

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



February 4, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

This Sunday at noon we will hold our annual congregational meeting. We will meet via Zoom. Please remember that if you do not have access to a computer, you can join us by using your phone to call in. The sign-in and call-in information are found below.

During our time together we will hear a presentation about our 2020 and 2021 budgets, listen to reports from our trustees and deacons, elect officers, and hear and act on proposed changes in the terms of call for our installed Associate Pastor, the Reverend Beverly Bartlett.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Topic: MAPC Congregational Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting at 12 pm this Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021

[https://nyu.zoom.us/j/6725351329?
pwd=RnpSaEZkK3dKSkh6ZDFudTA0VDVrZz09](https://nyu.zoom.us/j/6725351329?pwd=RnpSaEZkK3dKSkh6ZDFudTA0VDVrZz09)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 672 535 1329

Passcode: 1831

Thinking of you,

Patrick

P.S. Here are candidates that the Nominating Committee is recommending for your consideration.

SESSION

1st Term (Class of 2024)

Kunbi Oni

Andrew Forbis

Lauren Logan

Roy Lennox

Kristen Winckler

Kalpana David (Class of 2022)

DEACONS

1st Term (Class of 2024)

Beth Goehring

Judy Prince

Ronald Fields

Nancy Hauber

Nancy DeBono

TRUSTEES

1st Term

Vic David (Class of 2024)

Sharon Davison

Chris Winckler

Christina Gross (Class of 2023)

2nd Term

Mark Glotfelty (in the Class of 2024)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE: MEMBERS AT LARGE
(2021-2022)**

Susan Anderson

Curtis Field

Lyn Baier

Francois Silatchom

Timothy Johnson

Elliot Henderson (Alternate)

[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

A Letter from Dr. Megan Rau "Double Masking--Two Thumbs Up or Double Trouble?"

One of our members Dr. Megan Rau has written this letter regarding the benefit of wearing double masks amidst the raging pandemic. Take a few moments to read it by clicking below. (It's also available on the MAPC website.)

[Read the Letter Here](#)

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

The Rev. Beverly Bartlett will be preaching this Sunday, February 7.
Her sermon is entitled "Finding Hope in the Wilderness."

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, February 7, but please watch for announcements.

Special Guest Speaker **Sunday, February 21 at 5 pm** **Bishop Joseph William Tolton**

FEAR NOT, THE MOVEMENTS ARE GREATER:
Black Lives Matter, Pan Africanism & A 21st Century Christian Renaissance

On Sunday February 21 at 5 pm MAPC's Adult Education Committee is honored to host Bishop Joseph Tolton as he speaks about the racial justice movement. This event will be online, and information on how to join will be posted closer to the event. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, and we hope you will spread the word to those beyond the MAPC community.

Bishop Tolton writes: "America is clearly facing a call to a new racial justice reckoning. The events of January 6th have made it quite clear that there is an imminent national threat from white supremacist terrorists. For the Christian world what should be far more alarming is that white supremacy in America has historically been defined, cradled, and rationalized by Christian hegemony. THE CHURCH must now respond."

To read more about Bishop Tolton's presentation and his biography,
click [HERE](#)

Wednesday Evenings in Lent **A Lenten Spiritual Practice:** **Praying with Scripture**

MAPC has a long history of a Wednesday evening Lenten series. Last year, we only got the first session in before we had to cancel the rest due to the pandemic. At that early point, we hadn't yet figured out how to do everything by Zoom! This year's series will look a little different: rather than a lecture series we will engage in the spiritual practice of praying with scripture, alternating between the contemplative practices of Lectio Divina and Ignation meditation. Praying with scripture is a different approach than Bible Study--it is sometimes referred to as being "formational" rather than "informational." We encourage you to join in these Wednesday sessions as a Lenten discipline. Zoom links will be sent out a few days prior to the meetings.

The dates for this series are February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 and Rev. Vaughn, and Ms. Hinkley will share in leading the sessions.

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 until it warms up a little bit.

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.



Saturdays Crafterdays

This 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.

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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--Chapters 14-18 on the 7th. 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 10-18. Questions? Write to Reverend Vaughn at jpv@mapc.com.

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study, February 15 at 7 pm

The Monday Evening Bible Study begun reading and discussing 1 and 2 Samuel which contain the stories about the prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David, and the transformation that happened to Israel when they moved from a company of tribes to a nation ruled by a monarchy. Newcomers are always welcome! Please read 1 Samuel, chapters 9-15 in preparation for the discussion on Feb. 15. 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 10, 17 & 24, 6-7 pm

Middle and High school youth groups will meet with April and Chesna and adult volunteers for bible discussion and games 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 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.

Four 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/

