

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



January 28, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

Over the past year we have worn masks, delayed vacations, Zoomed, canceled holiday celebrations, Zoomed some more, avoided restaurants, put puzzles together, binged on movies, gone months without visiting loved ones, and Zoomed again. And again. And again.

Covid-19 has disrupted our lives on many, many levels. I am tired of it, and I imagine you are tired of it as well. The fatigue many of us feel in our bones is very real.

Thankfully, there is light at the end of the tunnel. More and more people are getting vaccinated. A little good news can bring a lot of reassurance.

Nevertheless, this week several of our Day School teachers and several of our building staff tested positive for the virus. All seem to be doing well, but please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

This is a stark reminder that we are not out of danger. In an effort to be as safe as possible we have suspended some of our activities and ministries at the church. The Day School has temporarily closed, and we will NOT hold the in-person prayer service on Sunday. (We will make a decision about the following Sunday next week.)

In the meantime, I hope you will join us for Sunday fellowship or a

Bible study or a book discussion or a family night Zoom event or even a cup of tea over FaceTime.

This is how we will persevere.

By staying safe and staying connected.

Thinking of you,

Patrick

[Click Here to Join Rev. Vaughn's Gospel Gathering at 9 am](#)

Meeting ID: 875 9406 5461

Passcode: 908581

Dial by your location
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Sundays at 9 am

The Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at noon on February 7, 2021 via Zoom. Our meeting will include the election of officers, a final report of our 2020 finances, a presentation of the 2021 budget, and approving the terms of call for our installed associate pastor, the Reverend Beverly Bartlett.

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching this coming Sunday, January 31. His sermon is entitled "When Education is Not Enough"

Sunday Worship

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

[Click Here to Watch](#)

Sunday Morning Prayer

We are suspending Morning Prayer for this Sunday, January 31. We hope to continue on February 7, but please watch for announcements.

A Neighbor Saves the Day

After a number of staff tested positive for COVID-19 this week, tonight's Open Table would have been cancelled if not for Selina Mohamed, who regularly volunteers on Thursday nights. Selina came to the rescue and made every single sandwich at home. We are grateful for God's provision through her generosity, and for all our dedicated Open Table volunteers!

Cold Weather Accessories Drive

Throughout the winter, we will be giving away gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and socks to our Open Table guests. If you are able, please ship something from [our Amazon wishlist](#) or send a monetary donation to the attention of the Outreach Committee.

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

will be on hiatus with the arrival of actual winter temperatures until it warms up a little bit.

Upcoming Congregational Nurture Events

We have a long two or three months ahead of us. Most of us are tired of Zoom, but it is what we have, and even though it is on a screen, it is good to see each other's faces and hear each other's voices. The Congregational Nurture Committee has planned three fellowship events for the coming weeks, and a new book group that we hope will provide a chance for us to connect with each other and have a little fun:

New Mystery Book Group

First Meeting - Thursday, February 11, 8 pm via Zoom

With the pandemic and national crises swirling around us, we all need to give ourselves a bit of a mental break each day. We are going to start a mystery book group--what better way to escape than into a good mystery? Our first book will be Anthony Horowitz's latest, *Moonflower Mysteries*. Beverly Bartlett will facilitate this discussion of the book on February 11.

You can order the book through an independent bookstore by using Bookshop.org: <https://tinyurl.com/y2yweosv>

Or get it on Kindle through Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/y28rbpl6>

Unfortunately, there is a long waitlist for the ebook from NYPL. If finances are tight--and we know for many people they are right now--and you would like to read it and join the group, please let Beverly Bartlett know, bab@mapc.com.



Saturday Crafterdays

FEB 6 & MAR 13
3 PM
ZOOM

Saturdays Crafterdays

On Saturday, February 6 at 3 pm, we'll gather by Zoom to make Valentines for some of our older members who are especially isolated during these times. You don't need to be artistic to make a Valentine's Day card! Just willing to enjoy some fellowship and make a greeting to let another church member know you are thinking of them. Here are some suggested supplies to have on hand:

--Construction paper: especially red, pink and white. But if you want to branch out into non-traditional Valentine colors--go for it!

--Scissors, ruler, pencil, pen, glue stick, colored markers.

--If you can order some of those heart-shaped paper doilies, you can use them to decorate your cards as well.

We'll have some ideas to follow, including some pop-up cards. We will also have a list of members and their addresses so you may mail your cards.

RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo, lgp@mapc.com.

~ * ~

On Saturday, March 13 at 3 pm, let's get ready for St. Patrick's Day and make Irish Soda Bread together! We'll post a list of needed ingredients in a future newsletter.

Zoom links for these events will be sent by email as the dates draw near. It would be helpful to know who plans to come, so please respond to Lissette if you can.

Young Adult Gatherings on Zoom

Mondays from 7 to 8 pm: Feb. 8 & 22, Mar. 8 & 22, Apr. 12 & 26

Young adults are studying Ephesians. 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.

On March 8, we'll begin discussing *Faith Unraveled: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask the Questions* by Rachel Held Evans. You can find it on Amazon or Bookshop, or email Chesna Hinkley (ceh@mapc.com) or April Martin (aem@mapc.com) and we will get you a copy.

Adult Education Opportunities

Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Sunday Afternoons at 5 pm

Please note the new time for this group!

The Anti-Racism Discussion Group is now meeting from 5 to 6 pm on Sunday evenings. We are reading Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste*, and will discuss Part Four--Chapter 13 on the 31st. A Zoom link will be sent to the church email list that Sunday morning. All are welcome--whether you have previously been part of this group or not, we would love to have you join the discussion! If you have questions, please contact Rev. Bartlett, bab@mapc.com.

Curious About Jesus?

What did Jesus actually say? What did he actually do? Many of us are curious about Jesus but we tend to avoid Bible studies because we do not want to expose our lack of knowledge about scripture. Many of us are also interested in reading the Bible but we are not quite sure where to start. If you find yourself in this situation, you are invited to read the gospels with Reverend Vaughn. Beginning with Mark we will read one-third of a gospel each week. Then, on Sunday morning via Zoom at 9:00 we will gather together to share one or two passages that grabbed our attention. This is not a traditional class with a lecture. Instead, we will learn together as Patrick leads us in a conversation about the texts and questions that intrigue us. This is an opportunity to get a broad overall sense of the flow of the gospels. This week, read Matthew 1-9. Questions? Write to Reverend Vaughn at jpv@mapc.com.

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study Resumes February 1 at 7 pm

On Monday, February 1 the Monday Evening Bible Study will begin its

reading and discussion of the prophet Samuel, and King Saul and King David narratives, found in 1 and 2 Samuel and the first two chapters of 1 Kings. If you have not taken part in the Monday Evening Bible Study before, this would be a great time to jump in! Please read 1 Samuel, chapters 1 - 8 in preparation for the discussion on Feb. 1. Questions? Email Rev. Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study, which is currently studying the Psalms, meets by teleconference. The next meeting is Monday, February 8 at 5:30 pm. Please contact Lissette Perez-Eraza for more details: lgp@mapc.com

Youth and Children at MAPC

Youth (Ages 6th - 12th Grade)

CONFIRMATION:

Our confirmation class meets bi-monthly on Tuesday nights via zoom.

YOUTH IN 2021:

February 3, 10, 17 & 24, 6-7 pm

Middle and High school youth groups will meet with April and Chesna on Zoom.

Virtual Children's Ministry

Questions about Children's Ministry at MAPC? Contact Chesna Hinkley (ceh@mapc.com) for more information or to be added to the mailing list.

CHILDREN'S TIME

During every Sunday service, one of our pastoral staff teaches on the sermon text in a short time just for kids.

RECORDED CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

(Designed for 3-8 years old) Every Sunday, a member of the staff or congregation leads a 10-15 minute chat about the lectionary Bible reading and a related children's book.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

(2-4 years old) Sunday School in a Box is **delivered** quarterly during the pandemic closure for at-home learning.

MONDAYS FOR KIDS

(K-2nd grade) **on Zoom**. The Winter Session of Mondays for Kids will meet February 8 and 22, March 8 and 22, and April 12 at 4:30-5:15 pm. We will

learn about what God is like.

PRETEEN CONNECT

(3rd-5th grade) **on Zoom**. Our Winter Session will meet January 20, February 3, March 3 and 17, and April 7 at 4:30-5:15 pm. (No class on February 17 due to NYPS Midwinter Recess). We will learn about the Bible's call to gender equality, our place in God's plan, and using our gifts in the Body of Christ.

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/

