

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



July 2, 2020

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

I am in Maine for the next week and a half, 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!

We ask you to 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 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.

Our Sunday morning *Facing Racism* discussion is taking a break--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.

Our first-ever Virtual Vacation Bible School, led by Rev. Rebecca Heilman, Director of Youth Ministries April Martin, Adult and Youth volunteers kicked off yesterday and today. Our sessions will continue through the month of July. The Pastoral Staff at MAPC is excited to engage Kindergarteners-5th graders in this Compassion-themed Vacation Bible School online this summer.

Christ's peace to you all,
Beverly A. Bartlett
Associate Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

Three Ways to Give to MAPC During this Time

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

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 for the email address. There is a memo line to detail what the payment is for.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Ways to Stay Connected

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--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.

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 mornings 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/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 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 began this week and will continue to meet 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.

NEW: Songs for the Summer

Director of Youth Ministries, April Martin, recorded 6 short songs for the Bar Harbor Music Festival in lieu of traveling to Bar Harbor Maine to sing a full song recital this summer. The recording can be found here. Please enjoy this beautiful music in French and English.

https://youtu.be/8S_AZqaNAPg

Lectio Divina via Zoom

Today, 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

Today, 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.

Monday Evening Bible Study

1st and 3rd 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. The next Bible Study meeting is July 6.

MAPC Afternoon Tea

Thursday, July 9 at 4 pm

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

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-Erazo for details: lgp@mapc.com.

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

Youth

Our youth are helping to plan and implement the virtual Vacation Bible School for K-5th graders and are meeting regularly on Zoom to build community and play games. Email April Martin at aem@mapc.com with interest or questions.

MAPC on Social Media

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/

