

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



November 12, 2020

A Letter from Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

Stewardship Sunday has arrived! Though somewhat muted and awkward this year as we worship online, it is, nevertheless, a wonderful time of celebration.

As you have listened to the Word in Action videos over the past three weeks and participated in our Stewardship Gatherings, I hope you have given prayerful consideration to your 2021 financial pledge.

If you have already returned your pledge cards to the church office, thank you!

If, like me, you never received a pledge card or have misplaced yours or, as is often the case, have simply been so busy that you have not put it in the mail, would you please join me in using the link below to make your pledge online? I actually paused while writing this note to do just that. It is very, very simple.

[Click here to pledge online.](#)

During our Fellowship Hour on Sunday at noon, we will dedicate these to God as act of thanksgiving and praise. Please feel free to bring your favorite snack or beverage to add to the festivities! The link for the Zoom call will be emailed on Sunday morning. I hope you will be able to join us for the conversation, the laughter, the sharing, and yes, the celebration!

All that we are and all that we have come to us from the hands of our gracious and generous God. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve this God with you at Madison Avenue!

Thinking of you.

Looking Forward to Advent



The upcoming season of Advent will be different than in the past, but pandemic or not, the seasons march on, and we need this season of expectation and hope more than ever this year. We are assembling Advent boxes that members can pick up at the church. For our "safer at home" members, we will deliver them to your building. Below is a link to sign up for a box for yourself/your family. The box will have a variety of items to help you observe the season--simple Advent candles, Advent devotions, craft activities, alternative Advent calendars, and a booklet created by YOU!! Please send a favorite cookie or other recipe or seasonal tradition (i.e. movies you watch, books you read, music you always listen to, activity your family enjoys) by email to April Martin, aem@mapc.com. We will assemble them into a booklet to include in the Advent boxes.

During the noon Fellowship Hours, starting with the 1st Sunday in Advent on November 29th, we will share in Advent devotions together.

Advent boxes will be available to pick up on Monday, November 30 and Tuesday, December 1 from 4 - 6 pm each afternoon. Please sign up for one here--note you have choices based on your family configuration and preferences--and indicate whether you can pick up or need your box to be delivered. Thank you!

[Sign Up for an Advent Box Here](#)

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

The Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching this coming Sunday, November 15, and his topic this week will be "Grace and the Ten Commandments?"

Sunday Worship

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

[Click Here to Watch](#)

**Morning Prayer In-Person,
Sunday, November 15 at 10:30 am
in the Sanctuary**

Important Note--Please note the new time for Morning Prayer is 10:30!!

We have now had Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary the last two Sundays, and it is going well. Physically distant spacing is marked. Please enter through the Church House to have your temperature taken and sign the symptom-free attestation. An usher will dismiss worshippers by pew, and we ask that you wait to say hello and speak to others until you are back outside in the fresh air.

The Morning Prayer service, described below.

As long as the city and state health guidelines allow, we will continue to offer Morning Prayer services on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. 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 25 minutes long, and includes prayers, hymns, scripture readings, special music and some time for reflection. We can accommodate 25 people (plus staff) 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.

We will take temperatures and have those who attend 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 safety 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](#)

A *Virtual* Music on Madison Series

As with so many aspects of our lives this year, the Saint Andrew Music Society is doing something different this fall! We invite you to join us for a series of special online broadcasts on Sunday afternoons from the sanctuary of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. This coming Sunday's performance features two instrumentalists who have frequently played in our Saint Andrew Orchestra performances and on our Music on Madison series: flutist Gretchen Pusch and trumpeter Scott McIntosh, accompanied by organist Andrew Henderson. Their program includes works by Bach, Handel, Ravel, Vaughn, Williams and John Weaver. While we'll be releasing the performance this Sunday afternoon, the concert will be available for future viewing anytime. Be on the lookout for an email blast this Sunday at 3 pm, check out the SAMS section of our [website](#), or "Like" our [Facebook](#) page.



Wednesday Prayer

Weekly devotions will be posted on Wednesdays. We hope that with Wednesday devotions, Morning Prayer in person on Sundays and our recorded Sunday worship service you will find devotions and worship opportunities that help sustain you during these times. Click on the button

below to find all of our videos.

[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

April will lead "A Walk in the Park" this Saturday, Nov. 14 at 9 am. We'll meet at the South corner of 79th Street and 5th Avenue. Please let us know you plan to come, so we will know who to watch for. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Eraza at lgp@mapc.com. See you there!

Young Adult Gatherings on Zoom

Mondays from 7 to 8 pm:

Nov. 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, and Jan. 25

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.

Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Sunday mornings at 9 am Sunday, November 15

Please note the new time, 9 am, for the Anti-Racism Discussion. We hope this will allow people to participate in the discussion, then get to Morning Prayer if they like.

This Sunday, November 15, we will discuss chapters 6, 7, and 8 of Ibram X. Kendi's book, "How to Be an Anti-Racist".

You can find a wealth of anti-racism resources on one of the "21 Day Challenge" websites. Here is the link to the PC(USA) version:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism/>

The original 21 Day Challenge was created by Eddie Moore, Jr., and you can find that here:

<https://www.eddiemoorej.com/21daychallenge/#connect>

It is a treasure trove of resources.

You can check out an e-book version of Kendi's book from the NYPL:

https://browse.nypl.org/iii/encore/search/C__Sibram%20x%20kendi_Ff%3Afacetmediatype%3Az%3Az%3AE-BOOK%3A%3A__Orightresult_U_X0?lang=eng&suite=def

Please feel free to join in this discussion even if you have not been able to do the reading!!

Feel free to jump in to any discussion as you are able. It doesn't matter if you can make each one. If you would like more information on this discussion group, or would like to be added to the group emails, please contact Rev. Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.



Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study

1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7 pm

The next Evening Bible Study will be Monday, November 16. We are studying the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew, using Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, and will be discussing chapter 4 on the 16th. 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-mountain-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=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEyWTdlWkEwOTk1VThPJMVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwNjM5NTAyMlJMWESyTDZVUF11QiZlbn

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OYW1IPXNwX2F0ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0Nsa
WnrPXRydWU=](#)

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study, which is currently studying the Psalms, meets by teleconference. The next meeting is Monday, November 23. Please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo for more details: lgp@mapc.com

Youth and Children at MAPC

Youth (Ages 6th - 12th Grade)

YOUTH! For one more Wednesday in November, we will meet *in-person* for safe games and pizza-to-go. Lots of fellowship, food, and fun! Meet in the Church House Lobby right at 5:45.

November 18, 5:45-7 pm.

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

December 9.

Children: Faith and Fun (Connecting Virtually)

MONDAYS FOR KIDS! (K-2nd grade) **on Zoom**. This fall, we will learn about covenants. Mondays for Kids will meet **Nov. 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 **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 pre-recorded services of worship below.

[Click Here to Watch](#)

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/

