

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



October 8, 2020

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

We are on the verge of another transition in this year of changes--The Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn begins serving as our Transitional Minister this coming Monday, October 12th. Patrick recorded a video for the congregation a few weeks ago--but the Presbytery asked us not to share it until the Commission on Ministry had met with him to approve his position with us. That happened Tuesday evening of this week--so Patrick is now official! Members should have received an email with the link to the video yesterday, and for those who have not received it, you can click below to view it. Patrick, we are so glad you are joining us and are excited to move forward in ministry together.

[See Patrick's Message Here](#)

A couple of upcoming events to bring to your attention to--the Young Adults will resume their Zoom meetings at the end of the month. Please see the announcement below for the dates for the remainder of the year.

Youth on the ROOF! is going really well. If you missed the "Blessing of the Animals" video we posted as our Daily Devotion on October 5th, be sure to check it out here: <https://vimeo.com/464834149>. Thanks to Mary Huff and our middle schoolers for this blessing!

There are two opportunities to see each other IN PERSON this weekend!! If

you feel safe doing so, please join us for another masked walk in the park Saturday morning (details below) and come for Morning Prayer on the Roof Garden at 9 am on Sunday (again, details below).

Our annual Church Family Night Halloween party is usually our biggest intergenerational fellowship gathering of the year. Of course, we have to rethink Halloween this year. Please see information below for what we are planning--COVID conditions permitting.

Finally, as this is my last week of serving as the Acting Head of Staff, I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for all of you and for your support as we navigated the last six months together. It is a challenging time to be in ministry, but also one that is full of opportunity. I look forward to working with Patrick and discerning with all of you God's call for this church. This congregation is full of people who bring a wide variety of gifts, a deep commitment to serving Christ, and the warmth of a supportive community. I know God has a rich and fruitful path ahead for us.

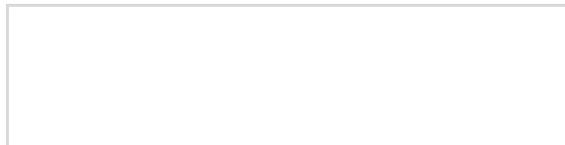
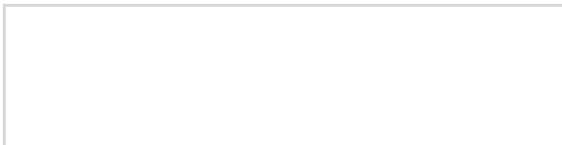
Christ's peace to you all,
Beverly A. Bartlett
Associate Pastor and Acting Head of Staff (until Monday!)

For All the Saints

A month ago we shared the news of the death of our long-time member Bette Dewing Brabec. We thought you would like to see her obituary in the Times. They captured Bette to a "T":

[See Obituary for Bette Here](#)

Many long-term MAPC members will remember identical twins Stella Clarke Stewart and Grace Clarke. Both Stella and Grace died earlier this spring, within three weeks of one another after sharing a room at a nursing facility for their final years. They died just shy of their 97th birthday. Stella and Grace grew up at MAPC and were active members until they moved to Pennington, NJ—Stella about fifty years ago, and Grace upon retirement. Grace was the first woman ordained as a Deacon at MAPC. Both Stella and Grace were active members of the Pennington Presbyterian Church after leaving NYC. We are grateful for their lives and their years of active membership and extend our condolences to their family. Below are links to their obituaries shared by the family.



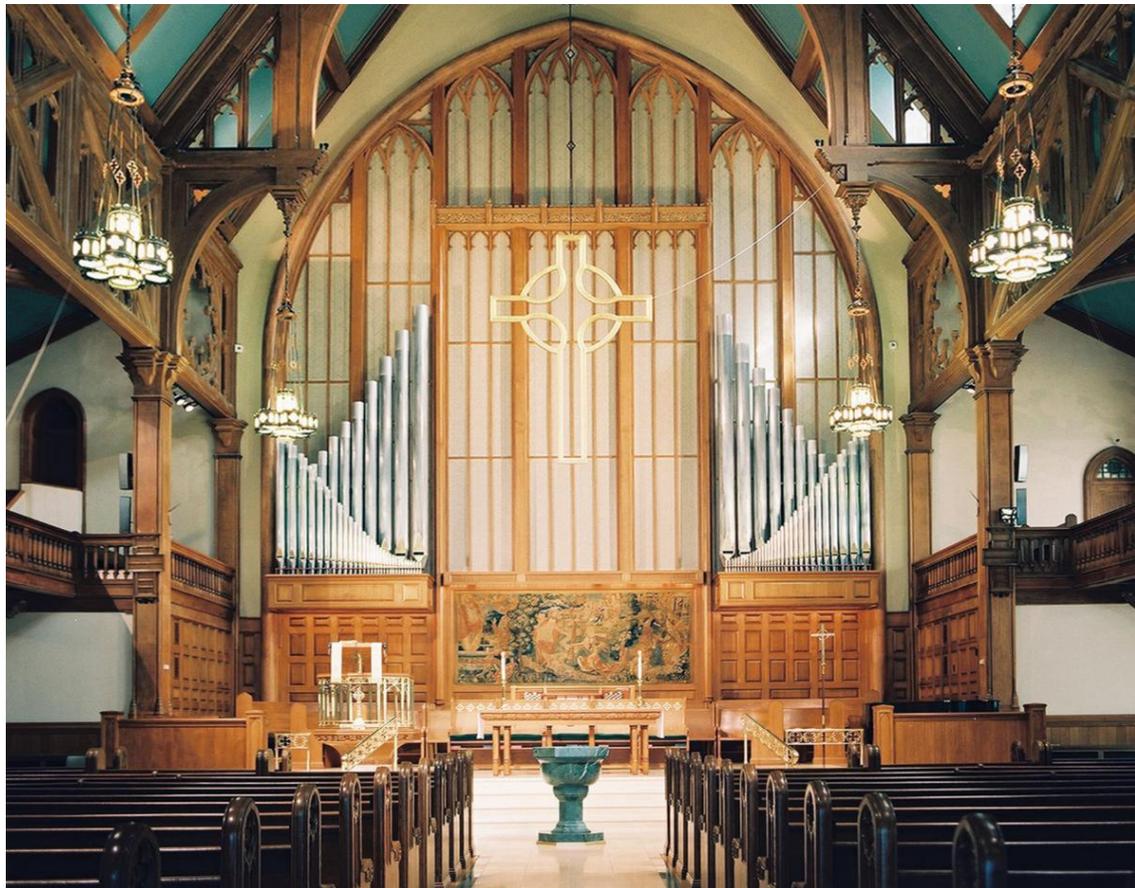


Grace Clarke
April 8, 1923--April 5, 2020
[Obituary](#)



Stella Stewart
April 8, 1923--March 13, 2020
[Obituary](#)

2020 Stewardship Campaign



The Stewardship and Development Committee has worked diligently to plan this fall's stewardship campaign. In the spring it became clear that the original plan for the fall would have to be adjusted since in-person gatherings would not be possible. Next week MAPC members should watch for an invitation, sent both by email and hard copy, to participate in a virtual fall fellowship gathering. There are eight gatherings you can choose from (the dates will be in the invitation). We will limit these Zoom gatherings to a maximum of 20

people to allow for the opportunity for conversation. Our Transitional Minister, Dr. Vaughn, will be at each gathering as will Rev. Bartlett. It is a challenging time to get to know a new pastor, and this is one of the ways we can do that. We hope to see you at one of the fall fellowship gatherings.

In addition to the gatherings, church officers will be calling active members to check in, see how you are doing, share news about the church's ministry and finances, and encourage you to join them in making a pledge for 2021.

Giving is a joy. It is one of the ways we respond to God's grace and abundant mercies. And now more than ever, we, our city and our world need the church's ministry and witness to the love and justice of Jesus Christ.

The verses below, selected from Isaiah 58, provide the theme for this year's campaign. We encourage you to read and reflect on the entire chapter.

"If you remove the yoke from among you
And satisfy the needs of the afflicted
The Lord will guide you continually
And you will be like a watered garden
Like a spring of water
Whose water never fails."

When we use our time, energy, and resources to bring life and wholeness to others, we in turn will flourish as a well-watered garden.

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

The Rev. Beverly Bartlett will be preaching this coming Sunday, October 11, and the Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching regularly starting October 18.

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, October 11 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 following (and exceeding) the recommended guidelines for participating in worship and singing hymns together.

If you have trouble making your reservation, please contact Beverly Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

Here is the link for signing up:

[Reserve Your Spot Here](#)

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](#)!



Daily Prayer

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

[Click Here to Watch](#)

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.

A Walk in the Park

Please join MAPC friends and Beverly for a masked walk in Central Park, Saturday morning, October 10th.

We will meet at the south entrance of East 79th Street and 5th Avenue at 9 am this week (the Cedar Hill entrance). Please let us know if you plan to come, so we will know who to watch for. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Eraza, lgp@mapc.com.

Halloween Gathering in Central Park

Since we cannot have our usual Halloween bash in the Parish Hall this year, we will have a gathering in Central Park for 25-30 people (that is the Park's limit for group gatherings). We have a permit for the lawn at Cedar Hill from 4 to 6 on Saturday, October 24th. We'll have snacks, a craft, and some games. Please bring a blanket to sit on and your own beverages. Wear your costumes so we can all admire them! We ask that everyone, except babies and toddlers, wear a mask unless you are eating or drinking. Please use the link below to sign up.



[Sign Up Here](#)

Trick or Treating on the Steps

If conditions and safety guidelines allow, we will once again have trick-or-treating on the church steps late in the afternoon on Halloween. We will do it a little differently this year--setting out a table with treats so we are not directly handing things to people. Watch this space for exact times. We hope this gives the congregation an opportunity to safely drop by and say hello!

Young Adult Gatherings on Zoom (Note: New Date & Time)

Young adults will be studying Ephesians this fall. Bring your drink for a mid-evening happy hour and join us for fellowship and discussion. Chesna Hinkley & April Martin will lead this group on Zoom. Please watch your email for the link and more information.

Mondays from 7 to 8 pm: Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, and Jan. 25

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 nine, ten and eleven this coming Sunday.* 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 19th. We have just begun a study of the Sermon on the Mount using Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, and will be discussing Chapter 2 on the 19th. You are welcome to jump into the Monday Evening Bible Study at any time--just contact Rev. Bartlett at bab@mapc.com so she can send you the Zoom link.

You can order a copy (hard copy or Kindle) of Dr. Levine's book through Amazon, or order from 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=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEyWTdlWkEwOTk1VTThPjM5cHRIZELkPUEwNjM5NTAyMlJMWESyTDZVUF11QiZlbnNyeXB0ZWZlZkPUEwNzA5NjUyMkhCV05VSVVVVUJRQSZ3aWRnZXR0YW11PjNwX2F0ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNRPXRydWU=

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-Eraza for more details: lgp@mapc.com

Youth and Children at MAPC this Fall

Youth (Ages 6th - 12th Grade)

YOUTH ON THE ROOF! For three more Wednesdays this fall, we invite all youth in middle and high school to join us *in-person* and *virtually*, on our roof from 5:45-7 pm for food, fellowship, music, study, and fun. We will begin with a safely-prepared box dinner courtesy of Chef Jim. 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 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, 5:45-7 pm.

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)

Delivery of Christian Education Materials for Children

Chesna, April and one of our youth have been delivering materials for preschoolers, early elementary children and preteens. Preschoolers received "Sunday School in a Box" for eight sessions of at-home activities and learning. K-2nd graders received materials for the Mondays for Kid Zoom gatherings, and preteens were sent learner sheets to use in the Wednesday Preteen Connect group. Look out for your delivery or let Chesna Hinkley know if you would like one. You can email her at ceh@mapc.com.

Here is a photo of Christopher, who was so pleased to get a box with his name on it!



MONDAYS FOR KIDS! (K-2nd grade) **on Zoom**. This fall, we will learn about covenants. Mondays for Kids will meet **on Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 16 & 30, Dec. 14 at 4:30-5:15 pm.**

Contact Chesna Hinkley (ceh@mapc.com) for more info and watch this

space for updates!

PRETEEN CONNECT (3rd-5th grade) **on Zoom.**

This fall, we'll learn about the beginnings in God's story. Preteen Connect will meet **Oct. 14 & 28, Nov. 11, and Dec. 9 at 4:30-5:15 pm.** Contact Chesna Hinkley (ceh@mapc.com) for more info and watch this space for updates!

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!

Links for MAPC Worship Services

Sunday Worship

See link for Worship above.

[Click Here to Watch](#)

Children's Worship

Find all of our children's worship videos here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

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.

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/

