



Presbytery of Yukon

February 15, 2021

A Covid Opportunity for Some - Rev. Curt Karns

*¹¹I am longing to see you so that I may share with
you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—
¹²or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by
each other's faith, both yours and mine.
Romans 1:11-12*

John Wesley famously suggested that Christians should earn all they can, in order to save all they can, in order to give all they can. Wesley, himself, followed that rubric, donating large sums throughout life, while choosing to live frugally. This may be a particularly good moment to remember such guidance.

The economic fallout from the pandemic has more and more people facing severe food insecurity. For some, however, the federal stimulus funds that we have been receiving may provide an opportunity to provide help.

Because of the economic difficulties so many face, this opportunity is not for everyone. For me, however, and for others like me, the stimulus money adds to my income at a time when I am not facing a reduction in salary or benefits. If this statement fits your situation as well, then I invite you to join me in supporting others facing COVID-related needs.

What I am suggesting is that we do two things. First, discover the needs near you and ask your church to collect donations to help, donating your own stimulus funds or, depending on your ability to give, a portion of those funds for that purpose. Second, write to the presbytery office to tell us what you and your church are doing to help. If we get a number of responses, we will publish them in future newsletters. It may well be that hearing from you will enlighten others to needs they do not know much about.

So, to kick this off, this is what I am doing with the stimulus funds I received last month. I received \$600 and am able to give all of it. I have been dismayed at the huge persistent food needs the pandemic has created. I am therefore giving it as follows;

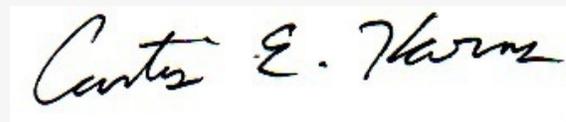
- 25% (\$150) to the [Presbyterian Hunger Program \(PHP\)](#).
- 75% (\$450) to [The Presbytery of Yukon COVID Relief Grants Fund](#), asking them to use at least 2/3 for hunger relief (which might mean going to [The Food Bank of Alaska](#)).

If you or your church sends money to the Presbytery for COVID relief, be sure to send a note (or email to office@pbyukon.org) letting us know that is how you wish your donation used.)

If you are one of the very many who cannot give in this way, I hope this

does not create any guilty feelings. This article is intended to be an encouragement to those who can, not a burden for those already struggling.

I wish you well in your own efforts to serve the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Virtual Meeting Schedule Opens Door

Churches across the presbytery have been selecting Ruling Elders to participate in the annual Winter Meeting of the Presbytery. Although this is normally an occasion for church leaders to gather from across the state, this year's meeting will be held virtually.

As the schedule shows (listed below), this opens the door for some elders to experience the presbytery connection who normally could not. Normally, this would require at least two days of meetings, plus travel time. Working people often found this schedule difficult to accommodate. However, the new schedule fits for most workers. This may be an opportunity for churches to broaden the range of voices available to contribute to presbytery business.



Presbytery of Yukon

Welcome Commissioners!
to the February 2021
Stated Presbytery Meeting

2021 Winter Meeting Schedule, Presbytery of Yukon

Thursday, 2/18: Road System Regional meeting (7-9 p.m.)

Saturday 2/20: Native Ministries Regional Meeting (1:30-3:30 p.m.)

Wed., 2/24: Presbytery Meeting Plenary Session (7-9 p.m.)

Friday, 2/26: Presbytery Meeting Plenary Session (7-9 p.m.)

Saturday, 2/27: Presbytery Meeting Plenary Session (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Sunday, 2/28: Presbytery-Wide Worship Online (11 a.m.)

Presbytery-Wide Worship Online

Sunday, February 28th will feature the second-ever Presbytery-Wide worship service offered online. The move to digital worship due to pandemic restrictions also provided an opportunity for all the churches of the presbytery to join together at the October meeting of presbytery. This proved to be such a welcome connection for so many church members that we are doing it again! The churches of the presbytery will gather once again for worship, with leaders and musicians participating from across the whole region. This service will be offered via Facebook Live at this Presbytery of Yukon Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofYukon>. It will also be available via Zoom for those without high-speed internet. If you need to access the meeting via Zoom, please contact your church or the presbytery office.



Congratulations on Retirement

Sunday, February 28th will be the last day for Rev. Curtis Matz and for Commissioned Pastor Darlene Matz. The couple are retiring after serving at New Hope Church in North Pole for the past six years and, before that, serving in several other settings in Alaska and in the mid-west.

At their February 9 meeting, the presbytery Leadership Team expressed gratitude to both of them for their service, not only at New Hope Church, but also in other roles in the presbytery. Rev. Curt Matz served on the Ministry Commission and as a part of an Administrative Commission supporting the Korean Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks. Darlene Matz served on the Committee on Ministry and as moderator of the Kaktovik Presbyterian Church.

Since February 28th is the last day at New Hope Church for Curt and Darlene, New Hope Church will not be participating in the presbytery-wide worship service to be held online that day. Instead, the church has planned a special worship service to say good-bye.

The Matz came to us on loan from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and served as welcome partners in our common service to Jesus Christ. They have children and grandchildren in Fairbanks and will retire there. We wish them Godspeed.

Healthy Boundaries Training

There will be Healthy Boundaries Training on March 17, 18, and 24th from 10:00 to Noon via Zoom. This training is designed for all clergy, commissioned elders, and anyone doing pastoral care, counseling, or working with youth. Anyone in a position of authority who must regularly navigate relationships and set and maintain healthy boundaries can benefit from this training.

Henry Woodall will be leading and will be sharing from materials prepared by the FaithTrust Institute. A Zoom link, materials, and some worksheet/homework will be sent out prior to the training. If you have had this training recently, you can let Henry or Curt know or if you have any questions please contact us.

Henry Woodall: wasilla@mtaonline.net 907-354-5043
Curt Karns: exec@pbyukon.org

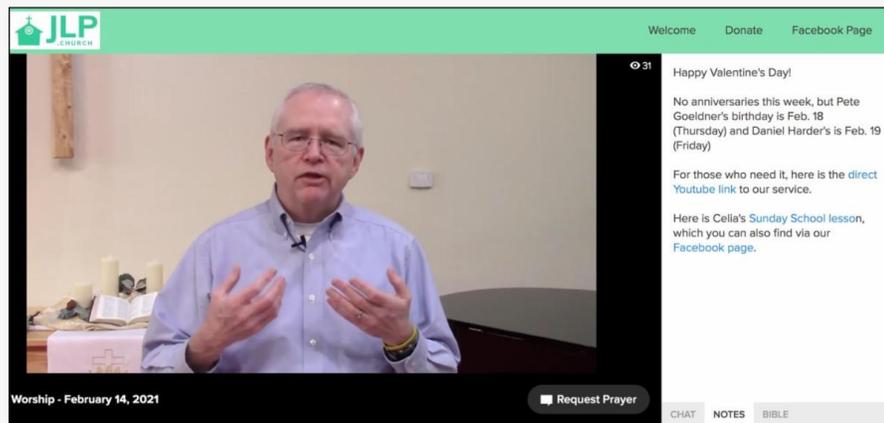
Sunday School at Home

An ongoing challenge through the ages has been to find effective ways to help children come to faith and to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. In these days when in-person Sunday School has not been practical, a number of you have found innovative ways to get good materials into parents' hands, asking parents to help their children to know Jesus and to follow Jesus' way.

One of the challenges in these COVID times, of course, is in getting the word out about resources our churches are making available. Newsletters are useful, but church leaders often wonder how many people are consistent in really reading their newsletters. Some people are more likely to check out a digital worship service than a digital newsletter.

With that in mind, one of our churches has found a great way to take advantage of worship time. Jewel Lake Parish helps parents by producing an online Sunday School featuring a Bible Story told for kids and posting it to YouTube. To help parents (and kids) find it, they put a link in the chat column during their online worship service. Parents can simply copy the link right then, while they are seeing it during the worship service, and then use it at a time of their choosing.

Although such ideas seem simple, they are also essential. This is a time when we must be innovative in our approach to all aspects of ministry, including Sunday School. Please be sure to share what you are doing at your church, too. Hearing from you is an encouragement and inspiration to us all.



Rev. Luke Jones Preaches, Chat Provides Sunday School Link

Interactive Stewardship Education

The Presbyterian Foundation is offering a Day of Learning that will include three workshops with stewardship and church leaders in a casual, virtual setting. There will be time for questions and answer and an opportunity to see colleagues from across the country.

Join us March 2 for great content from the Presbyterian Foundation:

- 8:30 am PST/11:30 am EST - Church Mission and Sustainability with Stephen Keizer and Rev. Gail Monsma
- 11:00 am PST/2:00 pm EST - Virtual Campaigns and Online Giving with Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley and Karl Mattison
- 2:30 pm PST/5:30 pm EST - Practical Tips for Church Budgeting with Olanda Carr and Rev. Dr. Jonah So

Register Today

Questions? Please contact the Presbyterian Foundation at serving@presbyterianfoundation.org.

Financial Reminders

Churches are required to conduct a financial review of its books annually. When you invest in the Mission Development Certificate Program, they will conduct the review at no additional cost to you.

[Learn More...](#)

The Tax Guide for Ministers for 2020 and Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches for 2021 are now available on Benefits Connect. The 2020 Housing Allowance Letter is available on pensions.org.

Some Churches Find it Safe to Meet In Person

Rev. Dale Richesin at Chapel in the Mts. (Anaktuvuk Pass) is also the local school principle. He is very happy to report that Anaktuvuk Pass has not had a single case of COVID-19, ever! Other villages have not been so lucky in that way, but are lucky in that the state has chosen to vaccinate entire villages at once, rather than spend funds to send medical personnel to villages multiple times. As a result, more and more communities are allowing public gatherings.

With that in mind, we choose to celebrate with the Savoonga Presbyterian Church, letting them symbolize for us the good news that more churches are meeting in person. This recent Facebook photo celebrates the young people, who shoveled a mountain of snow to make sure the front door of the church could be used again. Congratulations Savoonga, and other communities beginning the process of emerging from COVID restrictions!



Prayer Requests



Our congregations and communities as we continue to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mark Your Calendars

**February 24 -28,
2021**

Winter Stated Meeting of the Presbytery
Virtual Meeting
Find more info at [our website](#)

March 2, 2021

Interactive Stewardship Education
Presbyterian Foundation
Register online [HERE](#)

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www.pbyukon.org