



# Presbytery of Yukon

April 22, 2020

## In This Newsletter

[From Rev. Karns](#)

[Online Worship  
Options](#)

[Joint Online Worship  
General Assembly  
Wednesday Prayer  
Service](#)

[Supporting Our  
Communities  
Small Grants  
Available](#)

[Drive-Up Easter  
Communion](#)

## From Rev. Curt Karns:

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation...Good and upright is the Lord;therefore he instructs sinners in the way. (Psalm 25:1-5, 8)*

Psalm 25 is one example of a teaching we see throughout the Bible. God meets us where we are, and teaches God's way for us. Today, we find ourselves in the unusual situation of a world pandemic. We dare not miss the opportunity to spend time praying and reflecting on how God is molding us for this time and for the future.

One of the things I am learning is how important it is to connect with others. Not only do I need to enjoy the fellowship through the audio and video calls we are all making-after all isolation is always dangerous to our emotional wellbeing, even if social distancing is a part of loving our neighbor these days-I also need to hear from my brothers and sisters in faith in order to gain a wider perspective from them on what God is doing. We need to share our ideas together, and listen for how God's Spirit moves us through these conversations. When we connect in ways that let us share from the heart, we build each other up emotionally and relationally, as well as intellectually.

This is part of what we hope will be happening in the eNews editions we are sending you. We in the office are trying to pay attention to what you are doing, and we are trying to share what we observe in ways that build up the body of Christ. It is our hope that this eNews will be a vehicle for helping you to encourage one another by sharing how God is at work among you.

In the previous newsletter, you saw something about how congregations began to organize to allow quality home Christian education for children and adults, and to deal with the financial difficulties of the crisis. In this newsletter, you will see the stories depicting your work in meeting needs and doing outreach in the midst of this crisis.

Please also watch our web site at [pbyukon.org](http://pbyukon.org) We are trying to keep an up-to-date list of worship opportunities during this crisis, whether on the web or resources for you at home. We are also trying to collect your offerings for children at home.

It is clear that God is, indeed, meeting you in the midst of this crisis. The

## 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](http://www.PBYukon.org)

creativity you have been showing, and your faithfulness to God in this difficult time has been inspiring to those of us in the presbytery office. Please continue to share what you are learning. Together, we may find that God is growing us into something new and more effective for whatever new day will emerge from this unusual time.

Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

In Christ's service,  
Curt Karns

---

## **Alternative Worship Options**

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ONLINE WORSHIP  
OPTIONS AND RESOURCES, PLEASE  
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.PBYUKON.ORG/ALT\\_WORSHIP](http://WWW.PBYUKON.ORG/ALT_WORSHIP)**

---

## **Two Churches Joining for Sunday Online Worship**

All of our churches across the presbytery are doing worship in new ways. Since we can't physically gather to worship God, most of our churches are finding ways to provide virtual gatherings, either on their church's page using Facebook Live, or using Zoom.

Two churches, however, have joined their resources. Last Sunday, Kuukpik Presbyterian Church in Nuiqsut began hosting a weekly Zoom worship service. However, the leaders from Gambell Presbyterian Church asked to join with them when they learned that Kuukpik was also linking the presbytery's toll-free conference call number into that service. The toll-free number is important for people, who do not have internet but want to join by phone without paying a long-distance phone charge.

The residents of Gambell fall into this latter category. According to Pastor Beulah Nowpakahok, her parishioners generally do not have access to internet, and therefore want to join in a service that uses the presbytery's toll-free phone number. "Besides," she commented, "it gives us the opportunity to hear from others in our presbytery, and that is a good thing."

The worship services for the Kuukpik Presbyterian/Gambell Presbyterian churches are at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday. The pastors are taking turns leading worship. Virginia Kasak is the commissioned pastor for Kuukpik Presbyterian in Nuiqsut. Beulah Nowpakahok and Merle Apassingok are the commissioned pastors for Gambell Presbyterian.

---

## **New Planning Underway for General Assembly**

A final decision on the 224th General Assembly (2020) is still a week away, but the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) spent a bulk of its second day in a virtual meeting, looking at critical business to be considered.

COGA is considering a shorter, two-day virtual assembly that would restrict

the amount of business brought before commissioners. Stay tuned!

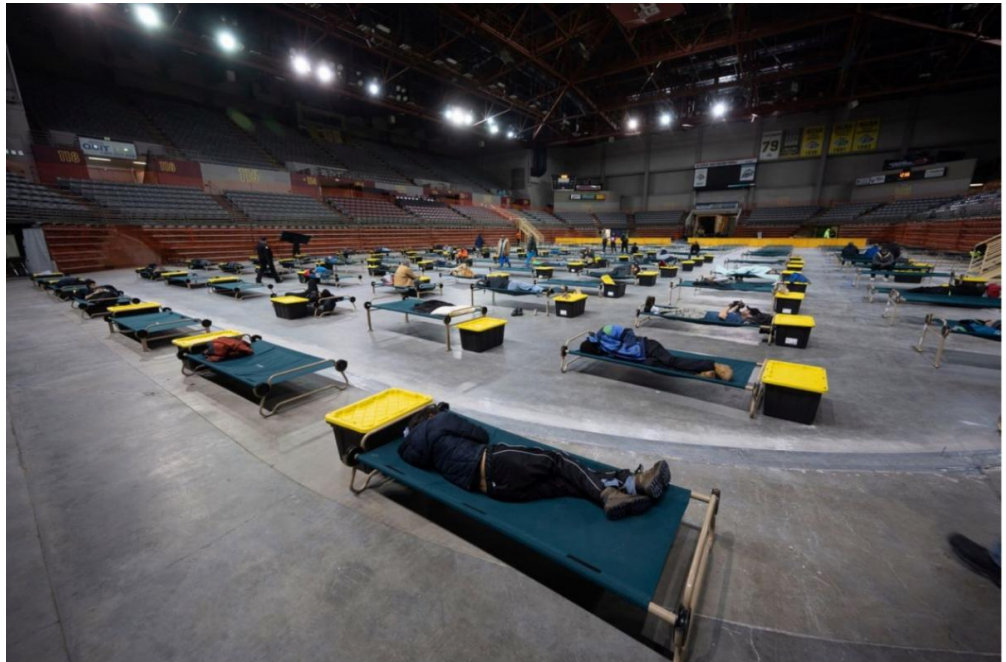
## Wednesday Evening Prayer Service

Each Wednesday evening the Presbytery of Yukon hosts a Zoom Worship Service of Prayer and Sharing at 7:30pm Alaska time. All are welcome! If you wish to join, visit the [events section of our Facebook page](#).

## Providing Support in Our Communities

### **Churches from the Presbytery of Yukon Support Mass Shelter for Homeless during Covid Crisis**

The Municipality of Anchorage partnered with the Brother Francis Shelter to turn the Sullivan and Dempsey arenas into mass shelter's for the homeless during the Covid-19 crisis. First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage and Eagle River Presbyterian Church, combined with emergency grants from the Presbytery of Yukon, provided large-screen televisions for the arenas. The televisions serve two purposes. They allow the projection of classes for residents of the shelter and they provide entertainment options to break up the boredom of sitting in a shelter.



### **Sewing Masks and Making Kits for Those in Need**

University Community Presbyterian Church members sewed masks and put together hygiene kits of essential items. These were then picked up and distributed by the Fairbanks Community Food Bank to those in need in the community.





### **Drive-In Food Bank in Utqiagvik**

Though Utqiagvik is a small town, Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church now feeds 500 people monthly through its community Food Bank ministry. Adjusting to the situation during the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become a drive-up food bank with curbside service. This past week 1008 people were served, mostly elders, women and children, representing nearly 25% of Utqiagvik's 4257 population!



### **Addressing Children's Concerns during the Pandemic**

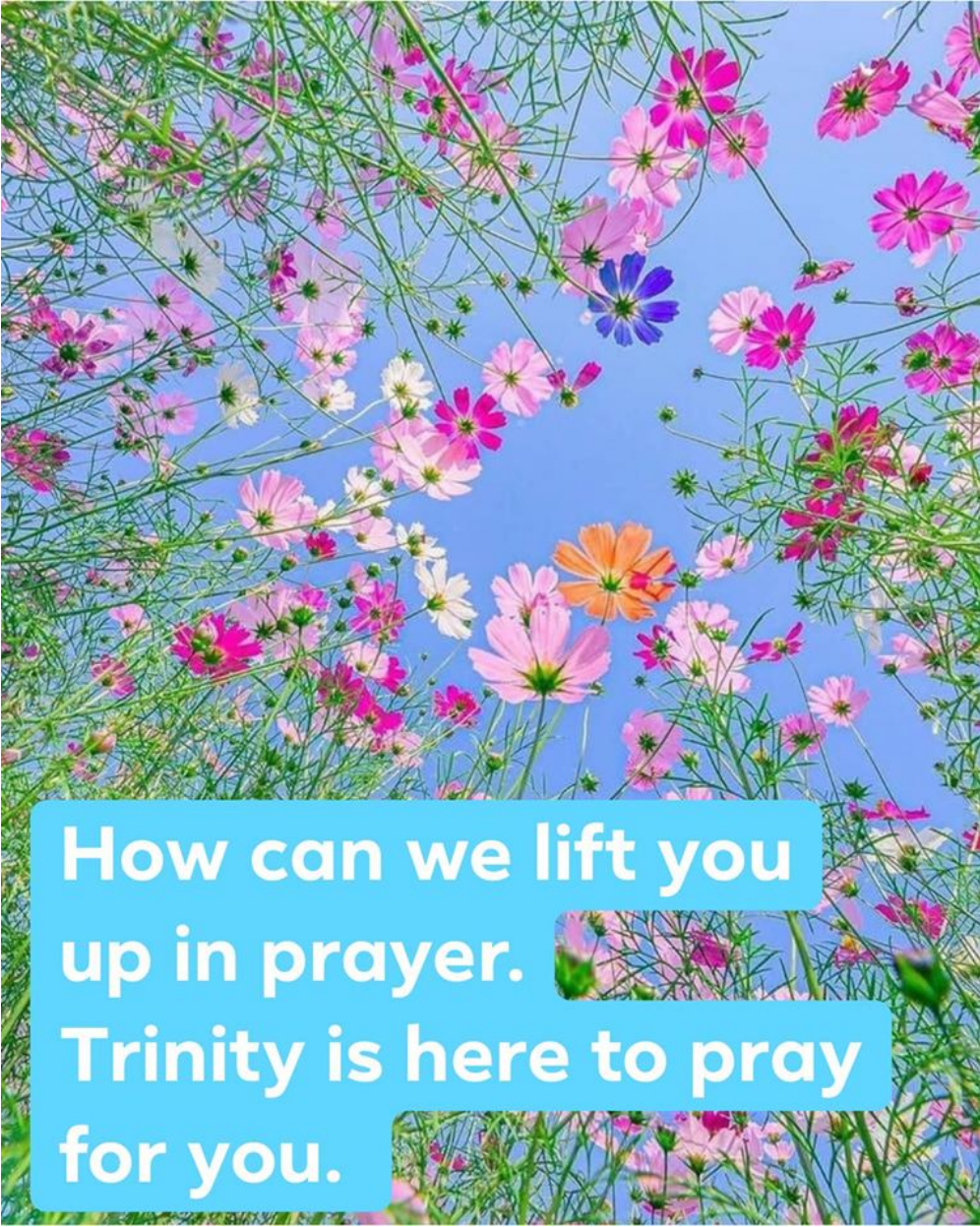
Rev. Matt Schultz of First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage has been reaching out through a check-in time live online through their [Facebook page](#) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This includes an effort to care for children's concerns through sharing online a self-authored, self-illustrated book for kids.



### **Uplifting Prayers and Mask Sewing Ministry**

Trinity Presbyterian Church in Anchorage has consistently been looking for ways to reach out with the love of God in this time when we are all so isolated. Not only have they offered uplifting prayers, they have also organized a mask sewing ministry among their members.





**How can we lift you  
up in prayer.  
Trinity is here to pray  
for you.**

---

## Small Grants Available for Community Projects

Church sessions that see a need in their community can request up to \$5000 in grants from the Leadership Team. Send email requests to [sharon@pbyukon.org](mailto:sharon@pbyukon.org).

So far, the following grants have been approved:

- Mask Sewing Ministry, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Anchorage
- Televisions for Sullivan Mass Shelter, Eagle River Presbyterian and the Presbytery Leadership Team
- Televisions for Dempsey Mass Shelter, First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage
- Personal Items Needed for Mass Shelter Residents, First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage
- Hygiene Kits: Distributed through Fairbanks Food Bank, University Community Presbyterian Church

---

**Drive-Up Easter Communion**

University Community Presbyterian Church hosted a "Drive Up Easter Communion 2020". Deacon McNeill stated, "I really thought this was going to be hokey, but this was really special, I am glad I was here." Pastor Neill will attest, this was the high mark of my Easter... thank you to all who came by, and for those that stayed home, we completely understand and we are ONE Church.



## Mark Your Calendars

### Ongoing

### Wednesday Night Prayer Service

At 7:30pm

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

By conference call: 907-276-1095

### October 9-10, 2020

### Our Next Presbytery Meeting

Location: TBD

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