

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



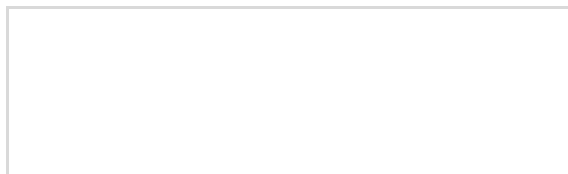
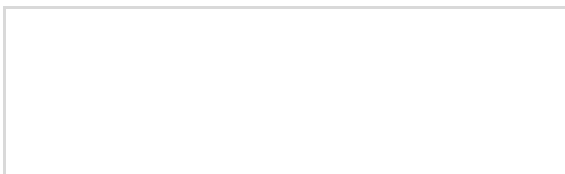
October 1, 2020

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

After last night's storms (both natural and political), it has turned into a beautiful, breezy day and I hope you have a chance to get outside and be renewed by a blue sky washed clean by the rain, white fluffy clouds and a temperature that couldn't be more perfect. In the midst of the chaos swirling around us, just being outside on such a day can help ground and restore us and lift our spirits.

We had our first Morning Prayer service on the Roof Garden last Sunday. It was a small but spirit-lifting experience--and so good to see a few church members in person. If you are not familiar with Morning Prayer, it lasts about half an hour, and includes prayers, scripture readings, hymns and chants, and time for reflection. In other words, a regular worship service, minus a sermon and communion. We are exceeding the guidelines for gathering and participating in worship as safely as possible: outside, masked, and sitting more than six feet apart. Please see the announcement below for instructions on signing up. We will continue Morning Prayer on Sunday mornings as safety and health guidelines allow. If the city needs to impose more restrictions again, we will abide by them as we have been since March.





Morning Prayer in session.
Photo courtesy of Dianne Robbins.



Mingling and social distancing.
Photo courtesy of Edward Kleinert.

We have shared with you photos of the completed ramp renovation, and now we want to show you what it is like to enter the church via the ramp. Click on the link below for a video and see the vast improvement.

Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/gkrd2v5t1vsbyqw/Ramp%20Video.MOV?dl=0>

We are grateful to The Rev. Denise Welsh for preaching for us and helping to lead worship this Sunday. Denise and Bill have a long, active relationship with MAPC. Bill is currently an elder, and Denise served MAPC in many capacities before heeding God's call to attend seminary and be ordained. Denise served for several years as a chaplain at Mt. Sinai. Thank you, Denise!

Please join in our Zoom Fellowship Hour at noon this coming Sunday. At 12:15 we will baptize Stephen Eng and receive both Stephen and Megan Rau into membership. As we did two Sundays ago, when we baptized Eleanor, the congregation will be present by Zoom, with the family joining me in the sanctuary. We need you there! We baptize people into the body of the Christ, the church, and you represent that body in this place! Stephen and Megan were scheduled to join the church on March 15, the first Sunday we had to go online, and we are excited to be welcoming them into membership now.

As our positive COVID-19 numbers begin to tick up in the city, please stay safe, and do everything you can to take care of each other--in terms of physical health and by reaching out to each other, especially those who are struggling. Let us pray for the health and welfare of people throughout our country, for guidance in troubling times, for wisdom, and for a never-flagging commitment to working for a just society.

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

Worship

Please join us for online worship. Here is the schedule of preachers over the next three weeks:

Sunday, October 4, The Rev. Denise Welsh

Sunday, October 11, The Rev. Beverly Bartlett

Sunday, October 18, Transitional Pastor, The Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn will preach--his first Sunday with MAPC!

Sunday Worship

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

[Click Here to Watch](#)

Morning Prayer, Sundays at 9 am on the Roof Garden

As long as the city and state health guidelines allow, we will continue to offer Morning Prayer services on the Roof Garden Sunday mornings at 9 am through the month of October. In November, we hope to move Morning Prayer into the Sanctuary. If you are unfamiliar with this type of service--it is not that different from a regular Sunday service, minus the sermon and communion!

It is about a half-hour long, and includes prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and some time for reflection. We can accommodate 25 to 30 people and request that you sign up ahead of time. We need to keep track of numbers and information for contact 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. Please note that we are exceeding the recommended guidelines for participating in worship and singing hymns together.

If you have trouble making your reservation, please contact April Martin at aem@mapc.com.

Here is the link for signing up:

[Reserve Your Spot Here](#)

Do You Need Tech Help to Connect with MAPC?

If you or someone you know is unable to watch our worship services online or join in various fellowship gatherings or Bible study by Zoom because they are struggling with the technology, please let us know! We have tech-savvy staff, members and youth who would love to help. We don't want to leave anyone out during this time we must meet virtually. Please let us know if you are aware of someone that needs help connecting! Contact April Martin at aem@mapc.com.

Virtual Music on Madison Series

As with so many aspects of our lives this year, the Saint Andrew Music Society will be doing something different this fall! We invite you to join us for a series of special online broadcasts on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm from the sanctuary of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church beginning on October 18. You will hear pianists, students from Mannes College playing pieces by Bach from all different parts of the country, as well as a host of familiar faces from our Saint Andrew Orchestra and our professional octet performing solo and chamber works from our sanctuary. [Click here](#) to view our series of upcoming virtual concerts. Stay tuned and watch for our concert video links in your email inbox, or plan to "Like" us and watch us on [Facebook Live](#)!



NYC Children's Chorus in the News!

Last Christmas, the NYC Children's Chorus released its second album, *Christmas in New York*. Recorded in MAPC's sanctuary, this CD includes Christmas favorites, as well as the premiere recording of Randall Thompson's *The Place of the Blest* with chamber orchestra. This month, The American Organist magazine printed a fabulous review of the CD which you may read [here](#).

You may purchase a copy of this CD by visiting nycchildrenschorus.org or listening online on your favorite music platform.

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 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 and Beverly for a masked walk in Central Park, Saturday morning, October 3rd.

We will meet at the NE corner of 81st and Central Park West at 9 am this week. 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

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, October 8, at 4 pm, Tea & Discussion

Thursday, October 15, at 3:30 pm, Lectio Divina

Young Adult Happy Hour

Updates coming soon!

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

The Sunday morning group is reading and discussing *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo through October 18. 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 chapters six, seven and eight 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, October 5th. We have finished our study of the Gospel According to Mark, and we are beginning a new study on the Sermon on the Mount.

If you have not participated in the Monday Evening Bible Study before now, this is a great time to join, and we would love to have you! Email bab@mapc.com if you are interested.

We will be using Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven.*

You can order a copy (hard copy or Kindle) through Amazon, or order the book through bookshop.org to support independent bookstores. Here is a link for both options:

<https://bookshop.org/books/sermon-on-the-mount-a-beginner-s-guide-to-the-kingdom-of-heaven/9781501899898>

https://www.amazon.com/Sermon-Mount-Beginners-Kingdom-Heaven-ebook/dp/B0859M58ZL/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=sermon+on+the+mount+levine&qid=1600734777&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEyWTdlWkEwOTk1VThPJMvuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwNjM5NTAyMlJMWESyTDZVUF11QiZlbnNyeXB0ZWZlZkPUEwNzA5NjUyMkhCV05VSVVVVVUJRQSZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPwX2F0ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNRPXRydWU=

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study, which is currently studying the Psalms, meets by teleconference. The next meeting is Monday, October 12. Please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo for more details: lgp@mapc.com

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.

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) on Zoom. This fall, we will 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)

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! Oct. 14 & 28, Nov. 11 & Dec. 9 - 4:30-5:15 pm 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](#)

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/

