

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

## PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



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**April 1, 2021**

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### **A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn**

Dear Friends,

The theologian, Jurgen Moltmann, has written that the cross is the test of everything that deserves to be called Christian.

As Christians we believe that it is in the cross that we are offered the most faithful glimpse of the kind of God we worship. Not a god of bloodline and land. Not a god of ancestry and family. Not a god of coercion and control. But the God who comes to us ever opening God's arms to embrace all people.

The depth of God's love was scandalous two thousand years ago, and it is no less scandalous today. It is scandalous because it subverts the powers of the world, undermines the priorities of the world, and replaces the hopes and dreams of the world.

What does the cross mean to you?

In one way or another we grapple with this question throughout the year, but it is especially pressing as we remember

Jesus' last meal with his disciples

his betrayal and arrest

his crucifixion

his burial in a tomb.

What does the cross mean to you? How does it shape your life? How does it inform how you live from day to day?

These questions are our focus for the next few days.

I hope to see you Easter morning.

Thinking of you,

Patrick

**Tonight, Tomorrow & Easter at MAPC!**  
**Join us for Virtual and In-Person Worship**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, This evening**

- 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.

*A zoom link was sent to your email today.*

**GOOD FRIDAY, tomorrow**

- Our Good Friday Family Service will take place at 7 pm via Zoom, including a pre-recorded retelling of the Passion story plus a live Good Friday service led by MAPC youth and children.

*The zoom link will be sent by email tomorrow.*

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 4**

- A link to our virtual Easter service of Word & 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.

8:30 Sanctuary Service Sign up -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-easter>

10:30 Sanctuary Service Sign up -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-easter2>

- **We will offer a 30-minute Service of Communion on the Roof Garden at 9:30 am**, with appropriate and stringent precautions in place.

9:30 Service Roof Garden Sign up -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-easter1>

P.S. Our Gospel Gatherings will 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 am via Zoom. If you can join us for a fun discussion, please read Acts 1-7!

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[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

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## For All the Saints

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We learned yesterday of the death of MAPC member Jean Weinberg last December, shortly before her 99th birthday. Jean had moved to an assisted living facility in New Jersey several years ago. The family is planning a memorial service in June.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit, they rest from their labors and their deeds follow them." *Rev. 14:13*

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## Worship

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**Please join us for online worship.**

The Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching Easter Sunday, April 4.  
His sermon is entitled "That Look in God's Eye."

### **Sunday Worship**

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

[Click Here to Watch](#)

# 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 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**

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-Erazo, [lgp@mapc.com](mailto: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](mailto:ceh@mapc.com)) or April Martin ([aem@mapc.com](mailto:aem@mapc.com)) and we will get you a copy.

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## **Mystery Book Group!**

**Next Meeting - Thursday, April 15**

**7 pm via Zoom (Note the New Time)**

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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).

<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.

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## Easter Fest in Central Park, April 10 at 3 pm

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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](#)

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## Adult Education Opportunities

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### Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Sunday Afternoons at 5 pm

This group will take a break on Easter and resume Sunday, April 11th, to discuss Chapter 2 of 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.

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Beverly Bartlett at [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com).

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## Bible Studies

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:lgp@mapc.com)

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## Youth and Children at MAPC

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### Youth (Ages 6th - 12th Grade)

#### CONFIRMATION:

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

#### YOUTH IN 2021:

Wednesdays from 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.

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### Virtual Children's Ministry

Questions about Children's Ministry at MAPC? Contact Chesna Hinkley ([ceh@mapc.com](mailto: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>. The video for April is "A Happy Sunday." Four weekly accompanying lesson plans and coloring pages can be printed below.

[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.

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## **Four Ways to Give to MAPC During this Time**

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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!*

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## Links for MAPC Worship Services

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### 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](#)

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## MAPC on Social Media

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### 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/](https://facebook.com/MadisonAvenuePresbyterian/)

