

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

# PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



## August 6, 2020

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

Dear Friends,

A somewhat briefer note this week from the porch in the mountains of North Georgia. It is an idyllic place to sit and write--looking out over the fields, pond and hills, listening to the birds. I hope you, too, find a place to restore your soul this summer--even if it is just sitting on a bench in Central Park. I am grateful to have this time with my family--and grateful to have this place where it is easy to keep physical distance in a state that is a hot spot.

As many of you know, since the murder of George Floyd, a group of anywhere from 16 to 25 MAPC members have been meeting by Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10 to engage in a Facing Racism study and discussion, using PCUSA materials. Last Sunday, the group decided to take a break until the Sunday after Labor Day and resume the Sunday morning discussions then. The goal is that educating ourselves about the history and current reality of racism, and learning how to be anti-racist will lead to change and action on an individual, church and societal level. So we aren't just taking a break in August, but continuing to read, and watch and listen to documentaries, podcasts and such. One of our members challenged us to also DO something this month, take some sort of action in our commitment to be anti-racist.

I want to draw your attention to the upcoming "Presbyterian Week of Action," August 24-30. Please read more about it and plan to participate in some way. Here is the link for information, the current schedule and

resources. It will continue to be updated:

<https://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction/>

Thank you to the Rev. Carmen Goetschius for leading us in worship this coming Sunday and giving me a break this week!

Christ's peace to you all,

Beverly A. Bartlett

Associate Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

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## Worship in August

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**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.

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## Daily Prayer

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

Find all of them here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

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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 the three ways you can give:

[Give Now](#)

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

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## MAPC's Open Table

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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-Erao at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com), and she will get in touch with Kathy.

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## For Children & Youth

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### **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 10th at 3 pm for jackbox games, a chance to catch up and a brief devotion. See you on Monday!

### **Youth**

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](mailto: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**

Today, 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.

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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 children's worship videos 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](#)

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## For Adults--Opportunities for Fellowship & Study

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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**

*Today, 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 & Discussion on Kate Bowler's Podcast Based on Her Book: *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved***

*Thursday, August 13 at 4 pm*

We will listen together to a clip from Rev. Kate Bowler's podcast based on her book.

More Info: "Kate Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity School with a modest Christian upbringing, but she specializes in the study of the prosperity gospel, a creed that sees fortune as a blessing from God and misfortune as a mark of God's disapproval. At 35, everything in her life seems to point toward "blessing". She is thriving in her job, married to her high school sweetheart, and loves life with her newborn son.

Then she is diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer.

The prospect of her own mortality forces Kate to realize that she has been tacitly subscribing to the prosperity gospel, living with the conviction that she can control the shape of her life with "a surge of determination". Even as this type of Christianity celebrates the American can-do spirit, it implies that if you "can't do" and succumb to illness or misfortune, you are a failure. Kate is very sick, and no amount of positive thinking will shrink her tumors. What does it mean to die, she wonders, in a society that insists everything happens for a reason? Kate is stripped of this certainty only to discover that without it, life is hard but beautiful in a way it never has been before.

Frank and funny, dark and wise, Kate Bowler pulls the reader deeply into her life in an account she populates affectionately with a colorful, often hilarious retinue of friends, megachurch preachers, relatives and doctors. *Everything Happens for a Reason* tells her story, offering up her irreverent hard-won observations on dying and the ways it has taught her to live."

## **Young Adult Happy Hour**

*Today, 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**

The Facing Racism discussion group is taking a break until Sunday, September 13. Please continue to read, watch and listen to resources on understanding the history and current realities of racism in our society. Here is a link to some of these resources:

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

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## **Bible Studies**

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### **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, met this week by teleconference. Please contact Lissette Perez-Eraza for more details: [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com)

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## **Additional Information**

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### **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>

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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.*

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## **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/)

