

# The Pastoral Staff Letter

## A Note From Jenny



**Madison  
Avenue  
Presbyterian  
Church**

Issue #45

September 20, 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 MAPC,

This is my first experience being in town during the General Assembly of the United Nations. While I realize their work begins more fully next week, I am still mindful of how many world leaders are in the city among us. This has caused me to reflect on my own leadership, but also on those whose leadership I have admired. Some are historical figures. Others are lesser known, but with no less impact on my life. I think of Rev. Tom Are, Jr., my colleague at Village Presbyterian Church, who many of you will meet this weekend. I think of Martin Luther, who taught us about grace, and Martin Luther King, Jr., who taught us to dream. I think of Nancy Nichols, who leads our Trustees through significant deliberation, and Roger Pierce, our Director of Administration and Finance, whose quiet but steady leadership ensured our building recovered from the flood in record time. Finally, I think of Ron Sill, a high school teacher of mine who oversaw all of the technical details of the drama department. He was never in the spotlight; he was the happiest and best suited for working off in the wings. But without him, and others like him, the show would never have gone on. Leadership comes in all shapes and styles. Whose leadership are you thankful for this week? Include them in your prayers. As for me, my prayers this week include all of you. Each of you is a leader of this congregation in your own right. As I imagine our future together unfolding over the coming years, I am beyond grateful each of you is part of it.

Peace,

*Jenny*



## Sunday Worship—25th Sunday of Ordinary Time September 23, 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 **James: Watch Your Mouth** which will be based on the lectionary texts: Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a and Mark 9:30-37. 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**

**New Member Reception, 10:10 am, 8th AR**

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

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

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

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

**Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am & 1:50 pm, Choir Room**

**Installation Commission, 2 pm, Pastor's Study**

**Installation Service for the Rev. Jenny McDevitt, 3 pm, Sanctuary**

**Installation Celebration, 4:30 pm, Parish Hall**

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

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# This Sunday

Adult Education: *Faces of Our Faith*, 10:10 am, Dana Chapel



All are invited to join us this Sunday as Dr. Frances Taylor Gench presents *Matthew and The Face of Doubt*. This will continue our series on Faces of Our Faith as we learn how Matthew expresses genuine faith through the perspective of doubt.

It is an honor and a joy to welcome Dr. Frances Taylor Gench, who is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and was on the faculty of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg from 1986 to 1999. She served as a member of the PC(USA) General As-

sembly's Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church (2001-2006) and is a parish associate at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. Her research and teaching interests include the Gospels, women in the biblical world and feminist biblical criticism, global and intercultural perspectives on the Bible, and issues of biblical authority and interpretation. The author of six books, her most recent publication is *Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts: Reflections on Paul, Women, and the Authority of Scripture* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2015). She currently serves on the faculty of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia where she is the *Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation*.

Brand New: 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, Audrey Webber, one of our seminary interns, will lead a conversation about your hopes for this new space. Come join Audrey and plan this exciting year.



Installation Service for Jenny McDevitt



This Sunday, September 23, at 3 pm, Rev. Jenny McDevitt will be installed as our Senior Pastor. Join the Presbytery of New York City for worship and a celebratory reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Rev. Tom Are, Jr., Senior Pastor of Village Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, KS (Jenny's former congregation) will preach. Everyone is welcome to attend, including families and children! Following the Children's Lesson, the children may go to the Roof Garden for a time of supervised play for the duration of the service.

# Other Events & Announcements

## Last Chance to Sign Up for the All-Church Retreat at Holmes Camp and Conference Center, September 28-29!

We have to let the Holmes staff know our numbers by Tuesday morning! If you are still on the fence or just have or just haven't gotten around to it—now is the time to sign up!

There are two options for attending the retreat:

Come up on Friday evening (with sleeping bag and towels) and enjoy dinner and a relaxed evening of fellowship (dinner, conversation, wine, s'mores, a cozy fire, board games) and breakfast the next morning before the rest of the folks arrive. The cost for overnight is \$90, which includes lodging, three meals and day use fee on Saturday. Children under 2 come for free, and the for children between ages 2 and 12 is \$57.50.

Come for the day on Saturday. The cost is \$30, which includes morning coffee and snacks, lunch and day use fee. For children under 12, the Saturday cost is \$17.50. Children under 2 are free.

Time frames:

The evening meal on Friday begins at 7.

We will plan on starting the program around 9:30 am on Saturday, depending on when the bus arrives.

We will end Saturday afternoon by 4 pm.

Transportation:

For those coming up on Friday evening, we will arrange carpooling, or you may take Metro North and someone will pick you up from the Southeast Station.

We have reserved a bus for those coming for the day on Saturday. The bus will leave MAPC at 7:45 am and depart Holmes to return to NYC at 4 pm. The roundtrip cost for the bus is \$50.

*Please note, transportation costs are in addition to the retreat costs listed above.*

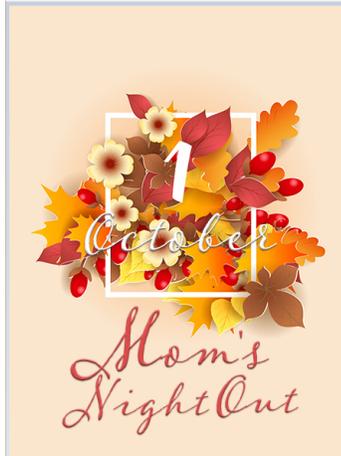
We will have a separate children's program on Saturday morning, while the adults share in discussion, then everyone will enjoy lunch together and afternoon activities of their choice: hiking, playing gaga (ask a kid, if you don't know what this is!) chatting on the porch, or playing games.

If you have questions, please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com)

You may sign up during coffee hour after worship on Sunday, or by contacting Lissette, or through Sign Up Genius: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-holmes](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-holmes). You can make payments online [here](#).



## Moms' Night Out, Monday, October 1 at 7 pm

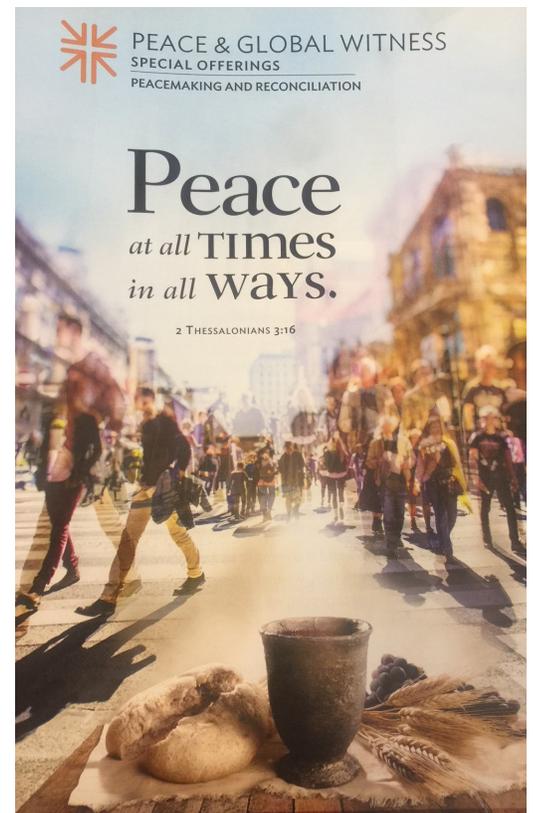


It's only mid-September, but do you feel like you already need another vacation?? MAPC Moms (of kids of all ages) come enjoy a mini-break with a Moms' Night Out on Monday, October 1. We'll meet at 7 pm at an Upper East Side restaurant and enjoy a relaxing meal and conversation. We need to know who is coming so we can choose a restaurant and make a reservation. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices: [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com).

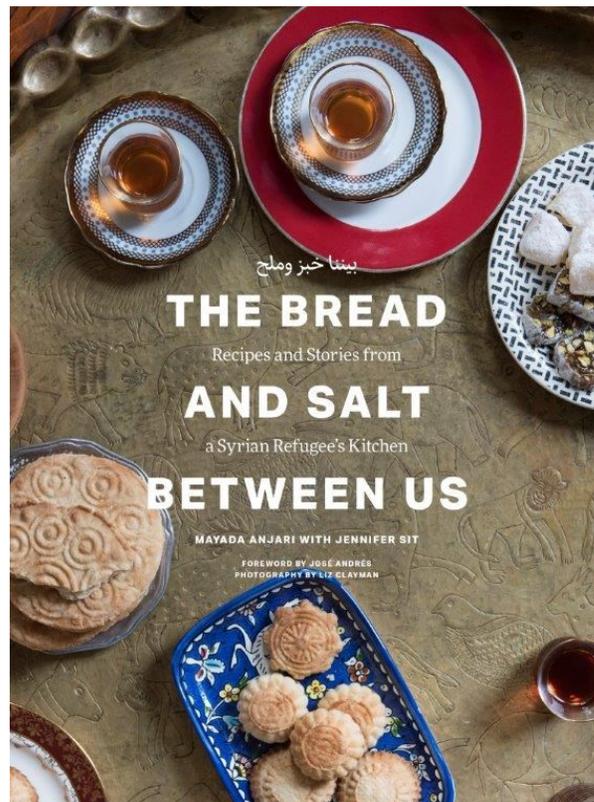
## The Peace and Global Witness Offering, October 7

“So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near” (Ephesians 2:14-17). The letter to the Ephesians tells us that Jesus came to proclaim a peace that is universal. While the earthly ministry of Jesus was in a specific age and place, the peace he shared is limited by neither time nor geography. As followers of Christ, our work for peace begins in our own neighborhoods and extends to the ends of the earth. The Peace and Global Witness Offering exists to support the holistic and wide-ranging witness of the whole church. This special offering allows the congregation to give twenty-five percent of the money received to a local organization. The remaining donation will be given to the Presbyterian Mission Agency and our mid council.

**This year, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church has chosen to give our 25 percent to New Life of New York City ([newlifeofnyc.org](http://newlifeofnyc.org)), which is a local organization that seeks to engage at-risk and vulnerable youth to resist unhealthy environments in order to encourage them to make good decisions while living in the city.** MAPC has been a longtime supporter of New Life of NYC's work and would like to continue supporting an organization that helps children find peace in their daily challenges. We hope we have piqued your interest in supporting this special offering on **October 7th** during worship, in order to put an end to hostilities and seek peace for those not only in NYC, but throughout the world.



## Dinner with Mayada, Monday Evening, October 15 at 6 pm



The Congregational Nurture Committee is delighted to host our third annual Dinner with Mayada. Mayada Anjari is a refugee from Syria, who, along with her family, has resettled in Jersey City with the help of Rutgers Presbyterian Church and Church World Service. Mayada is a wonderful cook, and Dinners with Mayada are one way she helps support her family as they establish their lives in the United States. The cookbook we have been waiting for will be available at this dinner! We got an advance copy in the mail, and it is stunning! *Food and Wine* lists it as one of the best cookbooks coming out this fall: <https://www.foodandwine.com/news/fall-cookbooks>. The book is \$24.95, and Mayada will happily sign copies. They will make wonderful Christmas gifts! You can preview it here: <https://www.breadandsaltbetweenus.org/>

The cost of dinner is \$40 for adults, and \$20 for children under 12. Since this is a benefit dinner, please pay the full price, if possible. If the full \$40 is not possible for you, please pay what you can, and the committee will subsidize the rest. The event is BYOB, and we encourage you to bring a bottle of wine to share—we also encourage you to invite friends! You can reserve your seat and pay for dinner [here](#). You can pay for both the dinner and the number of books you want at the same time. When you reserve, please let us know if you would like a book, so we will know how many to have on hand. RSVP through the MAPC website, or by emailing Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com), or by signing up during fellowship hour in the weeks prior to October 15.

## Fall Dates for Your Calendars

Fri-Sat, Sept. 28-29—All Church Retreat at Holmes Presbyterian Camp

Monday, October 1 (7 pm)—Moms Night Out, Offsite (TBD)

Sunday, October 7 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall

**Wednesday, October 10—Blessing of the Animals, meet at the church at 5:30 pm with pets!**

Monday, October 15 (6 pm)—Dinner with Mayada

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

Friday, October 26 (6 pm)—Annual 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

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)—Annual Carol Sing, Sanctuary

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

**It's a busy and exciting Fall season here at MAPC!**

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

### Monday, September 24

6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study	Phillips Lounge
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

### Tuesday, September 25

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

### Wednesday, September 26

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, September 27

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, September 28

6:00 pm	All-Church Retreat at Holmes Camp	Offsite
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

### Saturday, September 29

Note:	For those taking the bus to Holmes, but departs at 7:45 am	
7:30 am	Bus Group Meets to Depart	Church House Lobby
9:00 am	All-Church Retreat at Holmes Camp	Offsite
9:00 am	New York Presbytery (Riverdale)	Offsite

## Saint Andrew Music Society: Announcing Our 54th Season



The Saint Andrew Music Society's 54th Season brochure has been mailed! Plenty of extra copies are available for you to pick up from the narthex and Church House Lobby for you to distribute to your friends! You can also peruse all fifteen concerts taking place this season on our [website](http://www.mapc.com/music/sams/concerts), ([www.mapc.com/music/sams/concerts](http://www.mapc.com/music/sams/concerts)) ranging from performances by our very own choral society—the Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra; MAPC's community children's chorus program—the New York City Children's Chorus; students from The Juilliard School, Mannes College, and the Manhattan School of Music; and a host of recitals featuring vocalists and chamber ensembles.

## 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

Kids and families, join us on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm for Kids Club! This year is going to be better than ever! Bible Study, Choir, Recreation and Dinner all begin on September 12th. To register, visit our [website](#) or contact Christina Cosby at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).



## 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 cultures! 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.

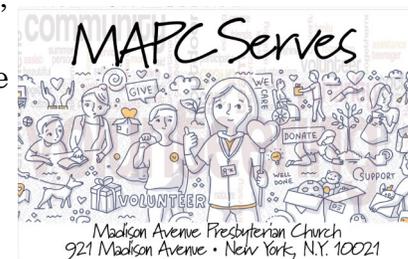
### T(w)een Club: Middle School Mid-Week Youth Group, Wednesday Afternoons, 5-7 pm, Church House

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](http://www.mapc.com) to find the registration form.



### 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 beginning in October.



Save these October dates:

October 1st at 4 pm, James Lenox House: helping with technology and other resident needs

October 4th at 6 pm, Thursday Open Table: serving a warm meal to our neighbors who are food insecure.

October 21st at 1 pm, CROP Hunger Walk: a walk to raise awareness about hunger needs across our City and around the world.

## 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 in Proverbs 19 on Wednesday, September 26.

### **20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Thursday, September 27)**

*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, September 24)**

*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 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.

## 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

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-Erazo at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com) or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

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

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!"