

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

# PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



**July 23, 2020**

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

Dear Friends,

We say farewell to our Pastoral Resident, Rebecca Heilman, this Sunday. Please join in the Zoom Fellowship Hour, Sunday at noon, where we will say "thank you" and "Godspeed" to Rebecca. If you would like to send Rebecca a card, you can send it to her at the church and we will forward it to her. We will miss you, Rebecca, and are deeply grateful for your time with us and the gifts you have shared with us. We are excited about your future ministry and look forward to hearing about it.

In more normal times, summers are quiet at MAPC--committees and boards do not meet in July and August, and classes and most group activities take a break. But these are far from normal times. Session, the Personnel Committee, Trustees, the Building Reopening Task Force, Christian Education, Fellowship groups, Bible studies, the Facing Racism discussions--all of these, and more, have continued into the summer--and we are a stronger church community because of it. The Building Reopening Task Force and MAPC Staff are focusing on how to partially reopen the building in as safe a way as possible. The search for a Transitional Pastor (Interim) is proceeding. The construction on the ramp entryway continues. And I wish you could see our delightful Vacation Bible School. I watched a recording of last week's session with the younger children. Seeing 5-7 year olds, middle school helpers and adults engage in an hour of Bible School together through Zoom was a reminder of how we fulfill our baptismal vows to support those who are

baptized into the church and teach them about faith. Thank you Rebecca, April and our CE leaders for providing this summer program for our children.

We are all longing to "get back to normal"--to see each other, to have coffee together in the lobby, to worship in person in the sanctuary. For now, we need to accept that "getting back to normal" is still a ways off. Though we have done a remarkable job of suppressing the COVID-19 virus in NYC, as you all know, it is rampant in much of our country, and we will need to continue to practice physical-distancing, and mask-wearing, to keep each other safe. We do not want to repeat what we went through in April. We need to remind ourselves that we will probably never go back to things just as they were. There will be a new normal, even when we reach the far side of this pandemic. Though this time is challenging--especially for the extroverts among us--what gifts will we bring out of it? Remember, Paul tells us in Romans that God works for good in all things. That doesn't mean all things ARE good--the deaths and physical, economic, mental and emotional suffering of this pandemic are not good. But in the midst of what is tragic, how is God working for good? In some ways, people are closer than ever--and have made extra effort to stay connected. Meeting and worshiping online has made it possible for people who normally could not participate to be part of the community. The other day I heard from a woman in Arkansas--she and her mother watch our worship services every week, and she can't wait to visit in person when it is safe to do so. Members who have mobility issues and find it hard to get to church have been able to participate more fully. Those who normally would have to arrange for child care to be at a church meeting or fellowship event no longer have to do so. There are challenges--for instance, we have a handful of older adults who cannot access the technology to participate in Zoom gatherings or watch our services, but there are also blessings we will take from this time.

In the meantime, the faithful thing to do is continue to worship and gather through our phones, tablets and computers; and perhaps have a physically distant visit in the park. As someone recently remarked, "this is not about us. This is about doing what we need to do to love our neighbors and keep people as safe as possible."

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, click on the link below to see the three ways you can give:

[Give Now](#)

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

---

## Ways to Stay Connected

---

### **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 children's worship 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 your favorite stories and tales here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

---

## Opportunities for Fellowship

---

Zoom invites are sent regularly by email.

### **Afternoon Tea**

*Today, July 23 at 4 pm*

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

### **Virtual Fellowship Hour**

*Sundays at 12 noon*

Please join us for Virtual Fellowship Hour. Every Sunday.

## **Lectio Divina**

*Thursday, August 6 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.

---

## **For Adults**

---

### **Young Adult Happy Hour**

*Thursday, August 6 at 8 pm*

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

### **Moms Night Out**

We have not yet set a date for the next Moms Night Out. Watch this space!

### **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](#)

---

## **For Children & Youth**

---

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

We just finished session 4 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.

---

# Bible Studies

---

## Monday Evening Bible Study

Normally on the 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). Since Rev. Bartlett will be on vacation/study leave the first three weeks of August, the next Evening Bible Study is August 24.

## 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-Eraza for more details: [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com)

---

## Additional Information

---

### Lake Junaluska Singers

In the last two weeks of June, Mary Huff and Andrew Henderson spent time working with the Lake Junaluska Singers in Western North Carolina, where Mary is the conductor of the group. Adhering to strict protocols in rehearsal and recordings in a significantly shortened season, we are pleased that all are healthy and the fruits of their musical labor are available online. Please enjoy their Independence Day Concerts [here](#). Former MAPC Pastor, George Buttrick, received mention in the sermon last Sunday at Lake Junaluska by Rev. Dr. Tom Long, and you may enjoy hearing his sermon and Mary's musical offerings with the Lake Junaluska Singers for that service, as well. You can find it [here](#).

### 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)

### 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>

---

*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/)

---

