

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



June 17, 2021

A Letter from Rev. J. Patrick Vaughn

Dear Friends,

As many of you might recall, our son, Nathan, is in graduate school at the University of Wyoming. On Wednesday Deb and I are flying to Laramie to visit him. We last saw Nathan in August. I am very eager to see him but I am somewhat apprehensive about traveling to and fro.

Vacations and reunions have an added level of stress this summer. So many of us have been separated from loved ones over the past fifteen months. We have missed weddings and funerals, birthdays and graduations, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have Zoomed here and Zoomed there, adopted pets, struggled with isolation, and lived with a gnawing sense of fear and foreboding.

While painful it is not really surprising, then, that congregations have begun reporting increased conflict. Staffs are worn down and suffering from exhaustion. Members are confused about when and how “regular worship” will resume. Some people are ready. Others are much more cautious. According to a recent Barna poll, 29% of clergy have given “real, serious consideration to quitting being in

full-time ministry within the last year.”

Churches, of course, are not the only ones experiencing delayed manifestations of stress and tension. The airlines have been particularly hard hit. For example, Forbes reports that in 2019 and 2020 the number of “unruly” airline passenger incidents were well under 200. As of May 2021 such incidents have already reached 394.

What’s going on? I imagine that there are many factors, but surely none is more significant than fatigue. We are a tired people. Tired of isolation. Tired of lacking control. Tired of health protocols. We are physically, emotionally and spiritually tired.

As I prepare to leave the city for several weeks, I offer you one hope. I hope you will be kind.

Be kind to yourself.

Be kind to your family.

Be kind to the person seated bedside you.

Be kind to your friends.

Be kind to the waitress.

Be kind to your neighbor.

As the prophet Micah (6:8) writes,

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Kindness is our calling, and kindness is our gift to the world, a world that yearns for a word of hope.

Grace and peace,

Patrick

[Click Here for Cited Article Related to Clergy Stress](#)

[Click Here to Read Cited Article Related to the Airlines](#)

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting for this Sunday, June 20 immediately following the worship service to act on recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

Please log in by 11:15 am. This will be a hybrid meeting, and the Zoom link will be emailed tomorrow and again on Sunday morning.

The Committee nominates the following people to serve on the Mission Review Team:

Gordon Shearer

Andrew Forbis

Deborah Keith

Sharon Davison

Judy Prince

Katie Keiley

Timmy Johnson

The committee also nominates Linda Field and Stephanie Nichols Ford to fill two unexpired terms on Session.

Worship

Please join us for 10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary.

We have returned to celebrating the Lord's Supper weekly in-person.

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching this Sunday, June 20.

His sermon is entitled "Is God a Verb?"

Sunday Worship

Join us for pre-recorded services of worship on Sunday mornings.

Find all our services here:

[Click Here to Watch](#)

For All the Saints

There is one upcoming memorial service for an MAPC member:

The service for Gordon Robbins, who died April 20, 2020, will be held at noon on Sunday, June 27 in the Dana Chapel. Gordon had been a member of the church since 1991, served as a Deacon and was a dedicated member of the Library Fellowship.

Childcare is Open!



Children 0-5 are welcome on the Roof Garden for Sunday school and playtime! We are open 9:15-11:45 am, and children 2 and up should be masked. Please register before your first time at

VBS in One Day on July 21!



Our second annual Vacation Bible School will be held in-person at church for **age 3 - rising 5th graders**. We'll have a full day of STEM-themed fun, crafts, games, Bible, snacks, and friends on **July 21 from 9 am -6 pm at the church**. Head over to Central Park afterwards for the Church Picnic!

NYCCC Auditions

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. Please visit nycchildrenschorus.org to sign up for a friendly audition with Mary Huff.

Outreach and Mission



Last spring, MAPC granted money to our partners in the Synod of Harare to create boreholes for wells on three sites, helping to alleviate the effects of drought in Southeastern Africa. After COVID-related delays, the boreholes have been completed and water is reaching these communities! We're glad to be able to participate in Christ's mission in the world through our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe!

Samaritan's Closet Volunteer Orientation and First Shifts!

Interested in being a part of our brand new clothing closet ministry? Please join us for a virtual volunteer orientation for Samaritan's Closet! This is an exciting opportunity to learn all about the mission of our closet, the guests who we will serve, and the responsibilities for working as a volunteer.

In hosting this ministry, we at MAPC and St. James' are inspired and motivated by Jesus' call for his disciples to treat those whom he called "the least" as we would Christ himself. Our goal is to provide a welcoming, safe and nurturing experience for guests and a spiritually meaningful experience for volunteers who are living out their faith in this concrete response to God's love for us.

The volunteer orientation will take place via Zoom, TONIGHT, **June 17th from 6-7pm.**

We are in need of volunteers for the first shift on **Sunday, June 27th from 12-3pm.**

To register for the orientation and/or the first shift, please visit bit.ly/samaritanscloset. Email Chesna (ceh@mapc.com) with questions.

Opportunities for Fellowship & Study

Picnic in Central Park - Wednesday, July 21, 6-8 pm

Please mark your calendars for a picnic in Central Park on July 21st.

The church will provide dinners for up to 50 people (individual salads, chicken or salmon, desserts, chips, etc... but please bring your own beverages, picnic blankets or chairs).

Wednesday, July 21, 6-8 pm

Location in Central Park: Cedar Hill

(just inside the entrance at E. 79th and 5th ave)

Look for the red balloons!

We will bring games and have some crafts available. Please sign up and join us for a mid-summer time of fellowship outdoors!

Please sign up (blue button below) and let us know you are coming!

[Sign Up Here](#)



A Walk in the Park

We will take a break for the summer.

If you are interested in more walks in the park, please email April Martin at aem@mapc.com.

Young Adult Gatherings

Stay tuned for opportunities for fellowship and study resuming in the fall.

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. Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 1 at 7 pm. 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

Our Genesis group will continue to meet 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 June 20, read Genesis 37-41. 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 June 27. We will continue discussing “White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity” by Robert P. Jones. Please read chapter 7 for the June 27 discussion. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Beverly Bartlett at bab@mapc.com.

Bible Studies

Monday Evening Bible Study

The Monday Evening Bible Study has finished their journey through the stories of Samuel, Saul and David. They are taking a break for the summer and will resume meeting on Monday evening, September 20, with a study of women in the Bible. Watch for further details on the class as the time gets closer.

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:

We will celebrate our confirmands as a church community on Sunday, October 3, 2021. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us to celebrate the 4 confirmands from the 2020-2021 year and the 6 confirmands from the 2019-2020 year during worship that morning.

YOUTH IN 2021:

The summer youth will be able to volunteer to sort clothing in our new Clothing Closet and/or lead Vacation Bible School on July 21st. We will keep you up to date about our Fall 2021 programming later this summer!

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 recorded Sunday service, one of our pastoral staff teaches on the sermon text in a short time just for kids.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

is finished for the year. See you in the fall!

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Kids (and their joyful noise to the Lord) are ALWAYS welcome in worship! If you prefer to make use of safe and loving childcare and PreK Sunday School, it is open on the Roof Garden for ages 0 to 5 from 9:15-11:45 am. You must fill out a Registration Form before your first time back below. We can't wait to welcome you back!

[Register Here](#)

MONDAYS FOR KIDS

(K-2nd grade) **on Zoom**. Our Spring Session entitled, "Going to Church," will finish June 21 at 4:30-5:15 pm.

PRETEEN CONNECT

is out for the summer! Thanks for a great year.

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](#)

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/

