website](#), and return it to Wendy De Los Santos wlds@mapc.com.

Shelter Dinner—Thursday, October 5

On the first Thursday of the month, we will join together to serve the Shelter Dinner, which takes place in the Parish Hall at MAPC. Participants are asked to arrive around 6 pm

and the meal is served until 8 pm. Afterwards, there will be a brief time to discuss our experience together. To sign up, please contact Christina Cosby, cac@mapc.com or (212) 288-8920 x8480.

Sunday Youth Hour

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is founded on the motto "Reformed and ever reforming." This year commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This fall we will join together to study Scripture and history, as we learn what it means to be part of the reformed

faith. Through our time together we will reflect on the church's past, discuss the church today, and share our dream for the future of the church. We hope to see you this Sunday at 10:10 am in the Youth Lounge on the 5th Floor!

Confirmation

This year's confirmation classes will take place on Sunday afternoons at 1 pm from October 15, 2017 to May 13, 2018. This is a course for students in eighth grade or older to discern what it means

to be a member of Christ's body, the Church. If your child would like to participate in this year's confirmation classes, please reach out to Christina Cosby for more information. She can be reached by phone at 212-288-8920 x8480, or by email at cac@mapc.com.

Please stay tuned for more fall service opportunities coming up, or go to the MAPC [website](#) to find a complete list.

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:

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

Reading Through the Bible meets every Wednesday in the Phillips Lounge. Next week we will pick up with Psalm 15!

20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Today, Thursday, September 28, 2017)

5:30-8 pm, in the Youth Lounge on the 5th Floor of the Church House

If you are in your twenties or thirties, join us for a time of food and fellowship as we explore questions of faith and how to respond faithfully in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, October 23, 2017)

Note: We are closed for Columbus Day on Monday, October 9.

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

Currently, we are studying Paul's letters. Come join us for an enriching conversation of Paul's letters to the Philippians! We welcome all to a time of fellowship beforehand beginning at 6 pm. Bring your dinner and engage in conversation as we learn more about faith and each other.

Men's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is October 4, 2017)

The Men's Bible Study meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 pm in Phillips Lounge. We are currently reading Galatians.

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 re-

source today! Once ready for print, our Sunday bulletins are also uploaded to our website 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**

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 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.

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 Andy Smothers at ads@mapc.com. Let's put our faith into action!

The Thursday Shelter Dinner 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.

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 Andy Smothers at ads@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.

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!"