

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



May 20, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

A glimpse?

A couple of weeks ago a Muslim woman visited the Open Table. In celebration of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Fitr she offered this wonderful ministry a financial gift. She joined with us in combating the hunger of our brothers and sisters.

Last Sunday several of my friends from Bedford joined us for worship at MAPC. During lunch as we caught up with one another following months of pandemic exile, they said, “Everyone was so friendly this morning! They welcomed us when we arrived and spoke with us following the service!”

Generosity and hospitality are not particularly innate. They are spiritual practices that are intentionally cultivated and joyfully celebrated in a community of faith.

Generosity and hospitality are signs of a faithful and vibrant church. When we experience them, we have caught a glimpse of the very presence of God.

Where have you seen God over the past week?

Thinking of you.

Patrick

Worship

Please join us for online worship.

The Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching Sunday, May 23.
His sermon is entitled "Do You Hear the Wind?"

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!

This past weekend, MAPC's New York City Children's Chorus released its virtual spring concert with over 140 choristers in six different ensembles. The performance features 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! Follow [this link](#) to watch the concert!

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.

Two NYC Presbyterian Church Organs Featured

During the past year the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has featured different organs throughout the city in their "Pipe Organs of New York" YouTube series. The latest episode features both First Presbyterian Church and Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Michael

Shake, the recently-appointed Director of Music at FPC, performs works by Maurice Duruflé, David Hurd, and James Brooks Kuykendall on the Austin/Glück organ at FPC, and Dr. Andrew Henderson performs works by J. S. Bach and John Cook on MAPC's Casavant organ. [Click here to view the latest episode of *Pipe Organs of New York*.](#)

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



Clothing sorting will not happen this week due to the Young Adult picnic. See you on the 30th!

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.

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!



The Mystery Book Group is having a wonderful time reading and discussing good mysteries. Our next mystery is “The Crocodile on the Sandbank”, the first book in the Amelia Peabody series by Elizabeth Peters. We are still deciding on a date, so watch this space! If you'd like to know more, please email Rev. Bartlett, bab@mapc.com. An email with the Zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Education at 9 am

Chesna will lead a Zoom reading group on the book of Genesis on May 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 23, read Genesis 10-17. 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 4 for the May 23rd discussion.

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

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study, June 7 at 7 pm

The Monday Evening Bible Study group will finish their journey through the Samuel, Saul and David stories on June 7, discussing 2 Samuel 20 through 1 King 2:4. After June 7th, we will take a break for the summer, and start up in September with a study of women in the Bible. 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 will meet with members of the MAPC session on May 25th before becoming new members of the church.

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 May is "God's Wonderful Gift." 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 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

Children's Worship will end for the summer on May 30.

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/

