

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

## PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



**September 10, 2020**

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

Dear Friends,

With Labor Day weekend behind us, the fall program year is upon us. Though it is like no other we have known, as in every other year, as school starts up again, so does church programming. Below you will see information on our special Back to School Blessings service and gathering tomorrow evening. Via Zoom, our young people will lead us in a brief worship service, offering blessings for students, teachers and families, then we will break out into smaller groups for conversation on what it's like going back to school and working in the midst of a pandemic. All are welcome to join in this time of worship and sharing.

Below you will see upcoming ministries and programs for children, youth, and adults. There should be something for everyone, and we hope to see you--there are even a few in-person opportunities that we are offering, following public health guidelines.

We have wasted no time putting our new Director of Christian Education and Outreach Ministries, Chesna Hinkley, to work. She has been busy helping to plan programs for our children and youth, meeting with the Outreach Committee, and she's preaching for Sunday's worship service!

On a sad note, our longtime member Bette Dewing Brabec died Sunday evening. Bette joined MAPC in 1957, and many of you will have read her regular columns in Our Town. She was a tireless advocate for senior citizens

and pedestrian safety. Bette would have turned 98 in December and had been at Upper Eastside Nursing Home for the last few months. We will work with Bette's sons to plan a service when pandemic conditions allow.

Please keep those living on the west coast and many western states in your prayers as they experience the worst fire season in memory. And please don't forget those devastated by the hurricane in Louisiana. There is much to pray for and keep in our hearts--those suffering from the COVID-19 virus and the effects it has had on employment and financial security for so many people, the ongoing struggle for racial justice in our country, troubled international relations--the list of prayer concerns seems endless. May our trust in God's steadfast love, our hope in Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit sustain us and inspire us to be channels of God's healing love and justice.

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

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## Youth and Children at MAPC this Fall

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### Youth (Ages 6th - 12th Grade)

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YOUTH ON THE ROOF! For six Wednesdays this fall, we invite all youth in middle and high school to join us *in-person* and *virtually* from 5:45-7pm for food, fellowship, music, study, and fun. We will begin with a safely

prepared box dinner prepared by Chef him on our roof. Masked study, fellowship and fun will follow, all keeping our physical distance, but strengthening our faith and friendships. Virtual youth are welcome to join from their homes, eating dinner and joining in discussion, 5:45-6:30. September 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28.

YOUTH IN THE GYM! For two Wednesdays in November, we will meet *in-person* in the MAPC gym for safe games and pizza-to-go. Lots of fellowship, food, and fun!  
November 4 and 18.

YOUTH ON THE ROAD! On December 9, we will carol outside for our neighbors who are staying "Safe at Home" during the pandemic.  
December 9.

## Children: Faith and Fun (Connecting Virtually)

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PRESCHOOLERS! At-home resources will be mailed to families with preschool age children in October.

WEDNESDAYS FOR KIDS! (K-2nd grade) kicks off **next Wednesday, September 16, at 4:30-5:15 pm on Zoom**. We will play games and get to know each other. This fall, we'll learn about covenants. Wednesdays for Kids will meet **every first and third Wednesday** this fall. Contact Chesna Hinkley ([ceh@mapc.com](mailto:ceh@mapc.com)) for more info and watch this space for updates!

PRE-TEEN CONNECT (3rd-5th grade) meets **every second and fourth Wednesday at 4:30-5:15 pm on Zoom**. This fall, we'll learn about the beginnings in God's story. Contact Chesna Hinkley ([ceh@mapc.com](mailto:ceh@mapc.com)) for more info and watch this space for updates!

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### 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](#)



# Autumn Leaves & LULLABIES



Covers of Disney Classics, Folk  
Songs & *Jesus Loves Me*

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## Worship

Please join us for online worship. Chesna Hinkley, Director of Christian Education and Outreach Ministries, will be preaching this coming Sunday.

### Sunday Worship

Join us for pre-recorded services of worship on Sunday mornings.  
Find all our services here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

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## Daily Prayer

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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## Ways to Stay Connected

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### **Back to School Blessings for the MAPC Community**

WHEN: Tomorrow, September 11

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

WHAT: A 10-15 minute service blessing our students, teachers and families.

Led by Children, Youth and the Pastoral Staff.

All from the MAPC Community are welcome to join.

The zoom invitation will be sent by email tomorrow morning.

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

### **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](#)

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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.

**\*\*NOTE:** An email with the Zoom link will be sent out on Sunday mornings at 8 am.

## **Lectio Divina & Tea/Discussion Gatherings**

Next week we will resume our Thursday afternoon gatherings. On the first and third Thursdays of the month, Beverly Bartlett will lead Lectio Divina at 3:30 pm, and on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, April Martin will lead discussions based on Kate Bowler's podcast and other materials about grief at 4 pm. Join this safe space for Tea and discussions!

Thursday, September 17, at 3:30 PM, Lectio Divina

Thursday, September 24, at 4 pm, Tea & Discussion

Thursday, October 1, at 3:30 pm, Lectio Divina

Thursday, October 8, at 4 pm, Tea & Discussion

## **NEW! A Walk in the Park**

Please join MAPC friends for a masked walk in Central Park, Saturday morning, September 19th. We will meet at the 72nd Street and 5th Avenue entrance at 9 am. Please let us know if you plan to come, so we will know who to watch for. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com).

## **Young Adult Happy Hour**

*Thursday, September 17th at 8 pm*

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

## **Becoming Anti-Racist, Sunday Morning Discussion Group, 10 am**

We will resume our Sunday morning discussions via Zoom this Sunday. Please read or listen to this September 9th NPR interview with the Rev. Lenny Duncan, author of "Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S." and "United States of Grade: A Memoir of Homelessness, Addiction, Incarceration, and Hope"

[See or Read Interview Here](#)

The interview is short and will only take a few minutes of your time. If you can't fit it in before Sunday, please join the conversation anyway!

And here is a link to other 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. The next Evening 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](mailto: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-Erazo 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-Erazo 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

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### 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/)

