

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



July 30, 2020

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

There is much to share with you this week! So without further ado, let's dive in:

An email was sent to members yesterday sharing the news that Session voted Tuesday evening to invite The Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn to serve as our next Transitional Pastor/Head of Staff. The Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of New York City will meet with Patrick at its September meeting to appoint him Moderator of Session and receive him into membership of the Presbytery. Patrick will begin at MAPC in mid-October. Transitional (also called Interim) pastors are called by the Session, rather than the congregation. Patrick is currently finishing up as Interim Pastor of Bedford Presbyterian Church, in Bedford, NY. It is a challenge for a new pastor and a congregation to get to know each other under pandemic conditions, but the Session will find opportunities for members to get acquainted with Patrick online, beginning with a brochure members will receive in the next week or so. We will also post that on our website.

Session also invited Chesna Hinkley to serve in a one-year position as Director of Christian Education and Outreach Ministries, beginning September 1, taking on Rebecca Heilman's responsibilities. Chesna became a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament this past Monday, and though she has completed seminary and all other requirements for ordination, in the

Presbyterian system she must be a candidate for a year before she can be ordained. Chesna will be familiar to most of you, since she served as one of our seminary interns during the 2018-2019 academic year, and preached for our online worship service July 12 of this year. She is excited to return to MAPC, and we are excited she is joining us!

Session also gave April Martin a new title and approved her new job description as Director of Youth Ministries and Associate for Congregational Engagement. We are grateful April is with us and able to work full-time for a while--though we also pray she will be able to continue on her path as an opera singer soon. If you have not clicked on the link at the bottom of this newsletter yet, to hear her recorded recital for the Bar Harbor Music Festival, please do so. I promise it will brighten your day.

The Session voted on three motions from the Building Reopening Task Force:

1. That our regular Sunday morning worship service remain online until further notice.
2. Small weddings, funerals, memorial services and baptisms may be conducted in consultation with the Head of Staff and according to NY State and City laws and guidelines.
3. The Day School will reopen this fall, in accordance with NY State and City laws and guidelines.

We all want to be in worship together. There is much to consider in figuring out how and when we can do that safely. While some of you have expressed the desire to start up soon, we hear from many others on our Zoom gatherings and meetings that they do not feel safe attending worship in person, and will not until there is a safe and effective vaccine. We are working on installing strong internet service in the sanctuary so that worship leaders will be able to livestream worship from the sanctuary. For now, we are able to provide meaningful worship online, including beautiful music and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. By doing so we are keeping each other safe and contributing to the well being of the larger community by helping to keep NYC's community spread at a minimum.

I will be driving to Georgia to visit my parents on Friday, returning to NYC on August 23, and quarantining for two weeks. This will be part work and part vacation. I am looking forward to sitting on the porch at the farm, looking out over the fields, pond and hills and having time with my family.

I hope you all find some time to relax this August.

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

Worship in August

August 2 -- Our guest preacher this coming Sunday is Lydia Tembo (she/her/hers), Assistant Director of Recruitment at Princeton Theological Seminary. She received her M.Div from Princeton in 2019. Lydia is Certified Ready to Receive a Call, under care of the Presbytery of NYC (that means she has met all the requirements for ordination in the PCUSA). Lydia is an energetic, faithful member and Ruling Elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills, and stirs up "good kind of trouble" as a board member of More Light Presbyterians and Princeton Presbyterians. When Lydia isn't on Zoom calls or preparing sermons, she enjoys time with her life partner Michael and hanging out with friends and family.

August 9 -- The Rev. Carmen Goetschius, MAPC's first Global Ministry Fellow, currently a Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon, will be our guest preacher.

August 16 -- The Rev. Beverly Bartlett will be preaching from the porch in the mountains of Northeast Georgia.

August 23 -- The Rev. José González-Colón, Pastor of Iglesia Presbiteriana en Hato Rey in San Juan, Puerto Rico will be our guest preacher. MAPC members will remember José from the years we supported his ministry at First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn and his sermons during our Good Friday services.

August 30 -- The Rev. Beverly Bartlett will be preaching.

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*](#)

Being the first Sunday of the month, we encourage you to give a little extra for our monthly food offering to support the Open Table ministry.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

MAPC's Open Table

Elder Kathy Hoffman continues to lead a small team of volunteers every Thursday in working to prepare and hand out sack dinners to those who are food insecure from the 73rd Street Phillips Building doors. Though only 3 to 4 volunteers are necessary, we do need people in August. If you are not in a high risk group, can safely get to the church and would like to volunteer, please contact our Office Manager, Lissette Perez-Eraza at lgp@mapc.com, and she will get in touch with Kathy.

For Children & Youth

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Today was the final session of our five-week long virtual Vacation Bible School. Special thanks to the adults and youth volunteers who lead these special sessions! 3rd-5th graders, youth and adult volunteers - please join us for pre-teen gatherings and K-2nd graders please join us for Thursdays for Children!

Thursdays for Children

*NEW: Kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders: you are invited to Thursdays for Children. We'll meet from 9 to 9:45 am on Thursday, August 13th and Thursday, September 3rd.

We will read a story, craft and join in fellowship together. Please mark your calendar and watch your email for the zoom info.

Pre-Teen Zoom Game Gatherings are back!

3rd - 5th graders, join us MONDAY, August 3rd at 3 pm for jackbox games, a chance to catch up and a brief devotion. April will send the zoom link on Friday. See you on Monday!

Youth

*NEW: Virtual Youth/Family Dinners - Set up a time to share dinner (virtually) and check in with Director of Youth Ministries and Associate for Congregational Engagement, April Martin. Email April at aem@mapc.com.

We are developing plans for the Fall and are interested in your thoughts on what you want and need from the youth program.

***NEW: Hobby Hour**

Thursday, August 6th at 5 pm - Youth in 6th - 12th grade, login to zoom to share your hobbies with other youth and adult volunteers.

Do you bake, watch anime, play video games, play basketball, or make origami? What do you like to do? Share your interests and skills. 30-45 minutes of fellowship on zoom.

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.

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.

Afternoon Tea

Thursday, August 13 at 4 pm

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

For Adults

Facing Racism Morning Class

Sundays at 10 am

We will continue our discussion of the material in week 6 of the Study Guide this Sunday. Find all the resources here:

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

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!

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. 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, met this week by teleconference. Please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo for more details: 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

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-Erazo at 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/

