

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



November 25, 2020

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

I recently read an article that explores how different generations are coping with Covid-19. It seems that those who are younger are having a more difficult time than those who are older. Stress is having a more negative effect on their lives. The author notes that those blessed with longevity have faced many challenges and weathered many seasons of loss and disruption. Their depth of experience has strengthened their resiliency.

This will no doubt surprise some. After all, while our society extols youth and associates it with strength and vitality, we tend to associate maturity with weakness and decline. There is some biological merit in these assumptions, but our society greatly exaggerates them.

The author suggests that such attitudes might soon change in light of Covid-19 as younger generations draw courage and inspiration from the gifts, insights, and tenacity of older generations. Maybe they will even grow in gratitude.

I hope so. I hope that proves to be true.

Of course, anyone who has ever spent any time in the life of a congregation doesn't need a national health crisis to recognize and appreciate the contributions of our older members.

For example, in every church I have served, I have met a "Bob." Usually he is about ten years into retirement and is the first person to call when the furnace for the sanctuary stops working. Sometimes "Bob" is "Bobbie."

Then, there is a "Thersea" who keeps an ever watchful eye on the buffet table to make sure there is enough food to go around. Sometimes, "Theresa" is "Terrence."

There is a "Margaret" who holds the institutional memory of the church.

And, there have been many "Sarahs" who have walked into my office to make an unexpected and generous financial gift to the church.

(By the way, an estate recently notified us that we are a beneficiary in a bequest that will bless MAPC with approximately \$300,000. If you want to include our congregation in your estate planning, please contact me by writing to jpv@mapc.com).

Research indicates that congregations in America are graying. That comes as a shock to no one, but it is often regarded as malady, a regrettable condition we need to reverse.

Well, maybe. I have certainly worked hard over the years to develop programs that engage younger families and their children, and I have witnessed significant growth in that area.

But as we approach Thanksgiving, it occurs to me that this might be a particularly poignant moment for us to remember and give thanks for older brothers and sisters. Their example and witness have encouraged us during the pandemic, and their faithfulness continues to bless our church.

Thinking of you,
Patrick

Looking Forward to Advent



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.

Chesna Hinkley will be preaching this coming Sunday, November 29.

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 29 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.

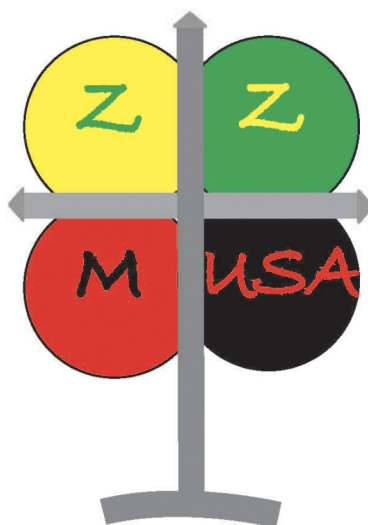
Here is the link for signing up:

[Reserve Your Spot Here](#)

Church of Gethsemane Christmas Angels

The Church of Gethsemane will not be holding their annual Christmas party this year, and will not be able to distribute Christmas Angel gifts from MAPC. We'll return to this tradition next year! If you normally buy a gift for one of Gethsemane's kids, consider a donation to Yorkville Common Pantry (<http://nyccommonpantry.org/>) or the Urban Outreach Center (<https://www.uocnyc.org/>).

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.

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. 28 at 9 am. We'll meet at the East 72nd Street and 5th Avenue entrance to Central Park. 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: 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, December 6

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.

We are taking November 29 off, but please join us on Sunday, December 6 as we discuss chapters 12, 13, 14 and 15 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 [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.



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 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

Option 2: 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, December 7. Please contact Lissette Perez-Eraza for more details: ljp@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 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/



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church | 921 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021

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