

The Pastoral Staff Letter



**Madison
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church**

Issue #17

February 8, 2018

Sunday Worship February 11, 2018 Transfiguration of the Lord

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. Richard E. Spalding will be preaching. His sermon entitled “*Just Watching*” will be based on the texts: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; and Mark 9:2-9. 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, Dana Chapel (*see details inside*)

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room

Shelter Orientation, 1 pm, Shelter Space

ESL Classes, 1 pm, 5th Floor

Confirmation Class, 1 pm, Youth Lounge

Music on Madison: Steven Vanhauwaert, piano, 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

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This Sunday

Guest Preacher—The Rev. Richard E. Spalding

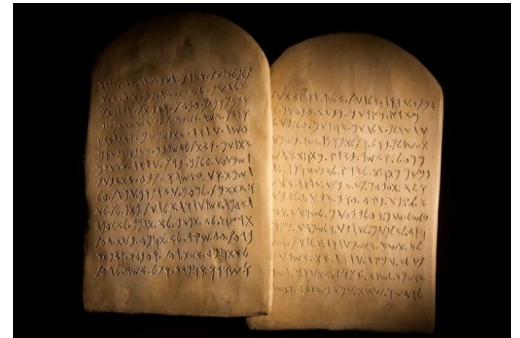
We welcome the Rev. Richard E. Spalding as our guest preacher this Sunday. Rick was the chaplain at Williams College in Williamstown, MA for the last sixteen years, a position from which he retired this last December.

Adult Education, 10:10 am, Dana Chapel

This Sunday, Udo Middelman presents, *“God’s Constitution for Justice, to Unmask Evil, and to Benefit All People.”* A two-part lecture series that focuses on the Ten Commandments.

Here is a short summary of his presentation:

God’s Law are not club rules for members to respect, but a description of where factual reality differs from fabrications. After years of Egyptian slavery, God extracts Israel out of a pagan mindset and gives the Ten Commandments to become the essential foundation of a moral, truthful, and compassionate society anywhere in the human experiment. Neither natural nor human powers dictate what is normal, right, or true. People, uniquely made in the image of God, shall choose to express that image when we create, love, instruct, have compassion, oppose evil, heal what is broken, and color what is bland, for the benefit of all.



February 11 — *“No Other God: The Difference of God and the Difference that it Makes”*
A Discussion on Commandments 1-4

February 18 — *“No Other Human Race: The Difference of Man and the Difference it Makes”*
A Discussion on Commandments 5-10

We hope you plan to join us Sunday morning as we reflect on the Ten Commandments.

Shelter Orientation, 1 pm, Shelter

Are you searching for ways to be more involved at MAPC? Do you desire to make a difference in our neighborhood and community? Then, come check out our overnight shelter—one of the few in New York City that operates six nights per week, all year round!

Whether you are a seasoned volunteer at our Men’s Overnight Shelter, brand new to helping the

homeless, looking to become involved after time away, or simply interested in learning more about the program, join us this Sunday at 1 pm, in the shelter, for an information session and orientation led by an intern at St. James’, Sam Young.

If volunteering at night is challenging for you, there are many opportunities to be involved. To

find out more, contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com or by phone at (212) 288-8920 x8480.



Music on Madison: Steven Vanhauwaert, piano

This Sunday at 3 pm, we welcome Belgian-born pianist Steven Vanhauwaert on our *Music on Madison* series. A frequent soloist in major concert halls in the US, Europe and China, his program features later works by Franz Liszt with an Italian inspiration, including the Fantasia quasi quasi *Sonata: Après une Lecture de Dante* and *Jeux d'Eau à la Villa d'Este*; along with Ferruccio Busoni's *Indian Diary*, excerpts from *Preludes*, Op. 23, by Rachmaninoff, and works by Schumann and Chopin. Admission is \$25 (\$20 – Students/Seniors); Children 12 and under: free. Will Call tickets are also available in advance [online](#).



Other Events & Announcements

The Rev. Jenny McDevitt Elected Pastor/Head of Staff



On January 21, 2018, the Rev. Jenny McDevitt was elected the new Pastor/Head of Staff of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. For information on Jenny, go to the MAPC website or click [here](#).

Ash Wednesday Services February 14, 12 noon and 7 pm

There will be two services on Ash Wednesday at MAPC: one at 12 noon and the other at 7 pm. Our preacher for the day is Christina A. Cosby. The service will include an Invitation to the Lenten Discipline, the Imposition of Ashes, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Join us for either service as we enter into the season of Lent.



Spiritual Growth and Faith Sharing Group, February 15, 1 pm James Lenox House Library

This group, comprised of MAPC members and James Lenox House residents, meets this coming Thursday at 1 pm in the Library of the

James Lenox House, just around the corner from MAPC on 73rd Street. The group is open to any who

would like to participate in a time of Biblical reflection, sharing and prayer.

News from Rutgers Presbyterian Church's Refugee Task Force

Rutgers Presbyterian Church is co-sponsoring two more families through their partnership with CWS. The families are coming from Afghanistan on Special Immigrant Visas—meaning, one of the parents was employed in Afghanistan by, or on behalf of, the U.S. government or the Security Assistance Force and experienced an ongoing serious threat as a consequence of their employment. A family of three—mother, father and 2-year old son—is scheduled to arrive today, February 8. A family of eight—mother, father, 3 daughters and 3 sons ranging in age from 6 months to 13 years—arrive on February 22.

Most of the items needed to help furnish the apartments for these families have been secured, but financial donations are welcome and may be given to [Refugee Relief Fund](#), to help meet ongoing needs.



Update on the first two families from Syria—all four adult children in the Khoja family have now obtained full-time jobs in New York City. The parents are enrolled in intensive ESL and literacy programs and the two younger daughters are in public school.

This past year also continued our partnership with the Abdulhamid family who arrived a year before. Several “Dinner with Mayada and Friends”



were held at Rutgers with three other churches (including MAPC) during 2017, providing much-needed income to supplement Ahmad's earnings from his full-time job as a parking attendant at a nursing home.



In the past year, our work created many opportunities for volunteers to be of service. Dozens of church members, friends and neighbors donated goods and money. A church member worked with one of the Khoja adult children to help improve her writing skills, and another taught ESL to both families. A New York City public school teacher tutored the Abdulhamid children each week, and several members of our CSA farm share program continue to take turns tutoring the two

school-aged children in the Khoja family on Sunday afternoons. And a team of volunteers is preparing cookbook with Mayada, [The Bread and Salt Between Us: Recipes and stories from a Syrian refugee's kitchen](#), which will be published in September 2018 by Lake Isle Press. Sales of the book will provide additional income to the family and to our Refugee Relief Fund.*

As we prepare to help two new families, we are also developing a long-term plan for the next few years of our work. We look forward to sharing our plan in the spring.

Thank you again for your generous support and participation in these efforts.

With warm regards,
Nancy Muirhead, Chair
Refugee Task Force

Dave Mammen, Director of Administration, Programs and Special Projects



*If you would like to assist the two Afghani families in getting resettled, please contact Beverly Bartlett, bab@mapc.com, and she will get you in touch with the appropriate person at Rutgers.

The photos included here are from last year's "Dinner with Mayada" events held at MAPC.

Highlights of the November Session Meeting

The Session met in joint session with the Trustees on January 23, 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 in the New 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.

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 occurs during both Sunday Services (9 am and 11:15 am). All children 4th grade through 7th grade are invited to attend.

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 [web-site](#), or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

This week we will commemorate Ash Wednesday with a mini worship service at 5:15 pm.



Church School

10:10 am on the 5th Floor
Come ready to sing hymns, engage in a Bible story and activity! We look forward to seeing you!

Middle and High School Ministries

T(w)een Club

Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm

Tweens are invited to join T(w)een Club at any time during the year! For more information please visit our [web-site](#).

This week we will commemorate Ash Wednesday with a mini worship service at 5:15 pm.

Sunday Youth Hour

Sunday Morning at 10:10 am

This year we will study the elements of worship, their significance, and their meaning in our daily life in preparation for planning Youth Sunday later in the Spring. All are encouraged to take part in this meaningful study—especially if you would like to participate in leading worship on May 20th.

James Lenox House

James Lenox House is a residential community for seniors 55 years of age and older. Each month we help with technology

needs, reading mail, and engage in intergenerational community. Our next service date is February 26, we hope that you can make it!



Please stay tuned for more Winter 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

February 21, we will pick up with Psalm 94. Please note that there is NO Reading Through the Bible on Wednesday, February 14. We invite you to attend our Ash Wednesday service at 12 noon in the Sanctuary.

20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting, TBD)

5:30-8 pm, Offsite

At our next meeting we will be offsite for a fellowship event! We will go to Duet 48 for karaoke to celebrate recent accomplishments of members of our group! If you would like more information on the time and date, please reach out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, February 12, 2018)

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

We will begin reading Ephesians!

Men's Bible Study:

The Men's Bible Study is currently on hiatus.

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.

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.

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.



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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**We're on the
web
www.mapc.com**

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. 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 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 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!"