

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

## PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



**July 16, 2020**

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

Dear Friends,

This week brought the news that our Pastoral Resident, Rebecca Heilman has received a call as Associate Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. A Pastoral Resident position is impermanent by design--which means, as was the case with our Global Ministry Fellows in previous years, that we will always be saying goodbye after far too short a time. We are grateful to Rebecca for the gifts she has shared with us: her compassion and pastoral care skills, her commitment to mission and hard work with the overnight shelter, and especially her willingness to almost completely change her job and take on Christian Education for children this past year. God had a plan we weren't aware of when we called a pastoral resident with an undergraduate major in Christian Education! Rebecca, we will miss you. We are grateful for all you have given us, and we are excited for you as you look forward to your new call. Rebecca's last day at MAPC is Sunday, July 26th. Though we can't gather in person, we will gather during our Zoom Fellowship Hour that Sunday to say thank you, farewell, and Godspeed to Rebecca.

With Rebecca's departure, the Session voted at a special called meeting on July 13th to increase April Martin's hours to full-time for the time being. We know April's ultimate goal and path is opera, but while that is on hold, we are so grateful she is with us and willing to take on full time responsibilities. In addition to her role as Director of Youth Ministries, April will help with the

children's ministries, continue to reach out to members to check in with them during this challenging time, participate in our online fellowship and prayer gatherings, and will be assisting with the technical aspects of our online video offerings. If she's not careful, she will find herself in seminary!

In other news, the Transitional (Interim) Pastor search is moving along well, and the Building Reopening Task Force continues the complex work of figuring out how we begin to safely reopen the building for certain staff and programs. A current focus is working with the HVAC company to address air flow and filtration.

As other parts of the country are going through what NYC experienced in the spring, with alarming numbers of cases and hospitals that are over capacity, we pray for healing for those who are ill, comfort and peace for those who are dying, strength for medical workers, and wisdom, integrity and compassion for all our leaders.

I hope you are finding ways to relax and restore your souls this summer. I returned Saturday evening from the coast of Maine, and there is nothing more relaxing and restorative than having the ocean at your back door for two weeks. I hope you can get away, too. Safely, of course. In your imagination, if nothing else.

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, click on the link below to see how:

[Give Now](#)

*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.

Find all our services here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

### **Children's Worship**

Find all of our videos here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

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

Find all of them here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

### **Archived Storytime with Sadie & Tales with Timber**

Find all of our videos here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

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## **Opportunities for Fellowship**

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Zoom invites are sent regularly by email.

### **Lectio Divina**

*Today at 4 pm*

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. Meets bi-monthly.

### **Virtual Fellowship Hour**

*Sundays at 12 noon*

Please join us for Virtual Fellowship Hour. Every Sunday.

### **Afternoon Tea**

*Thursday, July 23 at 4 pm*

Join in conversation during our bi-monthly “Afternoon Tea” at MAPC.

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## **For Adults**

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### **Young Adult Happy Hour**

### ***Tonight at 8 pm***

Join to play light-hearted games, engage in a quick devotion and hang out together.

### **Moms Night Out**

#### ***Tonight at 9 pm***

Pour a glass of wine and enjoy conversation. There is certainly a lot to talk about these days, and it will be great to see each other.

### **Facing Racism Morning Class**

#### ***Sundays at 10 am***

We will continue our discussion of the material in week 5 of the Study Guide this Sunday. Find all the resources here:

[Click Here for "Facing Racism" Resources](#)

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## **For Children & Youth**

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### **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

We just finished session 3 of our first-ever virtual Vacation Bible School and will continue to meet once a week through the month of July. The youth of MAPC will help lead in each session.

Zoom links and pertinent info will continue to be sent to parents of Kindergarteners, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th graders who are participating.

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

This gathering is *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. Email April Martin at [aem@mapc.com](mailto:aem@mapc.com) with interest or questions.

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## **Bible Studies**

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### **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](mailto:bab@mapc.com). The next Bible Study meeting is July 20.

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

The Women's Bible Study, which is currently studying the Psalms, will meet by teleconference on Monday evening, July 27 at 6:30 pm. Please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo for more details: [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com)

## Additional Information

### GetCool Air Conditioner Program

If you need an air conditioner this summer, please call 311 or enroll here:

<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03305>

### Songs for the Summer

Director of Youth Ministries, April Martin, recorded 6 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](https://youtu.be/8S_AZqaNAPg)

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*Email Lissette Perez-Eraza at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com) if you are not currently receiving Zoom information or would like to receive any additional information regarding any of our online gatherings.*

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

