

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



September 3, 2020

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

We are excited to welcome Chesna Hinkley back this week. As was announced earlier this summer, Chesna will be here for the next year as our Director of Christian Education and Outreach Ministries. Chesna's primary responsibilities with Christian Education are for our children's programs, but she will be working closely with April Martin, helping with confirmation, youth and young adult ministries as well. She'll also be joining some of our adult education programs and may do some teaching there as the year progresses. She'll also be staffing the Outreach Ministries and Evangelism committees. We are so glad you are back with us this year, Chesna!

In other exciting news--the ramp renovation is complete!! If your walks take you by the church, please take note of the new ramp entrance. The doors are now automated, which will make entrance for those using strollers, walkers, scooters, and wheelchairs much easier. We have been anticipating this renovation for a few years now, and it is wonderful to finally have it done. Here is a photo of the new entrance:



As I'm sure you have all heard, the NYC public schools have delayed their opening. The independent schools have their own individual plans, with some children returning full-time, others part-time, and others 100% remote. It is a stressful time for families and educators, and anyone who is figuring how to return to a workplace safely--so remember to be patient and kind with yourselves and each other.

As far as the church buildings are concerned, we have implemented new safety practices: up stairwells and down stairwells, one-way entrances and exits, limited elevator occupancy, hand sanitizer stations and bottles all over the place, lots of disinfecting and cleaning, physical distancing dots on the floor of the lobby for drop-off and stencils on the sidewalk for people waiting to enter the building, procuring air purifiers, installing new filters in the HVAC system, keeping windows open, checking everyone's temperature as they enter and having them attest to their health status, and making sure we have lots of face masks on hand. Our primary focus is getting the day school up and running with adequate safety protocols in place. I know some of you are eager to return to the sanctuary for worship, while many do not feel it is safe to do so yet. Please know that the Building Reopening Task Force continues to have conversations about when and how we may be able to offer in-person worship, but we do not have any decisions yet. As schools and

universities start up and more people return to the city, we will see what the numbers do this fall.

Have a safe Labor Day weekend. I'll leave you with a couple of verses from this Sunday's passage from Romans 13:9-10:

“The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”

May we strive to live in love, with all its complicated demands and challenges,

Beverly A. Bartlett

Associate Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

Worship

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

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

***NEW--SAVE THE DATE:**

Back to School Blessings for the MAPC Community

WHEN: Friday, September 11

7 pm MAPC's first ever Live Zoom service will begin

WHAT: A 10-15 minute service of blessings for our students, teachers and families. Led by Children, Youth and the Pastoral Staff

After the service we will divide into break-out groups for brief discussions about hopes, fears and ambitions for the new year!

Ministries for Children

Watch this space for updates about gatherings with our MAPC children.

Pre-Teen Zoom Game Gatherings are back!

3rd - 5th graders - we will NOT meet on Labor Day.

We will meet weekly on Wednesdays beginning September 9th (4:30-5:30 pm) on Zoom.

Youth Ministry

Join Zoom for Youth group at 5 pm TODAY and then watch this space for updates about youth (middle and high school) gatherings.

Autumn Leaves & Lullabies

April Martin sings soothing covers of lullabies. From a CD of lullabies recorded a few years ago by our amazing NYCCC and MAPC's Children's Choir, we pulled a terrific version of "Jesus Loves Me" to supplement April's recordings.

Children of all ages will enjoy these classics as we venture into the season of Autumn.

[Listen to the Lullabies Here](#)



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 at 8 am.

Lectio Divina & Afternoon Tea

We are taking a break, but please watch this space for congregational activities/virtual gatherings in the Fall.

Young Adult Happy Hour

TONIGHT, 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, meets by teleconference. The next meeting is Monday, September 14. 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/

