



Presbytery of Yukon

April 11, 2024

Message From our Executive Presbyter:

My new job has been a wonderful whirlwind! Many thanks to all of you who have invited me into your churches and communities. Since being commissioned as your Executive Presbyter in October of 2023, I have been trying to travel and visit as many pastors and churches as possible. Between October and November, I was able to visit at least each Pastor in Anchorage and Eagle River, assisting in several worship services as invited. December saw me at United Protestant in Palmer and in January I had the opportunity to visit and preach at First Presbyterian in Wasilla and Gambell Presbyterian on St. Lawrence Island. What an honor it was to travel to this unique and beautiful island!

In February, we held Presbytery at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Anchorage. In March, I packed my suitcase again and flew to Utqiagvik for several days to visit with church members, preach on Sunday, attend a community funeral, moderate a session meeting and see a polar bear!

I am very aware that there are several other communities and churches I have yet to visit. In the coming months I will be traveling to Fairbanks, Bingle Camp, Delta Junction and attending several conferences for our denomination in Denver and Nebraska. I will also be gearing up for General Assembly in June and July in Salt Lake City, Utah and mapping out travel for the remaining year. What a wonderful job I have!



Rev. Elizabeth Schultz
Executive Presbyter

Happenings in the Presbytery

In this past year we have welcomed in a few new pastors to Alaska! Please enjoy reading about our members of the Yukon Presbytery.



Rev. Erika Bergh

Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, but raised in Olympia, Washington, Pastor Erika (Tobin) Bergh is an ELCA Lutheran Pastor now living in Fairbanks, Alaska. After graduating from high school, Pastor Erika attended colleges and seminaries in Iowa, Washington, Pennsylvania, California, and Greece before starting her first call in Anchorage. Pastor Erika is one half of a clergy couple and together they have a very active toddler, three cuddly cats, and a dog. Her interests include zero-waste living; children's ministry; exploring theologies of disability, homemaking, and queerness; singing and dancing with friends; discovering new recipes for vegan food and DIY cleaning supplies; playing Catan; and making church "home" for all people.



Rev. Andrew Lemlyn

Andrew "Andy" Lemlyn was born in Anchorage, AK to Hubert "Butch" and Cathy Lemlyn. As a baby his family moved to Marble Falls, Texas where he spent his youth. Andy attended Schreiner University in Kerrville, TX and graduated in 2009 with a BA in Religion and a second BA in Psychology. For two year Andy worked for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, where he was an Investigator and Case Worker for children entering the system. In 2012 Andy decided to pursue the call into pastoral ministry, enrolling in Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary where he graduated with his MDIV in 2015. Andy has served congregations in Cuero,

Yorktown and Seguin Texas before returning to Alaska to begin his time as interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla. In his free time Andy enjoys cooking, reading, hiking, playing board games and drinking far too much coffee.

Presbytery Meeting Updates:

Presbytery was held from February 9th and 10th at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Anchorage. Many thanks to the incredible volunteers from Trinity and Jewel Lake Parish who took care of the logistics of housing, transportation and providing amazing meals to our group. Our days were full of connection, business, worship, prayer and important discussions about the mission strategy of our Presbytery going forward.

Our next Presbytery meeting will be held October 11-12, 2024 at University Community Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks.

Website Updates:

There have been updates and additions to the presbytery website at: www.pbyukon.org. One recent addition is Congregational Ministry and Mission Resources on our [Resources Page](#), so check it out.

Bingle Camp Update

Bingle Camp has hired a camp director for the summer. We pray for more staff, specifically counselors and a cook, but we are hopeful that God will provide so we can have camp this summer. Camp dates are :



- Splash Camp (gr. 4 - 6) June 16 - 21
- Adventure Camp (gr. 6 - 8) June 23 - 28
- Mini-Camp (gr. 2 - 3) June 30 - July 2
- Night Owl Camp (gr. 9 - 12) July 7 - 12.

We also have some money for scholarships if you need financial help to attend Bingle Camp. Bingle Camp is a wonderful place for your child to connect with God in an outdoor setting with staff who are committed

Christians. If you are interested in working or volunteering at Bingle Camp this summer, or have questions about camp or scholarships, please contact us.

Email: office@binglecamp.org Phone: 907-479-056 Website: binglecamp.org



Vacation Bible School and J.O.Y. Camp

“Whenever I Am Afraid, I Put My Trust In You”

Immanuel Presbyterian and First Presbyterian in Anchorage will be partnering to offer a morning Vacation Bible School and an afternoon J.O.Y. Camp June 10-14 at First Presbyterian Church. Through music, drama, storytelling, recreation, snacks, and crafts children will learn ways to put one’s trust in God, whenever one is afraid, challenged, or called to do God’s work in the world and share the Good News of God’s love.

Children ages four through sixth grade are welcome to be a part of the VBS and J.O.Y. Camp. VBS is from 9:30-12 noon (Monday – Friday) and J.O.Y. Camp is from 12 noon to 4:00 pm (Monday through Thursday). Early drop off and late pick up are available for working parents.

Other Presbyterian churches are welcome to join us for this week. If you not from

Anchorage but are coming to Anchorage this week or having grandchildren visiting think about this opportunity to connect with others in our presbytery.

Contact Danna Larson (dllsitka@gmail.com) or Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price (revellenj@aol.com) for registration forms or to learn how your church can partner with us.

From Christine Long, Board of Pensions

Greetings to my siblings in Christ in Presbytery of Yukon,

In my role as Church Consultant with the Board of Pension, I am honored to serve you and support you with all things Board of Pensions. This year, after gathering input through the Church, in face-to-face meetings with leaders and in Virtual Town Halls, the Board has restructured the Benefits Plan to meet the needs of the changing church. As one of your PCUSA agencies, the Board serves ministers, other congregational leaders, such as CREs/CPs, and other church employees so they may devote their best gifts and energies to the work of God's kingdom.

You may have heard or seen that in the first week of April, the Board released details of the 2025 Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The new plan, which introduces two new dues packages, provides congregations and their pastoral leaders greater flexibility and choice, and better meets the needs of the changing Church. In addition, we have improved many of our plan offerings and brought parity to those eligible for benefits.

I am here to guide and support your presbytery and you through these changes. I will be meeting with your Ministry Commission and all COMs in my region (I serve 18 presbyteries). I will also be gathering with mid council representatives, including two from your presbytery, in Denver to learn more about the Benefits Plan 2025.

The next few months are a time for learning and discerning. I am here to help your presbytery, your ministries and churches, learn about the new Benefits Plan and to support your Ministry Commission as they come alongside you and support you in your discernment on how to best care for and support your congregational leaders (ministers and CREs/CPs) in your midst.

I encourage you to devote some time to learning about the Benefits Plan 2025. Following are links to get you started:

From pensions.org:

[Congregations Gain Flexibility Choice with Redesigned Benefits Plan](#)

From the Season of Rebuilding microsite:

[Season of Rebuilding: A New Benefits Plan to Serve the Changing Church](#)

[Dues Packages: Benefits Plan 2025](#)

I am happy to be of service to your presbytery and you! Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Peace,

Christine Long, Church Consultant

Mobile/text: 215-704-7360 Email: clong@pensions.org

Upcoming Event: The Alaska School of Theology



Alaska School of Theology June 28th and 29th, Anchorage, Alaska

St. John United Methodist Church in Anchorage, Alaska is hosting a program called "The Alaska School of Theology" in which they invite and pay for a biblical scholar to come to Anchorage and give a series of talks aimed at laity and clergy alike. Please

reach out to St. John United Methodist Church for additional information:

<https://stjohnanchorage.org>

Registration is open for 2024 Alaska School of Theology

The St. John Discipleship Team is excited to announce the 2024 Alaska School of Theology, which will be hosted at St. John UMC in conjunction with the 2024 Annual Conference in June.

Courses are scheduled for June 28 and 29 and will be led by the Rev. Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles, whose focus will be "Experiencing God." Continued education credits are available. Find more information and the registration link [HERE](#).

In the News: Voices of the Mat-Su

In October of 2023, Rev. Tim Carrick represented the Yukon Presbytery at an event held in Juneau, Alaska called, Toward Healing: Presbyterian Apology and Reparations for Closing Memorial Church. This event was hosted by between the community of Juneau, the K̄unéix̄ Hídi Northern Light United Church and the Northwest Coast Presbytery, with attendance and participation by key leaders of our national denomination. Rev. Carrick was interviewed about this event and it's deep meaning, both looking back to acknowledge past wrongs, and to be guided to more just actions in our future. Please listen to this lovely interview, by Voices of the Mat-Su, here:

<https://www.bigcabbageradio.org/2024/01/28/voices-of-the-matsuthe-apology-2024-1-26/>

Prayer Requests

For churches in our presbytery that are starting the call process for a new pastor. Utqiagvik is starting the process to call a new full-time pastor. The yoked congregations of Trinity and Jewel Lake parish are seeking an Associate Pastor for Youth and Family.



For all Commissioned Lay Pastors that are working faithfully to minister in a variety of ways in our Presbytery, especially those in our rural village communities.

Prayers for those preparing for General Assembly this summer - Rev. Kiyoung Seo, RE Barb Brown, and Frederick Bierer (YAAD).

Mark Your Calendars

June 28-29, 2024

The Alaska School of Theology

Hosted by St. John United Methodist Church
Find more information and the registration link [HERE](#).

October 11-12,
2024

The Next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery

Hosted by University Community Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks

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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www.pbyukon.org



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