

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

# PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



**May 13, 2020**

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

Dear Friends,

From my counting, we are in the midst of week 9 from when we started to cancel in-person activities, gatherings and events at church. This coming Sunday will be our tenth online, recorded worship service. The assistant principals at my daughter's high school hosted a "town hall" for parents last night, and while there were a few questions they could answer, they quickly moved to, "now, we can tell you what we don't know." It became very clear that for them, as for all of us, the next few weeks and months are full of question marks.

When will be able to open the church? We don't know.

When will we get back to in-person worship? We don't know.

When will we be able to have weddings and memorial services? We don't know.

God's people have lived with uncertainty for as long as there have been God's people--perhaps not always to this degree, but this time reminds us that we never really know what the future holds, and we trust God to guide us. Abraham didn't know what lay before him and Sarah, but he trusted God and followed. The people of Israel had no idea what they were in for when God led them out of Egypt and into the wilderness, but they followed (they grumbled, and rebelled at points, but they followed). When God's people

were taken into exile in Babylon, the future seemed bleak and unknown. The disciples didn't know what the future held when they dropped everything and followed Jesus. Jesus' followers didn't know just what lay ahead for them after he ascended into heaven and sent them into the world to carry on his work, but they carried his Word into the world anyway.

In the midst of uncertainty, here's what we DO know:

We continue to worship together.

We continue to join in fellowship through various Zoom gatherings.

We continue to care for one another through many, many check-in phone calls and in praying for one another.

We continue to get messages from our congregation asking, "what can we do?" "How can we help?"

We continue to study scripture together.

We continue to feed people who need a meal on Thursday evenings, and the Urban Outreach Center serves meals out of our doors on Tuesdays.

We continue to provide support to our local partners and to our sisters and brothers in the Synod of Harare during this crisis.

In other words, we continue to be the church. As the signs on our doors currently say, "Love is never cancelled."

This coming Sunday was supposed to be Youth Sunday at MAPC--and it still is! For the past couple of weeks April Martin, Mary Huff and Rebecca Heilman have worked with our children and youth to put together an online Youth Sunday service, which includes this year's confirmation class. Please tune in and then join us for Zoom Fellowship Hour at noon. We expect many of our young people to be joining us for that Zoom so you will have an opportunity to greet them.

We pray that you and those you love remain well.

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 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 and special guests 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 7:15 pm 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-Eraza 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!**

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

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

Calling all pre-teens (3rd - 5th graders)! Join Rebecca and April again on Zoom, Tuesday, May 19 at 3:30 pm to hang-out and play games!

### **MAPC High Tea**

**Thursday, May 14 at 4 pm**

Join us tomorrow for another installment of "High Tea" at MAPC.

Brew some tea and share your favorite tea sets or mugs and some recipes for sweet or savory delights.

You can find recipes from the last high tea at the bottom of this Pastoral Staff Letter.

### **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.

### **Lectio Divina via Zoom**

Join Beverly Bartlett for Lectio Divina by Zoom on Thursday, May 21 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 21 at 7 pm**

Join us on Thursday, May 21st for a virtual Young Adult Happy Hour!

Rev. Rebecca Heilman and April Martin will bring light-hearted and fun games and we will hang out together.

### **Moms' Night Out**

**Thursday, May 21st at 9 pm**, if you would like to join and did not 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 25 at 6:30 pm. Please contact Nancy De Bono for details: [ngdebono@gmail.com](mailto:ngdebono@gmail.com).

### **Youth**

Various Youth Gatherings on Zoom including how various books relate 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 or to be added to the email list.

## **MAPC High Tea Recipes**

### **Nut and Honey Bars**

From Marty Scotzin

Make 16 servings

#### **Ingredients**

Oil or cooking spray for the pan

1/2 C. butter

1/3 C. honey

2/3 C. firmly packed brown sugar

1 egg

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 1/3 C. unbleached all purpose flour

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts, divided

(I had pecans and almonds on hand, so I used them both.)

I also added in some dried cherries.

(You could add any dried fruits you like.)

#### **Steps:**

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Coat an 8-inch square baking pan with the oil or spray.
2. Microwave the butter and honey in a medium microwave-safe bowl on High for 45 seconds or until melted and smooth when stirred. Stir in brown sugar until smooth. Cool 5 minutes.
3. Stir in egg and vanilla until blended. Stir in flour, salt, and baking powder just until blended. Stir in 3/4 cup of nuts. Spread evenly in the prepared pan. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup of nuts. Bake for 30 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and the center is set. Cool completely on a wire rack.

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

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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/)**

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