

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

# PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



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**June 25, 2020**

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

Dear Friends,

It is heartening to see more activity in New York City as we entered phase 2 this week, while it is disheartening to see that so many other parts of the country are experiencing what we went through two months ago. It didn't have to be this way. Please pray for the individuals and communities who continue to suffer from the COVID-19 virus and from all the losses that stem from it--employment, businesses, emotional and mental health, and loved ones.

The Building Reopening Task Force had its second meeting this week and continues to sift through the complexities of reopening the building and all that must be done to ensure that in-person activities can be held as safely as possible. For now, the only people in the building are office staff (on a rotating basis), Day School administrators, building staff, the receptionist, construction workers, and residents. The church buildings essentially remain closed apart from staff who have their temperature checked as they enter the building and fill out an attestation that they are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and have not knowingly been exposed to it in the past two weeks.

Though the protests and demonstrations that followed George Floyd's murder no longer dominate the news, we must keep the work of being anti-racist at the forefront of our attention. The Sunday morning *Facing Racism* discussion will take a break for the next two Sundays, while I go away for vacation and

study leave--but there is homework you'll find below. Even if you are not participating in the Sunday discussions, I encourage you to look at the resources and choose something to read and watch. There is always more we can learn. The work of being anti-racist lasts a lifetime.

Here are some of the decisions made by the Session at their June 23 meeting:

--Worship will continue online at least through Labor Day. Session, with guidance from the Building Reopening Task Force, will continue to evaluate when we can safely gather in person for worship.

--All MAPC boards and committees will meet online at least through the end of the year. It does not make sense to hold meetings in person when people must sit six feet apart and wear masks, and people at higher risk would still have to phone in or be present through an online platform. If conditions change significantly this decision can be revisited.

--Approved a motion from the Outreach Committee for a grant to the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) for the Association's 50th Anniversary capital campaign. The campaign will extend the scope of PAM to provide greater resources for small and large churches throughout the U.S. and innovative new programs.

--Approved a motion from the Outreach Committee for a grant to James Lenox House to support their Healthcare Maintenance Program.

--Approved the health insurance plans for staff for July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021.

--And the highlight was meeting with Chesna Hinkley, MAPC member and former seminary intern, who became an Inquirer in the process of becoming a Minister of the Word and Sacrament under care of our Session in May of last year. Inquirer is the first stage in the PCUSA process towards ordination. After a year as an Inquirer, if the individual has further discerned a call, they can ask Session to recommend them as a Candidate. Session happily voted to recommend that the Commission on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of New York City (CPM) enroll Chesna as a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Chesna will meet with the CPM, accompanied by elder Dorothy Kleinert and yours truly on July 27th. Chesna will be preaching in our online service on July 12th, so you will have an opportunity to see her and hear her preach. If her Sunday schedule allows, we hope that she will join us for fellowship hour that day so you may greet her, and congratulate her on this next step toward ordination.

I will be in Maine for the next two weeks, enjoying a long-planned combination of vacation and study leave at the ocean. Stay safe. Read a book that challenges you and another one that's relaxing, and I'll be in touch when we return. Until then, you are in very capable hands with the rest of the staff!

Christ's 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**

*While the discussion group is taking a break for the next two weeks--please see the links below for homework! There are resources for articles and things to watch to continue growing in our understanding of racism and what it means to be anti-racist. Choose something to read, something to*



*watch and dive in. The Sunday morning discussion will resume July 12th.*

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)

**Other resources for reading and watching:**

**Ava DuVernay's documentary *13th* on Netflix, about the 13th amendment and how it led to mass incarceration in the US.**

**"How Structural Racism Works"**

**Presentation by Trisha Rose**

**Tricia Rose '93 PhD, Director of CSREA and Chancellor's Professor of Africana Studies at Brown University and Samuel Rosen, Senior Researcher, How Structural Racism Works Project**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC3TWx9IOUE&feature=youtu.be>

**This is one of the clearest presentations on structural racism I have seen. An hour very well spent.**

**There are many lists of anti-racist resources. Here is a very extensive one that includes articles, books and things to watch:**

<https://medium.com/wake-up-call/a-detailed-list-of-anti-racism-resources-a34b259a3eea>

**And I would encourage you to take the implicit association test on race from Harvard's *Project Implicit*:**

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

**This should be enough to keep you busy for a lifetime!**

**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.

### **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 virtual gatherings and emails for Sunday Worship and Daily Prayer.)*

### **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.

### **MAPC Afternoon Tea**

**Today, June 25 at 4 pm**

Join us today for “Afternoon Tea” at MAPC. Brew some hot/cold tea and join in the conversation.

### **Lectio Divina via Zoom**

**Thursday, July 2 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. Since Rev. Bartlett is on vacation this week, April Martin will facilitate this spiritual practice. The Zoom invitation will be sent by email.

### **Young Adult Happy Hour**

**Thursday, July 2nd 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 continue to 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, July 13 at 6:30 pm. Please contact Lissette Perez-Eraza for details: [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com).

**Pre-Teen Zoom Game Gatherings (3rd Through 5th Graders)  
on hiatus until after Vacation Bible School**

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

**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.

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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/)

