

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



September 17, 2020

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the Mayor and Chancellor have just announced that rather than in-person school starting for all public school students opting for the 'hybrid' model on Monday, there will now be a phased-in approach. I think most of us public school parents knew there would be further delays. "Uncertainty" is the word of the year (one of them, anyway), which means "flexibility" is, too--not just with schools, but with all areas of our lives: work, church, businesses, school, travel, holidays, and the upcoming elections. There is little that feels stable right now, and most of us are experiencing increased stress and anxiety, which means our faith and our church community are more important than ever. Even though MAPC has also had to be flexible, we are still the church, and Christ is still the rock upon which we build our lives. With the frustrations, stress and anxiety of our days overwhelm you, take a moment, close your eyes, breathe deeply, and remember that rock that upholds you. Remember that you are part of a community built on that rock. Pause, for just a moment or two if that is all you have, and anchor yourself again to that rock. Say to yourself the verse from Psalm 46, "Be still, and know that I am God."

If you would like to meet MAPC friends for a masked, distanced walk, please join us for a walk in Central Park this Saturday, September 19 at 9 am. Details including RSVP info, are below.

Please be sure and join in the Zoom Fellowship Hour this Sunday. We will begin at noon as usual, and at 12:30 we will baptize Eleanor Gagnon Phalnikar. Eleanor's parents, Elizabeth and Rahul, and immediate family will be with me in the Sanctuary, and you all will be present through Zoom. As you know, we don't have private baptisms in the Presbyterian Church--the congregation is present and participates as we welcome those being baptized into the body of Christ, the church. We encourage you to be present on the Zoom gathering as we promise to support and love Eleanor as she grows in faith.

Though we are not yet ready to meet safely in-person in the Sanctuary, we are going to hold a Morning Prayer service on the Roof Garden, Sunday, September 27th at 9 am. You will need to make a reservation, and we have to limit attendance to 25 people, plus staff. The Central Park Conservancy will not issue permits for gatherings of more than 25-30 people, so meeting there would not allow for any more people to attend. You can find more details, including sign-up information, below.

Looking ahead a couple of weeks, we will receive Megan Rau and Stephen Eng into membership during the Zoom Fellowship at 12:30 on October 4. Once again, I will be in the Sanctuary with Megan and Stephen as we baptize Stephen, and we will include all of you via Zoom. Megan and Stephen were scheduled to join MAPC on Sunday, March 15, the first Sunday we went online. They have been active in our online ministries, have offered one of our daily devotions, and we are so glad they are officially joining us now, 6 months later!

Finally, today was the last day for our building staff employee, Jesse Wine, who is retiring. Many of you will have met or seen Jesse around the building, especially since he was often here on Sundays. Jesse has been at MAPC since 1999, longer than anyone else apart from 2 or 3 Day School teachers. Jesse has been dependable, kind, and unflappable--a steady presence even when asked to do things at the last minute and beyond the call of duty. We will miss him, and we wish Jesse a wonderful, long, healthy retirement. The staff met on the Roof Garden this afternoon to toast Jesse and say congratulations, thank you, and farewell.



MAPC Staff saying congratulations and farewell to Jesse Wine.



Jesse Wine, part of our maintenance staff at MAPC for 20+ years.

Stay well, and keep those suffering from the devastating fires, hurricanes, flooding and COVID-19 virus in your hearts and prayers.

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

Worship

Please join us for online worship. Rev. Beverly Bartlett 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](#)

Morning Prayer, Sunday, September 27 9 am on the Roof Garden

We will offer an in-person Morning Prayer service on the Roof Garden at 9 am on Sunday, September 27. This will be a shorter service with prayers, scripture readings and music, probably no more than a half-hour. We have to limit the numbers to 25 people (plus staff), so reservations are required. Not

only do we have to keep a count, but we have to have names and contact information for contract tracing. Masks covering both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times in the building and on the Roof Garden. We will take temperatures and have those attending sign a health attestation--which is the church's policy for everyone entering the building. If it goes well, we will have additional Morning Prayer services before it gets too cold. If you have trouble making your reservation, please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com.

[Reserve Your Spot Here](#)

Choir at MAPC

We are pleased that some of MAPC's choral programs have resumed with in-person rehearsals and recordings, exceeding the scientific guidelines for safe choral singing that have been published recently. You will see and hear our professional octet during our Sunday worship videos, and we have scheduled members of the Church Choir to join in for the next two weeks. Rehearsals are taking place on our open-air Roof Garden with safe distancing, and our New York City Children's Chorus program is running simultaneous virtual and in-person sessions, utilizing the Roof Garden, as well. We hope that you enjoy the additions of beautiful choral music to our online worship services again!



Dr. Andrew Henderson rehearsing with the Church Choir.



Mary Huff, Director of New York City Children's Chorus, practicing safely on MAPC's Roof Garden.

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!

Youth and Children at MAPC this Fall



Youth (Ages 6th - 12th Grade)

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 5:45-7 pm

for food, fellowship, music, study, and fun. We will begin with a boxed-dinner safely prepared by Chef Jim 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)

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

WEDNESDAYS FOR KIDS! (K-2nd grade) kicked-off yesterday on Zoom. 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) 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) for more info and watch this space for updates!

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 Here](#)



Autumn Leaves & LULLABIES



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

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](#)

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.

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.

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!

TODAY, 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

Young Adult Happy Hour

TODAY, September 17th at 8 pm

Join Chesna Hinkley & April Martin as play light-hearted games, engage in a devotion together.

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

The Sunday morning group that has been meeting since the beginning of June has chosen to read and discuss *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo over the next 4-5 weeks. If you are not able to obtain it through your local bookstore, it is available on Amazon on both Kindle and paperback. We will read and discuss the first three chapters this coming Sunday. You can also check out an e-book version through the New York Public Library. Please join in this important conversation as we continue to educate ourselves on what it means to be anti-racist.

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study

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.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study, which is currently studying the Psalms, meets by teleconference. The next meeting is Monday, September 28. Please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo 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-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/

