

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



March 25, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

On Tuesday evening our Session met via Zoom. Here are several developments that I think you will find interesting.

First, the Personnel Committee announced that it had selected Chesna Hinkley as our next pastoral resident. This year's applicants were outstanding, and we are thrilled that she has accepted our invitation to serve at MAPC! Please congratulate Chesna when you see her!

Secondly, two members of our Presbytery's Commission on Ministry joined us. They apologized for the confusion surrounding our need to complete a Mission Study Review and explained that they do, indeed, want us to conduct one. Given that five years have passed since the last one, Rev. McDevitt's short tenure, and the unfolding impact of the pandemic on our ministry, they strongly believe that it is in our best interest to reflect anew on who we are and where God might be calling us.

They also noted that this process should not take a year and could be accomplished in as little as four months. Session, subsequently, agreed to ask the Congregational Nominating Committee to convene

and identify seven individuals who would serve well on the Mission Review Team. Those names will, then, be presented at a duly called congregational meeting for approval.

Are you interested in serving? Can you recommend someone who has the following gifts?

1. An ability to listen deeply, carefully and compassionately.
2. An openness to discovering new insights into the life of our congregation.
3. A desire and ability to work collaboratively as a member of a team.

Please give these questions your prayerful consideration. In an upcoming newsletter we will provide contact information for you to send your suggestions.

Thirdly, we created a Racial Justice Task Force. This group, which grew out of the Anti-Racism Discussion Group, will continue to offer educational opportunities that offer insight into the scourge of racism and its impact on our society. It will also explore how we might be able to engage racism as we strive to reflect Christ's love for all people.

I find the rise of white supremacy in our society deeply disturbing, and I am thankful that we at MAPC are willing to discuss and address it.

Fourthly, we established a second pastoral residency position that will focus on communication and community engagement.

One of the things that we have learned during the pandemic is that effective and healthy communication is not ancillary to a vital church. It is integral. We will seek a theologically trained and technologically skilled individual who will help us use various media more effectively, expand the use of video to tell the story of MAPC, and develop a comprehensive communication strategy that will help strengthen our congregation's relationship with other churches and ministries.

This second residency will be largely funded from resources that had been designated for our vacant Director of Communications position. Our request for Presbytery approval will go to the Commission on Ministry on April 6.

We will keep you posted!

Thinking of you,

Patrick

P.S. Gospel Gatherings, our twelve-week exploration of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, was originally scheduled to wrap up this Sunday. We have decided to meet for four additional weeks to read and discuss the second volume of Luke, the book of Acts. Beginning April 11, we will resume gathering on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am via Zoom. If you can join us for a fun discussion, please read Acts 1-7.

[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 Palm Sunday, March 28.
His sermon is entitled "Time for Decision."

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



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.

We continue to offer Morning Prayer on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. The service is 30 minutes long, including prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and time for reflection.

--Please use the Sign Up Genius link below to sign up.

--Masks covering both the mouth and nose must be worn.

--We will take temperatures and have those who attend sign a health attestation.

--Please note that we are following (and exceeding) the recommended safety guidelines for worshiping and singing together.

Please sign up here:

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

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

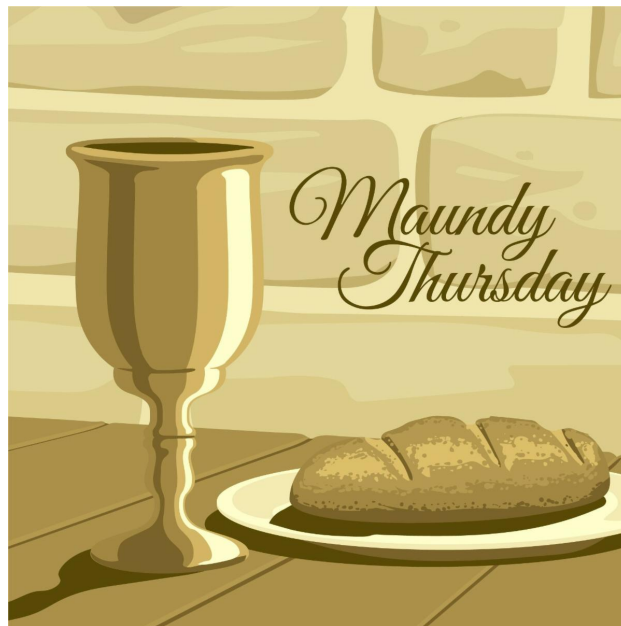
Holy Week & Easter at MAPC!

Join us for Virtual and In-Person Worship

HOLY WEEK MUSICAL DEVOTIONS: Monday-Friday, March 28 - April 2

During Holy Week, Director of Music Dr. Andrew Henderson will offer a daily musical meditation focusing on a different piece of music including hymns, choral and organ music, with Passiontide themes. The virtual devotions will be emailed each morning.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1



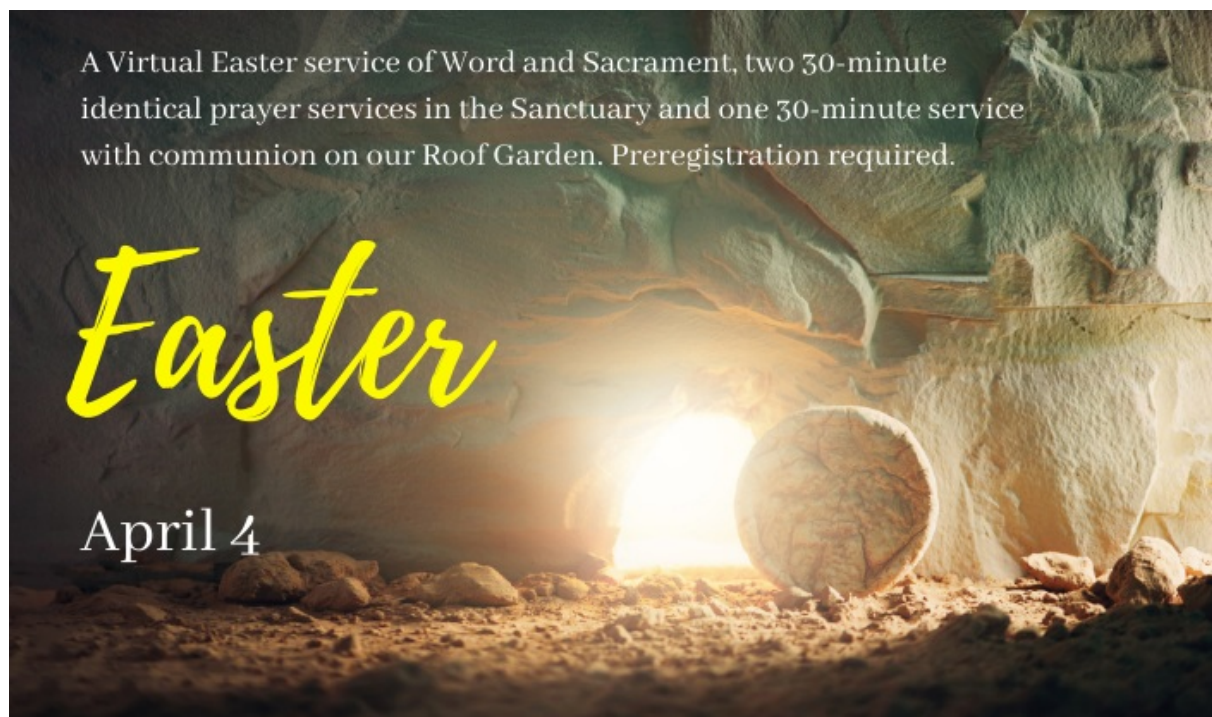
Our **Maundy Thursday Service** will take place at **7 pm via Zoom**, including a meditation by the Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn, music, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper, with optional Fellowship/Communal Dinner beforehand at 6:30 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2

Good Friday

- 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 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 a trumpeter and 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. You may attend only this service, or attend both this and either the 8:30 or 10:30 services in the Sanctuary, but **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



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**You Shall Be Called
Repairers of the Breach**

— ISAIAH 58

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 through Easter (April 4), 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/>.

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 - Saturdays at 9 am

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

Young Adult Gatherings on Zoom

Mondays from 7 to 8 pm: Apr. 12 & 26, May 10 & 24, June 14 & 28

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 April 12, read Chapters 5-7.

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.

Mystery Book Group!

Next Meeting - Thursday, April 15

7 pm via Zoom (Note the New Time)



Our book for April is Jane Harper's, *The Dry*. Beverly Bartlett will facilitate this discussion of the book.

If you would like to support an independent bookstore, you can order *The Dry* from bookshop.org.

<https://bookshop.org/books/the-dry/9781250778574>

Unfortunately there is a waitlist for the e-book version through New York Public Library, but it is available on Kindle from Amazon.

Easter Fest in Central Park, April 10 at 3 pm



Come join us for an Easter fellowship celebration in Central Park on Saturday, April 10th at 3 pm (yes, it is still Easter on the 10th!). We will have simple crafts, games, and treats--and best of all, the chance to see each other in person! We have a permit for up to 50 people on the lower part of Cedar Hill (enter at 5th Avenue and 79th Street). Since we need to keep track of numbers and know how many people to plan for, please let us know you are coming by using the Sign-up Genius link below.

[Sign Up Here](#)

Adult Education Opportunities

Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Sunday Afternoons at 5 pm

This coming Sunday, March 28th, we will begin discussing Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s book, *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*. This is the book the recent two-part PBS series on The Black Church was based on. Please read Chapter One (the first 60 pages) for this Sunday. If you would like to join this group, this is a great week to start since we are beginning a new book!

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Beverly Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study, April 5 at 7 pm

The Monday Evening Bible Study group is 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 27-31 and the first 2 chapters of Geraldine Brooks' book "The Secret Chord" in preparation for the discussion. 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:

Every Wednesday, 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 8-10 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 last class of our Winter Session is April 12 at 4:30-5:15 pm. Our Spring Session entitled, "Going to Church," will run April 26, May 10 & 24, and June 7 & 21 at 4:30-5:15 pm. **Register to receive a box for our Spring Session by April 6 below:**

[Register Here](#)

PRETEEN CONNECT

(3rd-5th grade) **on Zoom**. The last class of our Winter Session is April 7 at 4:30-5:15 pm. Our Spring Session will run April 21, May 5 & 19, and June 2 & 16 at 4:30-5:15 pm. We will learn about worship, sacraments, and being members of the local congregation.

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/

