



Presbytery of Yukon

December 13, 2023

Message From our Executive Presbyter:



Preparing for Christmas can be such a joyful time. We love anticipating family gatherings, the giving and receiving of gifts, and the gathering around the holiday table for food, friendship, and laughter. Additionally, our faith tradition of Advent reminds us that this is a time of preparing our hearts and minds to return anew to the meaning of the incarnation; *"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."* John 1:14

This year, as we all watch with collective heartbreak the conflicts, death, and violence around the world, it is easy to feel despair and to doubt our faith and God's presence among us. And yet, perhaps it is for just a time as this that we remember that God

entered our messy and broken world to help us understand how to build the Kingdom of Heaven, blessing those that included the meek, the suffering, the merciful and the peacemakers.

As we light the candles for Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, my prayers are with you and your faith communities as you proclaim the good news of the Gospel-

~ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. ~

I am celebrating advent with you, hurting with you, and praying with you as we share this holy time together. May God's mercy and grace fill you at this time and always.

- Rev. Elizabeth Schultz

Our Next Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery Meeting will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church on the 9th and 10th of February 2024. If you live in Anchorage and have interest in helping to host this gathering, there are a variety of needs and tasks to go around, such as helping with meals at the event, picking up guests from the airport, providing lodging and transportation to the meeting for out-of-town guests and more. Please reach out to ep@yukonpres.org if you are able to assist!

The Presbytery Needs Your Help!

Committee Service:

The Yukon Presbytery is seeking to grow in its ability to serve all our member churches and their communities. One of the ways to improve this ability is to make sure that our current committees have full representation from individuals around the state that have expertise and knowledge in certain areas, a desire to faithfully serve the Presbytery as a whole and the capacity to give of their time for a defined amount of service. We have openings on the following committees:

- Property
- Investment
- Stewardship
- Regional Ministries

Community Relations:

Our current Presbytery office is staffed by a small but mighty group of 4 individuals, all but one serving in a part-time role with many other busy life and job responsibilities. With that reality, there is often a need for volunteer assistance for a variety of needs. At this time, we could really use some volunteers to bolster our outreach efforts in relation to website and newsletter content and social media.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities or have additional ideas of ways that you could serve the Presbytery, please reach out to Rev. Elizabeth Schultz at ep@yukonpres.org.

Advent Celebrations within the Presbytery:



Delta Presbyterian Church, Delta Junction:

Friday & Sat, December 15 & 16 - Project Christmas distribution
Third Sunday of Advent, December 17 - Presbyterian Order
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24 - Lutheran Order
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7 pm - Handbells play
December 25 - Christmas Day
First Sunday of Christmas, December 31 - Presbyterian Order
Epiphany of the Lord - Saturday, January 6, 2024

First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage:

First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage (616 West 10th Avenue) will be having two Christmas Eve services: at 11 AM there will be a typical Sunday morning worship service with a Christmas focus. At 5:30 PM we will be having a family pageant with a lot of extra choir

music. In both services, the congregation will light candles and sing silent night. Call (907) 272-6411 with any questions. They live-stream services via [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#). If you miss a live service, you can [find it here](#).

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Anchorage:

Immanuel will have a Christmas pageant, performed by the children and youth of the church, during Sunday worship on December 17. This is the first year they've had a children's Christmas program since before COVID, so are excited for its return!

On Christmas Eve, Immanuel will have a single worship service at 7:00pm which will be the traditional candlelight service of Lessons and Carols with communion. They are also planning some special Christmas music during the worship service on Sunday, December 31.

Trinity PC/Jewel Lake Parish, Anchorage:

- Trinity and JLP will have a joint service at Trinity at 10:00 am on 12/24 for the 4th Sunday of Advent.
- Trinity will have a family-friendly Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm and JLP will have its Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm.
- You can watch JLP services online at <https://online.jlp.church>
- You can view Trinity's services on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/trinityanchorage) or posted on their website (www.trinityalaska.org) the following day.

United Protestant Church, Palmer:

United Protestant Church in Palmer will have two identical Christmas Eve Worship Services at 7pm and 11pm. The first service will be live-streamed on their [Facebook page](#). You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch it.

Webinar: Storytelling the Season - Lent 2024

You're invited to attend this webinar on January 8th from 7am-8am:

Storytelling the Season - Lent 2024

About the Webinar: Do you want a children's message or cross+generational storytime that is EPIC (engaging, participatory, image-rich, and connective)? These stories and plans are easy to adapt for any congregation (even the most traditional) from Karen Ware Jackson , Heather Roth Johnson, and Elizabeth Christie.

This series includes stories for the 6 weeks of Lent from both the Revised Common and Narrative Lectionaries. You'll be able to participate in the interactive workshop and will receive a PDF of the stories as well as a recording of the workshop. (So, if you can't attend live, you will still receive the recording.)

Encouraging End of Year Giving



The Presbyterian Foundation hosted a very informative webinar on end of year giving. This webinar is full of helpful demographic and statistical information that is applicable to giving at any time of year and can help you to better understand how to encourage charitable giving to the church.

View the webinar on YouTube at: [Encouraging End of Year Giving to your Congregation](#)

Prayer Requests



All Pastors, Commissioned Lay Pastors, Church Elders, Staff, and their families, as they work this month to celebrate Advent with their congregations and communities.

Please pray for Debbie Melton. She had a massive heart attack on Thanksgiving Day. She has been in the ICU since Friday, Dec. 1st, and has been transferred to a Select Transition Hospital in Tucson, Arizona. She is finally showing small improvement and hopes to begin physical therapy soon.

Mark Your Calendars

December 25, 2023



Merry Christmas!

The Presbytery office will be closed the week of December 24-30 in observance of the holiday.

January 1, 2024



Happy New Year!

The Presbytery office will resume normal business hours on Wednesday, January 3rd.

**February 9-10,
2024**

The Next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery

Hosted by Trinity PC and Jewel Lake Parish in Anchorage

Domestic Violence Help

[Click here](#) for contact information on crisis teams across Alaska and to find programs in your area that can help.

Suicide Prevention

If you're having thoughts of suicide, call [the Alaska CARELINE](#) (1-877-266-4357), or reach out to someone you love and trust. You can also text 4HELP to 839863, 3 - 11 pm Tuesday – Saturday.

Careline treats callers with respect and listens without judging. Careline also provides information for those concerned about someone else. Advice is tailored to Alaskans.

Suicide prevention works. People can and do put suicidal thoughts behind them.

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