

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



March 11, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

*Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure? Measure a year?*

On Thursday, March 12, 2020 Duke withdrew from the ACC basketball tournament. I was very disappointed. Some friends in Bedford, avid Duke fans, had invited me to their home to watch the game and join them for dinner. (Many months would pass before I would again have a meal with another person, even a member of my family.)

More importantly, on March 12 Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson announced that they had contracted Covid-19. Even though two days earlier New York state officials had drawn a containment area in a one mile radius around New Rochelle, their diagnosis somehow made the disease more real, more personal.

A year ago our world changed.

But how do you measure, measure a year?

In daylights,

In sunsets,

In midnights,

In cups of coffee,

In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife.

What would you add to the list?

Zoom meetings?

Screen fatigue?

Loneliness?

Sorrow?

Grief?

Unemployment?

Testing?

Frustration?

Anger?

Depression?

Last week I enjoyed a cup of coffee with Beverly across the street from the church at Via Quadronno. We sat outside, of course.

Yesterday, I laughed and talked with Andrew and Mary as we also drank tea and coffee and nibbled on biscotti at Via Quadronno.

Next week, I am returning to enjoy time with a member of the congregation.

The past year has been brutal, and, according to a March 8, 2021 article in *The Atlantic*, it has probably taken a greater toll on our emotional well being than we yet understand.

But for good news about the growing availability of the vaccine, for more hours of sunlight in the day, and for cups of coffee that point to a return of spending time together, I am thankful.

In five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes

How do you measure a year in the life?

How about love?

How about love?

How about love?

Measure in love...

Seasons of love...

Seasons of love...

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

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

The Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching this Sunday, March 14.
His sermon is entitled "That Poor Little Fig Tree"

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, 10:30 am



We will continue to offer Morning Prayer on Sundays as long as the public health guidelines allow for indoor gatherings of more than ten persons. Continuing any form of in-person worship also depends on worshippers following the church's guidelines below:

--Please use the Sign Up Genius link below to sign up. Since we must limit the number of people in the sanctuary, we need to know how many people plan to attend.

--Masks completely covering both the mouth and nose must be worn at all times.

--Seating is marked, and worshipers may sit where the blue dots on the pews are located. If a couple or family occupies a blue dot, then the adjacent dot needs to be left vacant to allow for adequate physical distancing.

--Please refrain from conversation with one another inside the sanctuary, and wait to greet one another after the service on the sidewalk. Talking together

outside is exponentially more safe than inside.

--As much as we want to connect with one another, it is simply not safe for hugs, handshakes or other physical contact beyond the members of one's household. Please greet each other from a safe physical distance!

Please sign up here:

[Sign Up Here](#)

If you have trouble making your reservation, please contact Beverly Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

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



For our Lenten series this year we are engaging 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 remaining dates for this series are March 17 and 24 and Rev. Bartlett, Dr. Vaughn and Ms. Hinkley will share in leading the sessions.

Holy Week & Easter at MAPC!

Join us for Virtual and In-Person Worship

PALM SUNDAY, March 28



- A link to our Palm Sunday service of Word & Sacrament will be emailed at 8 am.
- 10:30 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary with appropriate and stringent precautions in place. **Advance registration for this service is required.** Please sign up by clicking the button below.

[Palm Sunday In-Person Sign-up](#)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1



Our **Maundy Thursday Service** will take place at **7 pm via Zoom**, including a meditation by the Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn, music, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper, with optional Fellowship/Communal Dinner beforehand at 6:30 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2



- Our **Good Friday Tenebrae** service with a telling of Christ's Passion from the Gospel narratives and music sung by the Choir of MAPC. A link to the service will be emailed.
 - Our **Good Friday Family Service** will be held at 7 pm via Zoom. Everyone from our Church Family is welcome to participate in this service led by staff, children and youth of MAPC.
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EASTER SUNDAY, April 4

A Virtual Easter service of Word and Sacrament, two 30-minute identical prayer services in the Sanctuary and one 30-minute service with communion on our Roof Garden. Preregistration required.

Easter

April 4

- A link to our virtual Easter service of Word and Sacrament with a sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn and music sung by the Choir of MAPC, with guest instrumentalists, will be emailed at 8 am.
- **We will offer two 30-minute, identical Morning Prayer Services in the Sanctuary at 8:30 am and 10:30 am**, with appropriate and stringent precautions in place. Both services will feature hymns, scripture readings and prayers, with music sung by members of MAPC's professional octet. **Advance registration for these services is required.** Please sign up by clicking either of the buttons below.

[Sign Up to Join Us on Easter at 8:30 AM](#)

[Sign Up to Join Us on Easter at 10:30 AM](#)

- **We will offer a 30-minute Service of Communion on the Roof Garden at 9:30 am**, with appropriate and stringent precautions in place. **Advance registration for this service is required.** Please sign up by clicking the button below.

[Sign Up to Join Us on Easter on the Roof at 9:30 AM](#)

Donations for Easter Flowers

We are now accepting donations in memory or in honor of loved ones for the

lilies and other flowers that will beautify the sanctuary for Easter. The suggested donation for each name is \$40. To make a donation you may make a contribution through our [website](#) (click “Give Online” and select “Flower Fund” from the drop-down list), adding your loved ones’ names in the “Note” field provided. You can also access a [printable form here](#) and return it with your contribution to the Church Office. **We will need to receive your donation by Monday, March 29 in order to include names of loved ones in our pre-recorded and in-person Easter services.**

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



The Presbyterian Church (USA) receives the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering during the Lenten season to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. We will collect this offering on Palm Sunday, March 28, but you may give any time before then through our website or by noting “OGHS” on your check. Please give generously to feed, clothe, and care for Jesus Christ in our neighbors. Read more about the impact of OGHS here: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>.

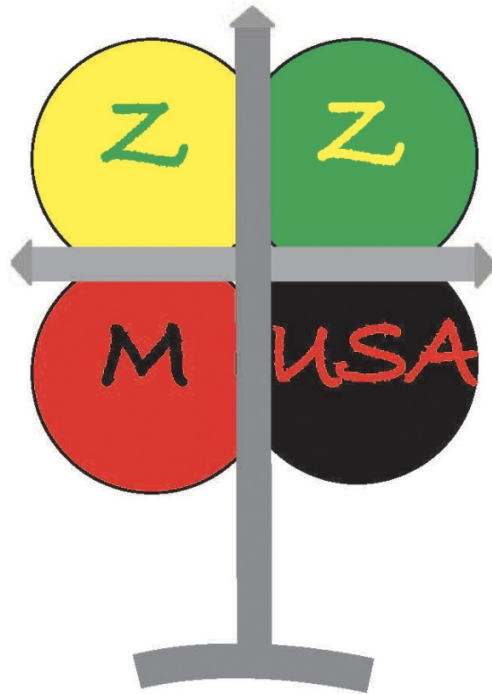
Cold Weather Accessories Drive



Thank you for donating so many cold weather accessories this winter! The church fence is now a source of warmth for our neighbors in need.

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

**Zimbabwe Zambia Mozambique USA Mission
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.](#) Contact Chesna Hinkley with questions.

[See Newsletter Here](#)

Wednesday Prayer

Weekly devotions will be posted on Wednesdays. We hope that with Mid-week 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 - Saturday, March 13 at 9 am

Please join April Martin for a masked walk in the park at 9 am. We will meet at the 72nd St. and 5th Ave entrance. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo, lgp@mapc.com, so we know who to look for this Saturday.

Mystery Book Group!

**Next Meeting - TONIGHT, March 11,
8 pm via Zoom**



Our second book is Peter May's, *The Blackhouse: Murder Comes to the Outer Hebrides (Lewis Trilogy 1)*. Beverly Bartlett will facilitate this discussion of the book.

The Blackhouse is available as an ebook on the New York Public Library's Overdrive site, and for Kindle or in paperback on Amazon.

Saturday Crafturdays



This Saturday, March 13 at 3 pm, let's get ready for St. Patrick's Day and make Irish Soda Bread together! The recipe is in the email sent last week with a zoom link.

Please RSVP to Lissette if you can, lgp@mapc.com, so we can mail you bingo cards and chips for each member of your household who plans to join this event.

Young Adult Gatherings on Zoom

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

Young Adults are reading and discussing *Faith Unraveled: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask Questions* by Rachel Held Evans. Bring your drink for a mid-evening happy hour and join us for fellowship and discussion. For March 22, read the Introduction and Chapters 2-4.

Chesna Hinkley & April Martin will lead this group on Zoom. Please watch your email for the link and more information. 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

The Anti-Racism Discussion Group will finish their discussion of Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste* this coming Sunday, March 14, discussing Part 7. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Beverly Bartlett at 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 John 1-7. Questions? Write to Reverend Vaughn at jpv@mapc.com.

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study, March 15 at 7 pm

The Monday Evening Bible Study group is reading and discussing 1 and 2 Samuel which contains 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 22-26 in preparation for the discussion on March 15. Questions? Email Rev. Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is on hiatus for Lent and will have the next meeting on Monday, April 12 at 5:30 pm. Please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo 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:

March 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.

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) We encourage you to **download** the Bible App for Kids at <https://www.bible.com/kids> and use it for at-home Christian Education for preschoolers. Search for fun, musical, 25-minute episodes in the app or watch in your browser at <https://bibleappforkids.com/parents/videos>. Our suggested schedule for the Sundays in March is "The King and the Kingdom," "A Test in the Desert," "Through the Roof," and "The Donkey and the King." Accompanying coloring pages can be printed here:

[Printable Coloring Pages](#)

MONDAYS FOR KIDS

(K-2nd grade) **on Zoom**. The Winter Session of Mondays for Kids will meet March 22 and April 12 at 4:30-5:15 pm. We will learn about what God is like. The Spring Session begins after Easter and will run through June.

PRETEEN CONNECT

(3rd-5th grade) **on Zoom**. Our Winter Session will meet March 17 and April 7 at 4:30-5:15 pm. We will learn about the Bible's call to gender equality, our place in God's plan, and identity in Christ. The Spring Session begins after Easter and will run through June.

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 four 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/

