



Presbytery of Yukon

March 30, 2020

In This Newsletter

[Office Hours](#)

[Online Worship
Options](#)

[Adapting our
Ministries](#)

[Online Technologies](#)
[Finances during the
Pandemic](#)

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

Presbytery Office Hours

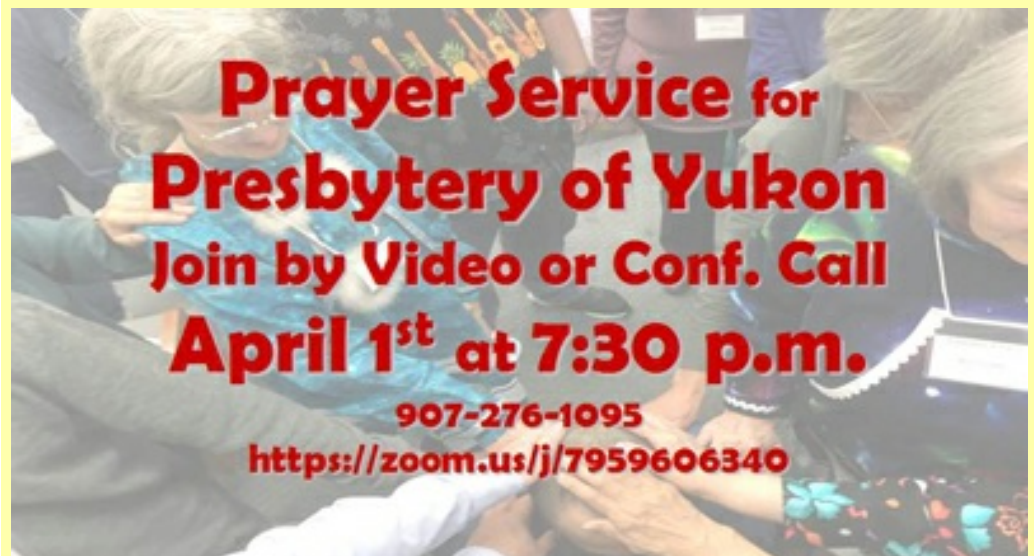
Fredrika Prince, the Administrative Assistant for the Presbytery of Yukon, resigned to enter into an advanced training program. Her last day was March 20th. BEST WISHES to Fredrika as she embarks on this new endeavor, and MANY THANKS for her service.

Anyone wishing to send her greetings can send them to office@pbyukon.org, and we will forward them to her.

This is an awkward time to hire, because we are called to work from home. Hiring and training is difficult in this time. As a result, Melissa O'Malley, who served as administrative assistant for the presbytery until she moved to Arizona last August, has agreed to work for us again part-time, remotely from Arizona, until it is feasible to hire a new Administrative Assistant. MANY THANKS, Melissa.

Beginning immediately, Melissa will answer the phones for the presbytery from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays, and will work some on her evenings Tuesday through Thursday, checking emails, etc. EP Curt Karns will answer the phones during office hours Tuesdays through Thursdays. You can also call EP Curt Karns any time at 907-350-3969.

Online 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 is exploring various ways of staying connected. Please visit their website at www.dpflc.org for up-to-date information about how worship will take place week by week.

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](#)

Adapting Our Ministries for the Pandemic

(See above and go to www.pbyukon.org for details on what each congregation is doing.)

How have ministries across the presbytery adapted continued in the face of the pandemic?

This link (<https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates>) to Health Mandate #009 from the State of Alaska is authoritative, and no Presbytery of Yukon church or ministry shall violate this order. This is the order that begins as follows: " All businesses, congregations, or gatherings in the State of Alaska, where individuals are within six feet of each other **must stop all operations**." That is, operations that require people to gather shall cease.

What a shock! Four weeks ago, when the Presbytery of Yukon met for its winter meeting, no one was thinking about a pandemic as a major focus for ministry. How fast, and how much, has our perspective changed! As the immensely contagious nature of the COVID-19 virus became apparent, and its danger to people with compromised health, the whole world changed, and the way we do ministry together also had to change. All gatherings must now comply governmental emergency orders.

As a result all gatherings, including worship services, committee meetings, fellowship and educational events, and even outreach events that require people to gather in groups of more than 10, must be canceled. Indeed, when very small groups must be present together for essential services (fixing leaky roofs, etc.), participants need to stay 6 ft. apart, when at all possible.

So, how have ministries across the presbytery continued? Let me describe some of it here. You can find specifics for each church, either on your local church's website or Facebook page, or at the presbytery website: www.pbyukon.org.

Here are a few ways our work continues:

- Worship on Sunday follows one of three different paths:
 1. Livestreaming - several churches are livestreaming either on Facebook-Live using their congregation's Facebook page, on YouTube, or on their web page.
 2. Pre-recording Sunday's message and posting the message to the congregation's Facebook page.
 3. Some congregations are creating home worship guides, encouraging families or individuals to participate in their congregation's worship using guided Scripture reading, guided meditation, prayer, and hymn singing.

****** IF YOUR CHURCH ISN'T LISTED IN OUR RESOURCE LIST AND HAS ALTERNATIVE METHODS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUBLICIZE, PLEASE SEND THAT INFORMATION TO US! ******

- Bible Study and Fellowship Groups.

For the most part, these have been canceled. However, the United Protestant Presbyterian Church in Palmer very successfully ran a Bible Study Fellowship through Live-streaming video, with 11 people participating. Others are considering this approach, too.
- Member Care
 1. Elders and Deacons in several churches (Eagle River Presbyterian, Trinity Presbyterian, United Protestant Church, and probably others) have divided the church membership among the leaders and call each household at least once each week. The calls check on how members are doing, and assure they are not isolated from their church family. Further, the calls collect prayer needs for the leadership to hold in prayer.

2. Revs. Matt and Elizabeth Schultz at First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage are recording a short video devotional and posting it to the church's Facebook page on Tuesday and Thursdays.
 3. Wednesday Evening Prayer services for the whole presbytery are being offered at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom video or telephone participation. This service came at the request of the Native Ministries region, since most villages are not ready to host services by video or telephone conferencing. The first service included leadership from four different communities, and included music. Join as follows:
Video participation: <https://zoom.us/j/7959606340>,
Telephone participation: 669-900-9128, or 907-276-1095
- Outreach Ministries
1. Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church feeds 400 people per month through their community food bank. Their deacons reorganized, so that crowds of people do not need to gather when the food is given out. Instead, people come to the food bank in cars, and an attendant brings food to them. Eagle River Presbyterian Church also operates a food bank, and was planning a similar method for food distribution.

The Presbytery has not heard many of your stories about how congregations are continuing their various ministries. If you have more information, please share it with the presbytery office at 907-276-0914 or, better yet, write it for the next newsletter and send to office@pbyukon.org. If we share your story in this newsletter, it might inspire others, as they are considering their own church's situation in this unusual time.

Zoom & Google Hangouts Available to Churches

The presbytery has begun using ZOOM (www.zoom.com) for video conferencing our meetings. Zoom has been valuable, because both video conferencing and audio-only telephone connections can work simultaneously and with high quality. The free ZOOM membership is available to anyone, but limits meetings to 40 minutes. The presbytery is therefore offering to pay for the Pro-Membership upgrade for any church that needs during this time of sheltering-in-place. The pro-membership allows up to 100 participants, with unlimited meeting length.

Since making this offer, Google has upgraded their Google Hangouts, making their Enterprise Membership available for free for all Google Hangouts users through July 1. Since this is a free service, the presbytery encourages churches to use that platform. However, we are finding that so many organizations are using Zoom just now, that our offer to pay for the Zoom Pro-membership stands for the time being. We want our churches to be well positioned to do what is needed in this time.

If you are interested, please contact the presbytery office.

Finances in a Time of Sheltering-in-Place

So many people are being laid off from work, and so many businesses that provide jobs are shut down, that the financial stresses on the American people is nearly as important as the worry about disease. The government is taking what actions our leaders believe prudent to help provide during this crisis, but their best efforts can only make a dent in the total economic

situation.

Our congregations are in discussions about how to help. Trinity decided not to cancel orders for Holy Week flowers and Palms, despite the fact that we cannot gather during Holy Week this year. Instead, they postponed their orders until after the restrictions on gathering are past. In this way, they continue to support local businesses. They also noted that it would still be important to celebrate Holy Week and Easter together, when we can gather, whatever date that might be. It will be a particularly meaningful Easter, even if it is celebrated in May, and the flowers will add to the occasion.

Please send information on other ways your churches are providing ministry, or showing Christian concern for our neighbors in this time of financial crisis, as well as medical crisis.

Church Leaders also are calling with concerns about church finances. With our membership facing financial shortages, and without Sunday services, when many give their offerings to church work, many are concerned about how to pay bills right now.

Online Giving Options:

1. Most churches have a web site that allows people to give online. Please go to your church's web site and continue to support your church. If your church has not made online giving possible, and you want to add that option to your web site, contact the Presbyterian Foundation. They have a ready-made system that they can provide for you. Information for doing that is available online at

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/onlinegiving/>.

2. Many congregations in the Native Ministries region do not have a web site. Please support your congregations, too, by mailing your checks to your church, or to the Presbytery of Yukon-with a note clarifying which church it is for. At this time the Presbytery's online giving app is for presbytery support, and does not allow you to designate for a church. We are looking into getting that changed very shortly.

Presbytery Leadership Team Looking into Relief Possibilities

The Leadership Team of the Presbytery of Yukon will be meeting on March 31. At that meeting, they will be exploring what possibilities are currently available to provide relief for financially ailing congregations.

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

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