

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



April 8, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

Good news abounds at MAPC!

As you might have read in yesterday's email, we will begin holding a Service of the Word this Sunday at 10:30 am. It will include two hymns, an anthem, prayers, and a sermon. The service will last about 45 minutes, and we can safely accommodate 65 people in our Sanctuary. I hope you will join us!

Please click [HERE](#) to sign up.

Also, we are holding a wonderful time of fun and fellowship in the park on Saturday, April 10 from 3 to 5 pm. We have a permit for up to 50 people on the lower part of Cedar Hill (enter at 5th Avenue and 79th Street). If you are able to join us for Easter Fest, please register by clicking on the link below.

Sign Up to Join Us for Easter Fest

In addition, on Tuesday evening the Commission on Ministry of our Presbytery approved a second Pastoral Resident position at MAPC.

As we learned anew during the pandemic, communication is more vital than ever in ministry, communication within our congregation and communication beyond our walls. The Personnel Committee has asked Jon Rodriguez to serve in this position, and he has accepted our invitation. Jon will graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary in May and move to New York in late summer/early fall.

Finally, the Congregational Nominating Committee will meet to discern which of our members would serve well on the Mission Review Team. Strong candidates will be blessed with the following:

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

Are you interested in serving? Can you recommend someone who has these gifts? If so, please contact the chair of the Nominating Committee. Her email address is carolynwclark@yahoo.com.

Is the Spirit of our Risen Lord blowing in our midst?

Maybe so!

Thinking of you,

Patrick

P.S. 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!

[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



Easter Sunday Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary at MAPC.



Service of Communion on the Roof on Easter Sunday at MAPC.

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

Chesna E. Hinkley will be preaching Sunday, April 11.
Her sermon is entitled "The (un)Natural Order of Things."

Join us for in-Person Service of the Word at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

As mentioned above, we are expanding our in-person worship from a 30-minute Morning Prayer service to a 45-minute Service of the Word. This service will include a sermon in addition to the prayers, scripture and music that have been part of our Morning Prayer services for the past seven months.

We will continue to follow the same stringent safety guidelines: masks completely covering the nose and mouth are required, physically-distanced seating will be observed, and we will refrain from greetings and conversation until we are out in the fresh air on the sidewalk after the service.

Please sign up for the service by clicking the link below
so that we may monitor numbers.

[Sign Up Here](#)

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. **Thank you to the congregation for giving \$1,653 this Lent for our neighbors. Caring for those in need is caring for Jesus!** 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, 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.

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](#)

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.

Adult Education Opportunities

Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Sunday Afternoons at 5 pm

This group resumes 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.

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study, April 19 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 2 Samuel, chapters 1-6 and Chapters 3-4 of Geraldine Brooks' book *The Secret Chord* in preparation for the discussion. Questions? Email Rev. Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study

After taking a hiatus during Lent, the Women's Bible Study resumes this coming Monday, April 12 at 5:30 pm, meeting by teleconference. 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:

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.

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>. The video for April is "A Happy Sunday." Four weekly accompanying lesson plans and coloring pages can be printed below.

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:

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/

