

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



April 22, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Have you noticed the difference?

I first saw it about ten days ago.

Chatting customers filled outdoor restaurant tables. The ticket line for The Met stretched to 84th Street. Hundreds of families and friends, couples and individuals walked up and down Fifth Avenue.

Over the past month Manhattan has experienced something of a renaissance. Signs of new life abound not only in the greening trees and blooming flowers but in the increasing number of masked faces on our city streets.

Slowly, cautiously, and joyfully we are venturing out, tasting the spring air, feeling the warmth of the sun and remembering that we are not alone after all.

It has certainly seemed that way, of course. For more than a year most of our interaction has been limited to the screen of our computer or tablet. The walls of our homes have been our companions, and we have, often, eaten alone, cried alone, and laughed alone.

Thankfully, that is beginning to change. The pandemic has certainly not come to an end. New cases of Covid-19 are breaking global records. We have not yet reached herd immunity, and the potential emergence of a vaccine resistant mutation ever lurks in the background.

But a fresh spirit seems to be moving through our city. There is a bounce in our step and an unmistakable echo of hope in our voices.

If you have been vaccinated and, of course, feel comfortable, I do hope you will consider joining us for in-person worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. We practice social distancing, and we wear masks. While we have not yet determined how to safely incorporate the Lord's Supper, the service is very similar to our pre-Covid services. It consists of two hymns, a beautiful anthem, scripture readings, prayers and sermon.

If you are able to join us, we ask that you register. This helps to expedite screening when you arrive, but if you forget or if you have trouble signing up, please don't let that stop you. You will just need to spend a few more minutes in line.

Last Sunday, a couple wandered into the Sanctuary about twenty minutes after the service had ended. April and I chatted with them and discovered that they moved to the city about 18 months ago.

They said, "Well, I guess you're not holding in-person services yet."

When I told them that, indeed, we are, their faces lit up, and they expressed interest returning to worship with us.

How did they end up at MAPC? Over the past few weeks they had begun getting out of their apartment and exploring the city. They just happened to walk by.

I do hope they return. I would enjoy getting to know them, and, much more importantly, I believe that they would be blessed and that we would be blessed by worshipping together.

I wonder how many of our neighbors also might be interested in gathering with us for worship.

I wonder how many might long for the kind of community we offer at MAPC.

And, I wonder how many of them are simply waiting for an invitation.

Have you noticed the difference?

I first saw it about ten days ago.

Thinking of you,

Patrick

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

The Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching Sunday, April 25.
His sermon is entitled "Predestination: Comfort and Commission."

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

We have expanded our in-person worship from a
30-minute Morning Prayer service to a 45-minute Service of the Word.
The service includes 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 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](#)

**A Memorial Service for John Weaver
(April 27, 1937 - February 1, 2021)
Held on Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 2 pm**

MAPC invites you to attend a Virtual Service of Witness to the Resurrection for John Weaver on Sunday, April 25, at 2 pm. Links to the service will be available at mapc.com, and those wishing to view the service in community with others may do so via the Facebook page of MAPC at 2 pm at [Facebook.com/MadisonAvenuePresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/MadisonAvenuePresbyterian). Should technical difficulties arise, the service will be available anytime on Sunday, April 25, and archived thereafter at vimeo.com/channels/mapc.

The family invites all to view their personal remembrances of John on their blog, beginning Sunday, April 25. Marianne and Kirianne Weaver will receive guests on Tuesday, April 27, 4-8 pm via Zoom. Access to the Zoom reception and personal remembrances may be found at johnborlandweaver.blogspot.com. For those that wish to make monetary gifts, the family encourages gifts to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, The Bach Cantata Series at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, or the Craftsbury Chamber Players.

Opportunities for Fellowship & Study

Zoom invites are sent regularly by email.

Virtual Fellowship Hour

Sundays at 12 noon

We will continue to hold Virtual Fellowship Hour through the end of April. ****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.

Church Family Zoom Night, Friday, May 14 -- 6 pm via Zoom

It's time for another Zoom Church Family Night! We'll enjoy dinner together (at our own tables, of course) fellowship, games, and a short movie. The Zoom link will be sent out in an email that week. This is for the whole church family, not just those with children at home, and we hope you can join us for an intergenerational gathering.

Young Adult Gatherings on Zoom

Mondays from 7 to 8 pm: Apr. 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 26, read Chapters 8-10.

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.

Gospel Gatherings, Sunday Mornings at 9 am

Gospel Gatherings will meet for four additional weeks to read and discuss the second volume of Luke, the book of Acts. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am via zoom for this fun discussion. For April 25, please read Acts 14-21!

[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

Mystery Book Group! Thursday, May 13th, 7 pm via Zoom



The Mystery Book Group is having a wonderful time reading and discussing good mysteries. Like most book groups the conversation broadens to cover other topics as well. The next book group meeting is May 13th, and our current mystery is "Full Dark House" by Christopher Fowler. If you'd like to know more, please email Rev. Bartlett, bab@mapc.com. An email with the Zoom link will be sent out the week of the meeting.

Adult Education Opportunities

Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Sunday Afternoons at 5 pm

The next group meeting is Sunday, April 25. We will discuss the 4th and final chapter of Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s book, *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*.

On Sunday, May 2nd, we will begin discussing "White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity" by Robert P. Jones. Please read through p.38 for the May 2nd discussion.

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

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study, May 3 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 7-12 in preparation for the discussion. Questions? Email Rev. Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet by teleconference Monday, April 26 at 5:30 pm to continue their study of the Psalms. Please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo for more details: ljp@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.

[Printable Coloring Pages](#)

MONDAYS FOR KIDS

(K-2nd grade) **on Zoom**. Our Spring Session entitled, "Going to Church," will run April 26, May 10 & 24, and June 7 & 21 at 4:30-5:15 pm.

PRETEEN CONNECT

(3rd-5th grade) **on Zoom**. Our Spring Session will run 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/

