

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



May 13, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

About five years ago the church I was serving granted me a sabbatical. This is common in our denomination. Indeed, congregations are encouraged to give a three month sabbatical to their pastors every six or seven years.

The purpose of a sabbatical is primarily renewal. It gives pastors an opportunity to step back from their responsibilities and take a deep breath. Wells of creativity that have run dry are replenished. New hobbies are explored. Focus is sharpened, and pastors return to their churches refreshed and rejuvenated.

The most helpful, life giving, challenging, frightening and rewarding time of my sabbatical was the week that Deb and I spent in New York City. She visited museums and plays during the day while I dutifully reported to the Upright Citizens Brigade. That name might sound familiar to many of you. Until it permanently closed during the pandemic it was considered one of the top improvisational programs in the country. Many in the cast of Saturday Night Live, for example, trained at the UCB.

I was by far the oldest in our group of fifteen. We came from Boston and LA, from Washington DC and San Francisco. Some had previous training. Others like me had none.

I loved it. To be sure I was clumsy and awkward at times, and anxiety was my ever present companion. But the teacher was amazing and my compatriots were exceptionally warm and gracious.

We concluded our training that Saturday morning by performing on their stage in front of friends, family, and anyone who wanted to attend.

I share this because at our last Session meeting, our elders unanimously and joyfully granted Beverly a three month sabbatical in the fall of 2022. She has already begun making preparations. I have no doubt this will be a blessing both for her and for you.

When you see her, ask her about it. If my experience is at all indicative, she will have quite an adventure!

Thinking of you.

Patrick

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

The Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching Sunday, May 16.
His sermon is entitled "What a Blind Man Can Show Us."

Sunday Worship

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

[Click Here to Watch](#)

Over the Rainbow - A Concert!

Over the next week, eight ensembles of our New York City Children's Chorus will present in-person performances at MAPC for their families.

To hear these talented children perform together in a virtual concert, please visit nycchildrenschorus.org on or after Sunday, May 16 at 3 pm.

The performance will feature beloved works from *Mary Poppins*, *My Fair Lady*, and *The Wizard of Oz*, as well as art songs by contemporary African-American composers that will lift your spirits and make your heart sing!

Do you know a child that loves to sing?

Auditions for the NYC Children's Chorus are now open. In-person and Zoom auditions are taking place now through the end of May. Please visit nycchildrenschorus.org to sign up for a friendly audition with Mary Huff.

**Opportunity for Service -
Help Out in the New Clothing Closet!**



MAPC and St. James Episcopal Church are opening a free clothing closet for low-income New Yorkers in our former shelter space. If you can spare an hour after worship, please join members of the task force to sort through bags of clothing donations. We will sort from 11:45am-12:45pm in the basement of the church for the next few weeks - coffee provided!

Opportunities for Fellowship & Study

Zoom invites are sent regularly by email.

We are thankful to those of you who joined us for online fellowship this year. Now that we are worshipping in person, we look forward to seeing you face-to-face and on our other online gatherings.

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

Tomorrow, 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. 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.

[RSVP for Church Family Night Here](#)

Young Adult Gatherings on Zoom

Mondays from 7 to 8 pm: (No Meeting on May 24), June 14 & 28

On Sunday, May 23, the MAPC Young Adult group will meet after the 10:30 worship service for an end of year picnic in Central Park. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to April Martin at aem@mapc.com.

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 June 14, read Chapters 14-17.

Chesna Hinkley & April Martin will lead this group on Zoom.

Mystery Book Group!

TONIGHT, 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. 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 was sent out this morning.

Adult Education Opportunities

New Adult Education Option Beginning May 16 at 9 am

Chesna will lead a Zoom reading group on the book of Genesis on May 16, 23, and all four Sundays in June. We will follow the same format as this Spring's Gospel Gatherings: complete the reading for the day and come prepared to share a passage or two that piques your interest. For May 16, read Genesis 1-9. Watch your email for the Zoom link and email Chesna (ceh@mapc.com) with questions.

Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Sunday Afternoons at 5 pm

The next group meeting is Sunday, May 16th. We will continue discussing "White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity" by Robert P. Jones. Please read through Chapter 3 for the May 16 discussion.

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

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study, May 17 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 13-19 in preparation for the discussion. Questions? Email Rev. Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study, which normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, will remain on hiatus until it is safe for everyone to meet in person.

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 in the Roof Garden weekly with April and Chesna and adult volunteers. Questions: email April at aem@mapc.com. It is never too late to join in the fun!

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 May 24, and June 7 & 21 at 4:30-5:15 pm.

PRETEEN CONNECT

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

