

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

# PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



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**June 18, 2020**

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

Dear Friends,

If you were going in and out of the building these days, as residents and essential staff are, you would find it much noisier than usual. The construction on the ramp has finally started!!! Though it's noisy, we are so grateful they have begun work, and by the time we are ready for more people to come in and out of the building, we hope the ramp area, with its new doors and easier building access, will be complete.

The news this week has started to move away from the Black Lives Matter protests, but as yet another black man, Rayshard Brooks, was murdered, this time by a police officer in Atlanta, we can not let our attention lag from wrestling with and addressing the racism that is so deeply embedded in our society and its institutions. Our discussions on Sunday mornings in the "Facing Racism" Zoom group are a start, but only a start. We must continue to educate ourselves and do the hard work of being anti-racist--as individuals and a church. Please pray for the families and communities of Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and so many others who have been wrongfully killed. And pray for wisdom, humility, open ears, open hearts, and the courage and will to create real change.

Our COVID-19 numbers in NYC continue to decline, and various institutions and businesses are in the midst of the complex, head-swimming, task of figuring out how they can safely reopen their buildings. I am sure many of

you are wondering when we will be able to gather in the sanctuary again for worship. The answer remains, "we don't know for sure." But the Building Re-opening Task Force is looking at how we will do that safely--what measures we will have to take, and what adjustments we will need to make to "the way we've always done things." Many of the medical experts and scientists tell us, "this is going to be with us for a while." We are going to have to find a careful balance between keeping each other safe and gathering in person again, especially as a church--so many of our members are in a higher risk group. One of the most important words we will need to live and breathe by over the next year or more is "flexibility." Churches aren't always great about being flexible! But this congregation and so many other churches have shown great flexibility, and resiliency, over the last three months in learning, with virtually no lead-time at all, how to be the church when we can't be in our buildings.

Please continue to reach out to each other--not only fellow church members but your neighbors as well. Many people are really struggling--some financially, and some with isolation, loneliness, and depression. We need not only to work to keep each other physically safe and healthy, but to care for those who are struggling due to the necessity of shutting things down and keeping physically distant from one another. Several pastors and psychologists have made the point that we can not, should not, talk about *socially* distancing. We must stay socially connected while *physically* distancing.

Peace to you all,  
Beverly A. Bartlett  
Associate Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

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## Three Ways to Give to MAPC During this Time

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We are grateful to all of you for your financial support of the church during this time. As you know, the church continues to be the church, with staff to pay, buildings to maintain, and ministries to carry out even though our buildings are closed. We understand that with job losses and furloughs, many people are not able to contribute financially. For those of you who are able to continue your financial pledges and offerings, there are now three ways you can give:

**By mail:**

MAPC, Attn: Business Office, 921 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10021

**Through the church's website:**

[www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com)

Click on the "giving" link near the top of the homepage.

### **And electronically through the church's Zelle account:**

Access the "send money with Zelle" option on your bank's App, and type in MAPC as the recipient and [pay@mapc.com](mailto:pay@mapc.com) for the email address. There is a memo line to detail what the payment is for.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

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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!

### **Facing Racism Sunday Morning Class, 10 am via Zoom Conference**

In the wake of the police killing of George Floyd, with the massive demonstrations across our country and in many other nations calling for justice and systemic change, we have resumed the *Facing Racism* Sunday morning class that was interrupted when we had to stop meeting in person. Please join in this Sunday morning conversation. Below you will find links to download both the *Facing Racism* policy and the study guide from the Presbyterian Church USA. We hope to see you on Sunday morning as we engage in this critically important conversation and study together.

[https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/facing\\_racism/resources/facing-racism-policy.pdf](https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/facing_racism/resources/facing-racism-policy.pdf)

[https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/facing\\_racism/facing-racism-study-guide.pdf](https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/facing_racism/facing-racism-study-guide.pdf)

**And here are three additional resources to read or watch, the first is a piece written by Natalie Morris on what it is like for black people to watch white people take on the topic of racism. The second is a TED talk by Dolly Chugh on how our need to be "good" people can actually hold us back from growing into "better" people. And the third is a link to Harvard's *Project Implicit*, with the implicit association tests we talked about last Sunday. There are several tests, and I recommend taking the "Race (Black-White IAT)".**

<https://metro.co.uk/2020/06/12/emotional-impact-watching-white-people-wake-racism-real-time-12839920/>

[fbclid=IwAR2ktPMM0fozcTtIqfOSs4uXMtDmZ0YOhbf0DGdXTmYsy  
FJEplvMDHu-sQw](https://www.facebook.com/fbclid=IwAR2ktPMM0fozcTtIqfOSs4uXMtDmZ0YOhbf0DGdXTmYsyFJEplvMDHu-sQw)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/dolly\\_chugh\\_how\\_to\\_let\\_go\\_of\\_being\\_a\\_good\\_person\\_and\\_become\\_a\\_better\\_person?language=en&fbclid=IwAR3sLXfCLnu-UWX\\_WokLm84\\_Wtlm0AGwJJoQiJaDquRwv2YOiC\\_wiLn2U70#t-695045](https://www.ted.com/talks/dolly_chugh_how_to_let_go_of_being_a_good_person_and_become_a_better_person?language=en&fbclid=IwAR3sLXfCLnu-UWX_WokLm84_Wtlm0AGwJJoQiJaDquRwv2YOiC_wiLn2U70#t-695045)

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

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

Please join us for Virtual Fellowship Hour on Sundays at noon. The pastoral staff will be there, and we look forward to visiting with you. After a few minutes to greet everyone, we will break out into smaller Zoom "Rooms" so we can engage in more conversation, then come back together before signing off.

### **Gathering Together - on hiatus**

With other opportunities for gatherings and classes, we have decided to take a break from the Wednesday evening Gathering Together times for a while. Please join in the Sunday Fellowship Hours, Thursday Afternoon Teas and other offerings below.

### **Daily Prayer – Monday, Wednesday & Friday**

For the summer months, the pastoral staff and church members will provide a short video devotion on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The devotions are available on [Vimeo](#), Facebook, on our [website](#), and by email. Take a few minutes out of your day to center yourself and pray.

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

**Story Time with Sadie** is taking a summer break for a while!

### **Vacation Bible School**

Kindergarteners-5th graders have the opportunity to participate in our first-ever virtual Vacation Bible School. We plan to begin the week of June 29 and continue meeting once a week through the month of July. The theme is Compassion. Rev. Rebecca, April, and the Children and Youth Ministries Committee have planned a virtual experience not to be missed. The youth of MAPC will help lead in each session. Parents of Kindergarteners, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, please look out for emails from Rebecca regarding supplies, date/time, and the zoom links.

**Lectio Divina via Zoom**

**Today, June 18 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, perhaps a pen and some paper or a journal, and join the Zoom meeting. Rev. Bartlett will facilitate this spiritual practice. The Zoom invitation will be sent by email.

### **Young Adult Happy Hour**

**Tonight - June 18th at 8 pm (\*Note the time change!)**

Join us for our bi-monthly virtual Young Adult Happy Hour! Rev. Rebecca Heilman and April Martin will bring light-hearted and fun games and we will hang out together.

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

The Women's Bible Study, which is currently studying the Psalms, will meet by teleconference on Monday evening, June 22 at 6:30 pm. Please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo for details: [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com).

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

**Tuesday, June 23 at 3:30 pm**

Calling all pre-teens (3rd - 5th graders)! Join Rebecca and April on Zoom to hang-out, play games and engage in a short devotion!

### **MAPC Afternoon Tea**

**Thursday, June 25 at 4 pm**

Join us next week for "Afternoon Tea" at MAPC. Brew some hot/cold tea and join in the conversation. See below for a recently shared recipe.

### **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 July 6.

### **Youth**

Our youth are helping to plan and implement the virtual Vacation Bible School for K-5th graders. Email April Martin at [aem@mapc.com](mailto:aem@mapc.com) with interest or questions.

### **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

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Enjoy more recipes [here!](#)

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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/)

