



Presbytery of Yukon

March 27, 2020

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Prayer Requests



Please keep the entire world in your prayers as we all work together to get through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Stay Connected



Visit Our Website:
www.PBYukon.org

Reflecting on this Moment as a Person of Faith

People often wish to turn to God in moments of crisis. When I asked newcomers why they had begun attending worship in congregations I have served, which I usually did as a matter of course, it was not uncommon for them to speak of some crisis in their life. When long-time members faced their own crises in life, conversations with them often revealed that the crisis caused them to dig more deeply into their own faith, seeking meaning and comfort in hard times. Indeed, during the 9/11 crisis, churches across America filled with visitors, who normally did not attend worship.

It is harder in this pandemic, I think, than in many other crises. Normally, Christians gather together to hear the Word and unite their prayers in the face of trouble. Yet, during these days of the Covid-19 virus we are told not to gather, a move which is truly important, but also carries certain dangers. Of course, it is important for us to practice the social distancing and other guidelines required by our governmental agencies. In Bartow County, Georgia, much of their local outbreak was traced back to one church gathering, where a contagious person inadvertently passed the disease to quite a number of people. Churches, and church people, do not need to blindly add to the problem!

Indeed, isolating the virus is a good idea. Yet, falling into isolation in a time of anxiety and hardship is dangerous to the soul. Do you remember that scriptural admonition: "Though one might prevail against another, and two will withstand one, a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12)?" So I want to use this opportunity to remind all of us: we do have the technology these days. We need to reach out, and we need to reach out not just to one another in the church, but to others as well. The question is how do we do that? So, let me share one example.

In one neighborhood, a neighbor simply reached out through the neighborhood Facebook announcements page and offered to serve as a clearing house for people's needs in crisis. Who was elderly and infirm and needed someone to go get a prescription for them, so they didn't need to leave the house? Who needed hardware supplies picked up to fix a house problem? Who had other needs? And which neighbors were willing to help?

Neighbors began to respond. Interestingly, many people responded that they would gladly pick up prescriptions, or groceries, or even fix a car. Very few said they needed help. Even so, quite a number of folks began to call, just to talk and to connect. To me it sounded like the conversation was the thing that was needed. More than the groceries, or the practical house

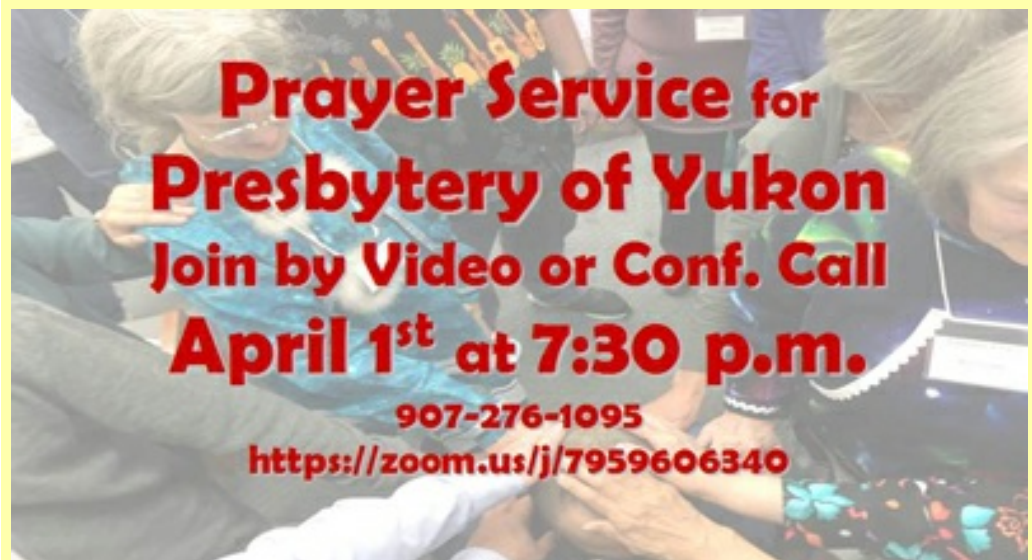
repair, people were lacking connection in anxious times.

I am hoping that our churches will find ways of opening doors so others can connect. We need to connect our membership together, of course, and you will see some great examples in this newsletter, describing how amazingly creative you folks have been. But we also need to reach out to others with the love-of-neighbor demanded by our Lord. Though we are told not to come within six feet of our neighbors these days, we have the technology to reach out. It is my hope that future newsletters will include stories from you, about how Spirit-inspired connections became possible for you and through you, the Presbyterian family in Alaska.

In the meantime, I join with you in praying for these times, for our society, for one another and for our leaders. I am glad that we are connected, and am so glad to see churches across the presbytery creatively using social media and other means to continue the good work of Jesus Christ. I know that some of us are facing more difficulty than others in these times. If that is you, then I hope you will reach out to others among us in your faith community. You do not have to be alone, even in a time of sheltering-in-place.

- Rev. Curt Karns

[Alternative Worship Options](#)



**ALSO FIND ALL OF THIS INFORMATION ON THE
FRONT PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PBYUKON.ORG**

Worship From Home:

Due to the current Coronavirus pandemic and the need to contain the spread of the virus, many of you may be looking for online worship options. The following Presbytery of Yukon churches currently have their Sunday worship service available for you to watch live on Sunday:

- Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church has live streaming at 11am via [their YouTube site](#)
- Jewel Lake Parish has live streaming at 9:30am via [their Facebook page](#)
- Anchorage First Presbyterian Church has live streaming at 11am via [their Facebook page](#)

- First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla has live streaming at 10am via [their Facebook page](#)
- United Protestant Presbyterian in Palmer has live streaming at 11am via [their Facebook page](#)
- University Community Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks has live streaming at 10:30am via [their website](#)
- Trinity Presbyterian Church has a video sermon available via [their Facebook page](#)
- Eagle River Presbyterian Church has online worship services via [their Facebook page](#)

Churches Providing Aids for Family and Solo Worship at Home:

- Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Anchorage - resources available [HERE](#)
- New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church in North Pole - resources available [HERE](#)

Churches Providing Other Alternatives this Sunday:

- Delta Presbyterian Church/Faith Lutheran Church, Delta Jct., AK
Worshipers are signing up for times to come to the church in very small groups, sitting apart from one another to assure adequate social distancing. Rev. Mauer will lead worship. Call for a time reservation: (907) 388-9685

Additional Resources for you to View/Download:

- [Alaska Mandate - Congregations Not to Meet](#)
- [PCUSA Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [PDA COVID-19 Response Report](#)
- [PDA's Role in Supporting the Church](#)
- [Communion in an Emergency/Pandemic?](#)
- [Mental Well-Being during a Pandemic](#)
- [Online Giving Recommendations from the Presbyterian Foundation](#)

Regional Meetings During the Pandemic

Last week EP Curt Karns hosted separate conference call meetings of the Road System Region and the Native Ministries Region. The meetings provided a time to explore how church leaders are faring, and how our churches are adapting their ministries, as well as a time for prayer for one another. It is important to stay connected during this stressful time, to hold one another in prayer, and to share our best ideas with one another as we all seek to be faithful in this time.

From those regional gatherings, two results need mention.

- The Road System Region decided it would be good to meet regularly during this crisis. They decided meeting every two weeks would be a good idea. There will therefore be meetings for each region as follows:
 - Native Ministries Region: Tuesday, March 31, 4 p.m.
 - Road System Region: Thursday, April 2, 4 p.m.

For both meetings, Join by videoconferencing at <https://zoom.us/j/7959606340>, or by telephone at 907-276-1095, or 669-900-9128, 7959606340#

- The Native Ministries Region noted that we are missing the

opportunity to gather for prayer services in this time of crisis. They therefore requested two things:

- That the presbytery set aside Sundays and Wednesdays as Presbytery Days of Prayer, asking all worshipers in the presbytery to be sure to be praying on that day, and to include prayers for the whole presbytery at their prayer time.

And that the presbytery hold a presbytery-wide prayer meeting on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m., inviting all members of Presbyterian Churches in the Presbytery of Yukon to join.

Worshipers can attend via phone or technology as follows:

Join by videoconferencing at <https://zoom.us/j/7959606340>,

or by telephone at 907-276-1095, or 669-900-9128, 7959606340#

TO BE CONTINUED....

More Information Coming on Monday 3/30!

Mark Your Calendars

April 1, 2020

Wednesday Night Prayer Service

At 7:30pm

By video: <https://zoom.us/j/7959606340>

By conference call: 907-276-1095

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday



**October 9-10,
2020**

Our Next Presbytery Meeting

Location: TBD

Presbytery of Yukon - 616 W. 10th Avenue, Anchorage AK 99577 - 907-276-0914