

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

# PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



**May 6, 2020**

## **A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett**

Dear Friends,

As our COVID-19 numbers in New York are beginning to move in the right direction, we pray that you and your family members are safe and healthy. Please know that the church is here for you--we can't address every need, but we will do our best to respond to emails and phone calls and help as we can.

We are heartened that so many people, members and non-members, including many who are at a distance, are finding meaning in our weekly Sunday worship services and daily devotions. One of the things we are learning is that even when we are able to resume worshiping in person, we will need to maintain an online presence to reach people who cannot be here in person. Some of those who live far away have expressed their gratitude through both words and financial contributions. We are deeply grateful for both. Our idea of church is being transformed, and "normal" will be different in the future. It is too early to know just what re-opening the church will look like, but we have heard enough to know that it will happen in stages, and we will all need to be flexible and open to change.

Between 25 and 30 people participated in our Zoom fellowship hour last Sunday. It was wonderful to see people and hear their voices. If we continue to get such a strong turnout, we may break out into smaller Zoom "rooms" part of the time, to allow for more conversation. After all, when we have fellowship hour in person, we are in small groups having conversation, not

one big circle!

Last Thursday's "High Tea" was a big hit, and we have planned another one. This past week we also hosted a Pre-Teen Zoom gathering for 3rd thru 5th graders, which, I understand, was great fun and full of energy! I'll be offering an hour of Lectio Divina tomorrow afternoon. Please read the announcements below for details on these and other Zoom gatherings. I think we have more opportunities to gather than ever!

We are grateful for your support--your emails and other messages to the staff mean a lot to us. Please keep each other, the church and our sisters and brothers in the Synod of Harare in your prayers.

May Christ's peace be with you,  
Beverly A. Bartlett  
Associate Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

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## How to Give to MAPC During this Time

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Many of you are sending your pledges and offerings in the mail by check or online through our website. Thank you for your faithfulness in your stewardship. We know that for many people their financial circumstances have changed significantly due to the pandemic. If you are not able to keep your pledge commitment at this time, we understand. If you are able to continue your gifts to the church, please do send your pledges and offerings either by mail to:

- **MAPC, Attn: Roger Pierce, 921 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10021**

**Or:**

- **Through the church's website: [www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com). Click on the "giving" link near the top of the homepage.**

The church's financial obligations have not changed significantly during this time. We are committed to paying our hourly staff for as long as we can, the professional and pastoral staff are working from home, and we still have buildings to maintain even though we cannot gather in them. We have lost considerable income because we cannot rent our space as we have been. We are also committed to continuing the Thursday Night Open Table program as long as we possibly can, by handing out bag dinners on the sidewalk.

If you can continue to give, please do so! Thank you.

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## Ways to Stay Connected

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## **Sunday Worship**

Join us for pre-recorded services of worship on Sunday mornings complete with sermon, scripture, prayers, children's lesson and music, which are accessible on our [website](#) and on [Vimeo](#).

## **Children's Worship**

Come and read a children's book with Rebecca Heilman and April Martin as we connect it to the day's scripture!

## **Virtual Coffee Hour – Sundays at 12 noon**

Join the Pastoral Staff for a post-service Coffee Hour after Sunday morning worship via Zoom.

## **Gathering Together - Wednesdays**

Each Wednesday we are Gathering Together as a congregation at 7:15pm to be in community with one another. Be on the lookout for the Zoom information and join us!

## **Daily Prayer – Monday through Friday**

The pastoral staff provides a short video daily devotion available on Vimeo, Facebook, and by email. Quiet your phone, light a candle, and center your mind as you listen to scripture and join us in prayer.

*(Email Lissette Perez-Erazo at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com) if you are not currently receiving the Zoom information for Gathering Together, or emails for Sunday Worship and Daily Prayer.)*

## **Story Time with Sadie - now twice a week!**

Starting next week, join Rebecca Heilman and other special guests on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a Bible story, music and an at-home activity.

## **NYCCC Update**

Our NYC Children's Chorus Artistic Director & Associate Director of Music, Mary Huff, is featured in LinkedIn's new series, "Leadership and the Future of Work." This 10-minute interview gives insight on how music rehearsals at MAPC and her teaching have changed during the pandemic, as well her thoughts on hope for the future. Please view the interview [here](#).

**DO YOU KNOW A CHILD THAT LOVES TO SING?** Auditions for 2020-2021 are open and will be heard via Zoom this season. Please visit [nycchildrenschorus.org](http://nycchildrenschorus.org) for more information and to schedule an audition. Placement in this program is always competitive, so please do encourage friends and family to spread the word and to sign up!

## **Lectio-Divina via Zoom**

Join Beverly Bartlett for Lectio Divina by Zoom on Thursday, May 7 at 4 pm.

Lectio Divina (Holy or Sacred Reading) is a form of contemplative prayer. It is a "formational" rather than "informational" approach to scripture or other sacred writing. You do not need to do anything in preparation, just find a quiet spot, have your Bible nearby and join the Zoom meeting. Rev. Bartlett

will facilitate this spiritual practice. The Zoom invitation will be sent by email next week.

### **Young Adult Happy Hour**

**May 7 at 7 pm**

Join us on Thursday, May 7 for a little-late "Cinco de Mayo" themed virtual Young Adult Happy Hour! April Martin has set it up so we can play the games while hanging out together.

### **Moms' Night Out**

**Thursday, May 7 at 9 pm**, if you would like to join and do receive the Zoom invitation, please contact Rev. Bartlett at [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com).

### **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study, which is currently studying the Psalms, will meet by teleconference on Monday evening, May 11th and 6:30 pm. Please contact Nancy De Bono for details: [ngdebono@gmail.com](mailto:ngdebono@gmail.com).

### **Pre-Teen Zoom Game Gatherings (3rd through 5th Graders)**

Calling all pre-teens (3rd - 5th graders)! Join Rebecca and April on Zoom, Tuesday, May 12 at 3:30pm to hang-out and play games!

### **MAPC Book Club**

Our next book is Charles Dickens' classic novel, *Hard Times*, which is accessible via this [link](#). We are reading Classic novels which are easily accessible on [https://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page). Join us on Tuesday, May 12 at 7 pm on Zoom for a discussion of this amazing work of literature and a time together in community.

### **MAPC High Tea**

**Thursday, May 14 at 4 pm**

Join us for a "High Tea" at MAPC. Brew some tea and share your favorite tea sets or mugs and some recipes for sweet or savory delights.

### **Recipes**

Last week at the High Tea gathering, Lauren Logan shared a scone recipe that everyone wanted. Your wish is our command. Here you go!

Strawberry Scones

From: <https://www.savoryonline.com/recipes/166517/strawberry-scones>

#### Ingredients

2 1/2 cups flour, plus more for dusting  
2 tbsp sugar, plus more for sprinkling  
4 tsp baking powder  
1/4 tsp salt  
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, cut up and cold  
1/2 cup reduced-fat milk  
2 large eggs, divided  
1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract  
1 cup chopped fresh strawberries

#### Steps:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.

Add the butter to flour mixture. Using a pastry cutter or hands, quickly work butter into flour mixture until butter is in pea-sized pieces but has not melted. To the bowl, add the milk, 1 egg, and vanilla, stirring and folding until just combined. Using a spatula, fold in the strawberries.

Transfer dough onto a lightly floured surface and gently knead just until dough comes together. Transfer dough to lined baking sheet and shape into a round loaf (approximately 1½ inches tall). Make 4 cuts into dough to form 8 wedges and separate, spacing 2 inches apart.

In a small bowl, whisk together remaining egg and 1 tbsp water. Brush the top of scones with egg wash and, if desired, sprinkle lightly with sugar. Bake 25–28 min., until golden brown on top and a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

[Check out more quarantine recipes here by other members of MAPC!](#)

### **Monday Evening Bible Study**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month at 7 pm. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark. Please let Rev. Bartlett know if you would like to join this Bible study at [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com). The next Bible Study meeting is May 18.

### **Youth**

We are hosting Youth Gatherings on Zoom two times a week. Current projects include relating books we enjoy to real life and the bible, online games, scavenger hunts and movie nights. Email April Martin at [aem@mapc.com](mailto:aem@mapc.com) with questions.

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## **MAPC on Social Media**

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### **Facebook**

Follow MAPC on Facebook for news, reminders, events, and pictures from everyday life at the church. It's a good way to engage in fellowship and to know what's going on each week.

[facebook.com/MadisonAvenuePresbyterian/](https://facebook.com/MadisonAvenuePresbyterian/)

