

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



August 27, 2020

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

As I write this late Wednesday afternoon, the meteorologists are warning that there is an "unsurvivable storm surge" about to hit the Louisiana and Texas coast as Hurricane Laura approaches, and that some coastal communities may be completely wiped out. What devastating news for all who are in its path. We may begin to know just how devastating the waters and winds from the storm are tomorrow, when it is safe for helicopters to begin to survey the damage, but it will probably be days before we know the real toll.

While there is a literal unsurvivable storm surge approaching the southern coast, it feels like we are experiencing metaphorical storm surges on many fronts--the horrifying police shooting of Jacob Blake, and equally terrifying shootings and killing of two protesters by an armed civilian; the struggle to make Black Lives Matter a reality in this country and not just a slogan; the wildfires in California; the ongoing ravaging of COVID-19, especially among communities of color, and our country's inability to do what other countries have done to control it--at least to the extent where outbreaks are manageable. In a Bible study and conversation this afternoon, (which you can watch a recording of here: <https://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction/#3>) that was part of the PCUSA "Week of Action", our Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson was speaking about the trouble we get into when we believe we are in control, when we cling to control. He spoke of this in terms of our country's response to COVID-19, "when others have been through the same pandemic

and it is now gone, and they've moved on with their lives, we're still hanging on to it because we can't slow down for a minute, and we can't, for some time, just be in the presence of God while the storm passes over."

In order to slow the virus, we have to stop for a while and let the storm pass over. In addressing other matters, like racism, we have to do the opposite and continually recommit ourselves to becoming anti-racist and work to change the structures and systems that keep racism embedded in our society. As the shooting of Jacob Blake reminds us, it is not time to "move on" and talk about something else. We have a long, long way to go before we can do that. Please make time to look at the PCUSA Week of Action web page (<https://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction/>). Watch something, engage in something, listen and learn from the voices of people of color you'll find in each day's offerings and activities.

I don't need to tell you what to include in your prayers--all you have to do is listen to the news. Here is a link to the hymn text that Rev. Nelson referred to in the Bible study, *The Storm is Passing Over*, by Charles Albert Tindley, whose father was a slave, and who became a Methodist minister and was both a captivating preacher and hymn writer. May its words become a reality.
https://hymnary.org/text/courage_my_soul_and_let_us_journey_on#Author

May Christ's peace be with us, and may the Holy Spirit goad us on to make good, necessary trouble,

Beverly A. Bartlett

Associate Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

Chesna Hinkley

Chesna Hinkley will begin her year-long appointment as our Director of Christian Education and Outreach Ministries September 1st. We look forward to welcoming Chesna back to MAPC!

Worship

The Rev. Beverly Bartlett will be preaching this Sunday. Please join us for online worship.

Sunday Worship

Join us for pre-recorded services of worship on Sunday mornings.

Find all our services here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

Daily Prayer

Daily Prayer – Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Find all of them here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

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!

For Children & Youth

Thursdays for Children

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

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 31st at 3 pm for jackbox games, a chance to catch up and a brief devotion.

NOTE: This group will NOT meet on Labor Day and is hoping to shift to meeting on Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 pm beginning Sept. 9th.

Youth

Virtual Youth/Family Dinners

During these last 2 weeks of summer, meet Director of Youth Ministries and Associate for Congregational Engagement, April Martin on Zoom to check

in.

Email April at aem@mapc.com to schedule a date and time.

We are developing plans for the Fall and are interested in your thoughts for the youth program.

Hobby Hour

Today at 5 pm - Youth in 6th - 12th grade, login to zoom to play games and engage in a short devotion or time of prayer. 30-45 minutes of fellowship on Zoom.

Ways to Stay Connected

Sunday Worship

See link for Worship above.

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](#)

For Adults--Opportunities for Fellowship & Study

Zoom invites are sent regularly by email.

Virtual Fellowship Hour

Sundays at 12 noon

Please join us for Virtual Fellowship Hour. Every Sunday.

**NOTE: An email with the Zoom link will be sent out on Sunday mornings.

Lectio Divina & Afternoon Tea

We are taking a break until Fall.

Young Adult Happy Hour

Thursday, September 3rd at 8 pm

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

Moms' Night Out

We are working on setting the next Moms' Night Out date. Stay tuned!

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](#)

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study

Normally on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7 pm. We will not meet on Labor Day, so the next Bible Study will be Monday, September 21, when we expect to finish the Gospel of Mark! We will either study 1 and 2 Samuel next, or the Sermon on the Mount. Please let Rev. Bartlett know if you would like to join this Bible study at bab@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study, which is currently studying the Psalms, met this week by teleconference. The next meeting is Monday, August 31. Please contact Lissette Perez-Eraza for more details: 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>

Email Lissette Perez-Eraza 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/

