

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



November 19, 2020

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn & Rev. Beverly Bartlett

Dear Friends,

Even as we begin to turn our attention to Thanksgiving, so many people face extraordinary challenges. One such individual is a friend and former Pastoral Resident, Pattison Chirongo. A couple of days ago, we learned that he has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Thankfully, it is operable but it is impacting his vision. He needs surgery as soon as possible. As word of his illness began to spread so did offers of financial support. As a matter of fact, \$3000 has already been committed, and others have indicated they, too, want to make a donation. Because Pattison is a former Pastoral Resident, we decided to offer members and friends of MAPC an opportunity to contribute to his medical care. In her note below, Beverly explains how you can participate.

Thinking of you,
Patrick

We learned this week that our friend, Abusa (Pastor) Pattison Chirongo, from the Synod of Harare in Zimbabwe has a brain tumor that is affecting his eyesight. It is operable, but Pattison must pay \$7,000 for the surgery, plus hospital expenses. Retired mission workers who are close to Pattison are working to help raise the funds for Pattison's surgery, and we would like to provide an opportunity for MAPC members and friends to help.

Many of you will remember Pattison, who was our Pastor in Residence during the fall of 2013. Pattison served as the General Secretary of the Synod of Harare, and many of our members who traveled to Zimbabwe during our partnership trips have spent time with Pattison there as well as here. If you

would like to contribute to Abusa Pattison's medical expenses, you may send a donation to MAPC's Charles Amstein Pastoral Fund. Since this is an urgent matter, and Pattison is hoping the surgery can be scheduled in the next week or two, *we ask that gifts be sent by next Tuesday, November 24* . If you put a check in the mail, please email Chesna Hinkley at ceh@mapc.com, with the amount so she will know it is coming. We can include the amount when we wire the funds, knowing the check is on the way. Donations that arrive later can also be used for Pattison's recovery.

You may send a check, made out to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, with Amstein Fund/Chirongo in the memo line, to the church 921 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10021. Attn: Carmen Olmeda, or make a credit card donation through the church's website: www.mapc.com, click on the "Giving" tab at the top of the page, then the "Give Online" button, and you will see a dropdown box of Funds. The C.A. Amstein Pastoral Care Fund is at the top of that list.

Please keep Pattison and Susan in your prayers as they face this challenge.
Grace and Peace,
Beverly

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!!

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 22.

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 22 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

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

Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary 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. We will continue to offer in-person Morning Prayer as long as the city and state health guidelines allow, and the positivity rate remains low.

If you are unfamiliar with Morning Prayer, 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](#)

**NYC Children's Chorus Fall Concert and Benefit
FRIDAY - Join us online!**

BLUE SKIES



New York City Children's Chorus Eighth Annual Benefit

Virtual Performances by In Harmony, Concert Choir, Allegro, Intermezzo, Prelude, & Our Preparatory Division with selections by Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Aaron Copland and more.

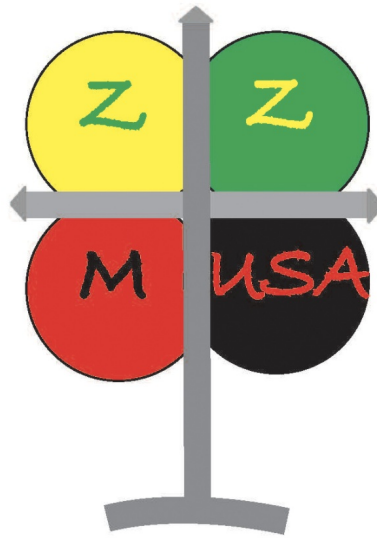
**Friday, November 20, 2020
7 pm - Online**

Pop open a bottle of champagne and join us virtually from the comfort of your home!



The NYCCC is presenting their Fall Concert and Benefit, BLUE SKIES, on Friday, November 20 at 7 pm. Visit nycchildrenschorus.org/benefit2020 to listen to the 30-minute concert featuring children ages 4 to 18. Music by Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Aaron Copland and more. The event will be hosted by Mary Huff, MAPC Associate Director of Music and NYCCC Artistic Director, with a special appearance by Morgan Hollanda, MAPC Youth, giving her senior speech. Visit nycchildrenschorus.org for more information.

Check Out the Zambia Zimbabwe Mozambique USA (ZZMUSA) Network Newsletter



*Zambia Zimbabwe Mozambique USA
Mission Network*

For many years now, MAPC has been involved in mission projects in Southern Africa, mainly in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Because of this ongoing commitment, MAPC is one of the few congregations that participates in the leadership of the PCUSA's Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, USA Network (ZZMUSA). Click [here](#) to read the network's November 2020 newsletter. The network is planning an online conference, tentatively for November 2021, so stay tuned for future developments. Please contact [Chesna Hinkley](#) with questions.

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 the final concert in a series of special online broadcasts on Sunday afternoons from the sanctuary of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. This coming Sunday's performance features three singers from our professional octet: Helen Karloski, Rod Gomez, and Katherine Wessinger; accompanied by violist Yih-Wen Ting, trumpeter Scott McIntosh, and organist/pianist Andrew Henderson. The program includes works by Brahms, Handel, Mozart, and Vaughn Williams. 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. 21 at 9 am. We'll meet at the entrance to the Conservatory Gardens at East 105th Street. 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 22

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 22, we will discuss chapters 9, 10, and 11 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:

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

It is a treasure trove of resources.

You can check out an e-book version of Kendi's book from [the NYPL](#):

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.



Monday Evening Bible Study

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

The next Evening Bible Study will be Monday, November 30. 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 chapters 5, 6 & the afterword on the 30th. 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:

Option 1: [Bookshop.org](https://bookshop.org)

Option 2: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

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 ON WEDNESDAYS: Please watch your emails for updates.

YOUTH IN 2021: In January, we plan to continue meeting via zoom. More info soon!



MAPC Fall In-Person Youth Program

MAPC's Fall In-Person Youth program concluded on a very chilly day, so we enjoyed being together, but keeping our distance, changing rooms every 20 minutes. Seen here playing a real-life version of the popular game *Among Us*, youth also learned about the coming season of Advent.

Children's Ministry (Connecting Virtually)

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Interested in Sunday school at home for 2-4 year olds? Sign up by December 6 to get our Winter Box with six lessons, including crafts and activities.

[Sign Up Here](#)

Contact Chesna Hinkley ceh@mapc.com for more info and watch this space for updates!

MONDAYS FOR KIDS! (K-2nd grade) **on Zoom**. This fall, we will learn about covenants. Mondays for Kids will meet **Nov. 30 & Dec. 14 at 4:30-5:15 pm**. The Winter Session of Mondays for Kids will meet January 11 to April 12. We will learn about what God is like. Make sure you sign up by December 6 to get a supply box!

[Sign up for a Box Here](#)

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.** Our Winter Session will run January 20 to April 7. We'll learn about the Bible's call to gender equality, our place in God's plan, and using our gifts in the Body of Christ. 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/

