

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



July 1, 2021

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

I had a wonderful two weeks on the coast of Maine, and with this week's heat wave in NYC, I confess, I wish I was still there!

During July and August we will have a monthly Pastoral Staff Letter rather than weekly. We hope today's newsletter will have all the information you need until the beginning of August! Of course, we will still send out reminders as needed.

For the past three Tuesday mornings, most of the pastoral staff and four elders have been participating in an online seminar, taught by Christen Kinard of Digital Congregations, on How to be a Hybrid Church--a church with both in-person and online ministry. It has sparked a lot of ideas, challenged our traditional thinking, and made us all think about what our ministry will look like going forward. One of the things we, and most churches, realized when we were forced to take most of our ministry online is that there really is no such thing as simply "going back to normal." Normal has changed. If we weren't a "hybrid" church before the pandemic, we will need to be one going forward. The question is how do we do that well? How do we serve

both our in-person congregation and our online community--whether in worship, Christian Education, spiritual formation, and even fellowship.

One of the blessings for us of this past year, is that many of our programs have actually grown--children's ministries, youth gatherings, adult education classes--we have had more people, of all ages, participating in Christian Education than in the past several pre-pandemic years. Committees met by Zoom, and many of them have had better regular attendance. Gathering online allows people to join from wherever they are--do you go to a second home most weekends or for much of the summer? You can still participate in MAPC ministries and worship with us from wherever you are. Are you having trouble finding childcare for an evening meeting? You can join that meeting from home. Are you having trouble making Sunday mornings work for you or your family for worship? You can worship anytime with a recorded service. Are you feeling under the weather? You can join worship or Bible Study from home.

As we learned and discussed in the class, being a hybrid church doesn't just mean recording or live-streaming your church's worship service. It means learning how to best serve people who are at the church in person AND those participating online.

Some other things we learned:

*Sunday morning in-person worship attendance can no longer be the “stick” by which we measure how active someone is, or how healthy a church is.

*A hybrid church requires creativity and flexibility--and the willingness to experiment! Some things we try may not work, and that's okay. “Don't be an expert, be an explorer!”

*Online worship is a *real place* where *real people* gather. It's different than in-person worship, but not less real.

*Participating online is *as valuable* as participating in person.

Coming through the pandemic has been a unique journey--and we continue to be on that journey. We can view becoming a more welcoming, active hybrid church as an exciting expansion of our concept of ministry and being a church, or we can lament that things are changing and long for “the good old days.” We can hold on to the best of who we are, AND move into a future that enables and equips

more people to participate in the life of the church in new ways.

I look forward to continuing this journey with you,

Beverly Bartlett

Worship

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

Chesna E. Hinkley will be preaching this Sunday, July 4.
Her sermon is entitled “The New Human.”

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services



You will notice a change in worship beginning July 4!

We are no longer pre-recording a Sunday service, as we began doing in March 2020. This week we will live-stream the Sunday morning service for the first time! As this remains a work in progress, please expect continuous improvement as we will work out any bugs and refine the process over the coming weeks.

Instead of watching the Vimeo link, please visit the live-streaming page: <https://www.mapc.com/live-stream/> on our website shortly before the service begins at 10:30 am.

You will also find a link to download the bulletin there. Alternatively, you can also watch the recording of the live stream at a later time. Please let us know if you have any questions!

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

July 4, Pastoral Resident Chesna Hinkley will be preaching. Her sermon is entitled, “The New Human”.

July 11, Associate Pastor Beverly Bartlett preaching.

July 18, Transitional Minister Patrick Vaughn will begin a sermon series on the Ten Commandments

July 25, Rev. Dr. Vaughn preaching.

August 1, Rev. Dr. Vaughn preaching.

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**. **All are welcome--please invite friends!** 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!

[Register Here](#)

A Summer Concert at MAPC

Save the Date!

The NYC Children's Chorus will present an informal concert on Saturday, July 31 at 7 pm at MAPC. Our 2020 tour to Pennsylvania was delayed by Covid, but we are delighted to go on our tour July 31-Aug 3. The first stop on our tour is MAPC! If you are not in the city on July 31, please tune into our live-streamed worship on Aug 1 at 10:30, when MAPC's homegrown children's chorus program will be singing, as well!

Outreach and Mission

Are you interested in getting involved with Justice Ministries in the New York City presbytery? Working groups are seeking members in the areas of Criminal Justice, Housing Justice, and Immigrant Justice. These groups engage in legislative advocacy and other practical work. Click below to fill out their survey:

[Fill Out Survey Here](#)

Opportunity to Give in Honor of Rev. Joseph Juma

In honor of Rev. Joseph Juma's retirement, the Outreach Committee invites you to contribute to building a new church in the Synod of Harare. During his career, Rev. Juma served as Pastor in Residence at MAPC and was instrumental in establishing our partnership with Harare. If you would like to give, please note "Juma Retirement" on your check.

Opportunities for Fellowship & Study

MAPC

Picnic in Central Park

Wednesday, July 21
6-8 pm



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, 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](#)

Spiritual Growth and Faith Sharing Group Resumes!

This group stopped meeting when the pandemic began, but we are re-starting this summer! We will meet in person at the James Lenox House on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm. While we meet around the corner, the group includes both JLH residents and MAPC members, and all are welcome! Rev. Bartlett leads the group. Our time together includes checking in with each other, reading a passage of scripture, time for silent reflection, sharing how the passage for the day speaks to us, and prayer. When weather permits, we will meet in the JLH garden in the back of the building. Otherwise, we will meet in the JLH Library. The dates for this summer, all beginning at 1 pm, are July 1 and 15, August 5 and 19th, September 2 and 16.

Young Adult Gatherings

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

Mystery Book Group!

Mystery Book Group! - We will take a break for August and resume our monthly online meetings in September. We'll announce our next book and date in the August 4 Pastoral Staff Letter.

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Education Will Resume in the Fall

Watch for a description of the fall Adult Education offerings in the August Pastoral Staff Letter. The 9 am Sunday morning class will resume September 12, and the Monday Evening Bible Study will begin its study of women in the Bible on Monday, September 20.

Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Next Meeting is Sunday, August 1 at 5 pm by Zoom.

Over the summer the Anti-Racism Group will meet monthly rather than weekly. The next meeting is Sunday, August 1 at 5 pm, and we will be discussing James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*. The meeting after that will be Sunday, September 12th when we will discuss MAPC member and young adult author Kekla Magoon's book *The Rock and the River*. Zoom links will be sent out on the respective Sunday mornings.

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 worship will return this summer.

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.

[Register Here](#)

ELEMENTARY KIDS

Stay tuned for an announcement about next 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

Livestream Services

Watch our services live at 10:30 am on Sundays below.

[Watch Worship Live on Sunday Here](#)

**Our services from the past year are still available
on the church's Vimeo page.**

[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/

