

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

PASTORAL STAFF LETTER

announcements, updates, and information for the weeks ahead



June 10, 2021

A Letter from Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Dear Friends,

In the winter of 2020, before the pandemic hit the US, our Sunday morning Adult Education class began addressing the issue of racism. We started by reading and discussing Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail* on the Sunday of MLK weekend, then began working through the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Facing Racism* curriculum in February. The turnout we had for those discussions was higher than what we had been getting for most Adult Ed classes for many months. That told us people wanted to engage this issue.

We put the *Facing Racism* discussions on hold when we had to stop meeting in person for the pandemic. When George Floyd was murdered over Memorial Day Weekend and the Black Lives Matter protests grew around the country, we realized we could not put it on hold any longer and began again in June, meeting by Zoom. That summer and into the early fall we would at times have more than 20 people participating in those discussions, and we had dozens attend the lecture and discussion we hosted this past February with Bishop Joseph W. Tolton, Founder and President of Interconnected Justice.

We have continued the readings and discussions, moving from the Sunday morning Adult Education time slot to meeting at 5 pm on Sunday afternoons. Ten to twelve people have remained active in these weekly anti-racism discussions. It has been a powerful, transformative journey as we wrestled with challenging books and articles that have opened our eyes to the history of the concept of race, the development and ongoing pervasiveness of racism and white supremacy, the complicity of the white church, and the way racism continues to be embedded in our society—its economic, political and educational structures—and our psyches.

Earlier this spring the Session voted to establish a Racial Justice Task Force. That task force has yet to be formally organized, but in the meantime the Anti-racism Discussion Group encourages each member of the church to read at least one book or article this summer from this past year's reading list (see link below).

A couple of our members shared what this group has meant to them: *“ My participation in this group has heightened my awareness of the depth of the racial divisiveness in our country and how our unwillingness to acknowledge and teach our actual history keeps us from being able to move beyond these divisions.”*

--Ruth Schroeder

“Finding the Anti-racism group at MAPC was a lifeline during the summer of 2020 as I grappled with a new-found realization that this time, I would not, no - I could not – forget. The canon of material we have read so far has been illuminating, disgusting, powerful, heartbreaking. The thoughts and prayers shared in this group are a continuing source of inspiration and strength.”

--Lauren Logan

We will continue this work in the fall. In fact, as people of faith who affirm that every human being is created in the image of God and of equal value, we are compelled to be anti-racist—to wrestle with our history and our present and strive to create a society that is truly anti-racist.

Please join us in this critically important work.

You will find a reading list, including brief annotations by members of the Anti-racism Discussion Group

here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0xi8yoaqhhfm6d1/Anti->

Christ's peace be with us all,
Beverly A. Bartlett, for the Anti-racism Discussion Group

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, June 20 immediately following the worship service. This will be a hybrid meeting, and the Zoom link will be emailed out prior to the meeting.

The Session has called this meeting to act on recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

It nominates the following 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 will return to celebrating the Lord's Supper weekly in-person beginning this weekend.

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Vaughn will be preaching this Sunday, June 13. His sermon is entitled "Does God Give Us More Than We Can Handle?"

Sunday Worship

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

For All the Saints

There are two upcoming memorial services for MAPC members:

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held for Janet McDougall on Saturday, June 12 at 11:00 am. Janet was a member of MAPC for over 50 years and was very active in musical programs in the city.

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. While it is NOT required, it helps us out if you sign up each week at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f44a5af2da1fe3-mapc>

Please register before your first time at
<https://forms.gle/rRFgmSQHU5N3bNis7>.

Parents: Please Indicate Your Preferred Week for VBS 2021!



Our second annual Vacation Bible School will be held in-person at church for age 3 - rising 5th graders. If you're interested in participating, **please fill out our two-question survey to indicate which week works best for you.** VBS will run three hours a day, Sunday to Thursday.

VBS Survey

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

We warmly congratulate Rev. Joseph Juma on his retirement! Rev. Juma was one of MAPC's first Pastors-in-Residence and visited us on other exchange trips. He was instrumental in establishing our partnership with our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe while serving as General Secretary of the Synod of Harare. We give thanks to God for Rev. Juma's life of service to Christ and his Church and for his impact on the ministry of our congregation.

Opportunity for Service -

Help Out in the New Clothing Closet!

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 on Thursday, 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. We are working out the details now, so watch this space for sign-up information, exact location, and what to bring.

MAPC

Picnic in Central Park

Wednesday, July 21
6-8 pm



A Walk in the Park - Final Saturday, June 12 @ 9 am

Join April Martin for our final walk in the park this Saturday morning (June 12) at 9 am. We will meet at the 72nd St. and 5th Ave entrance. We will take a break for the summer after June 12th.

If you are interested in more walks in the park, please email April Martin at aem@mapc.com. 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: June 14

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. Let's finish our discussion of the book!

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. 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 13, read Genesis 27-36. 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:

Youth on the Roof! End of the year celebration - June 16 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.

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, it will resume on the Roof Garden for ages 0-5 on June 6. Childcare is open 9:15-11:45 am and will include a Bible lesson and activities for preschoolers during the worship service. You must fill out a Registration Form before your first time back at <https://forms.gle/pMNUsmP65FcKLfjG6>. For now, we also request weekly

sign-ups here (please register by Thursday):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-mapc>. We can't wait to welcome you back!

Printable Coloring Pages

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

(3rd-5th grade) **on Zoom**. Our last class of the year is June 16 at 4:30 pm-5:15 pm. We are learning 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](#)

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/

