



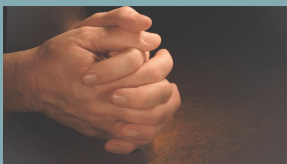
# Presbytery of Yukon

July 17, 2020

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## Prayer Requests



Please continue to pray for CP Virgie Kasak, and her family members. She and five other family members were in a serious car accident. Virgie and one grandson remain hospitalized with serious injuries.

## Stay Connected



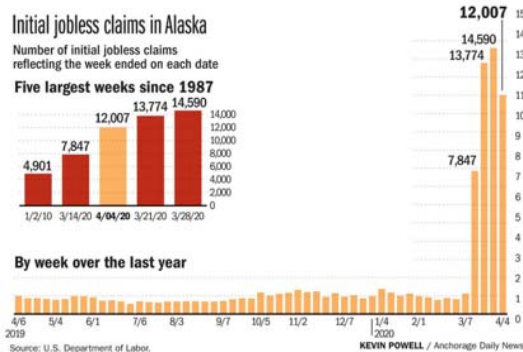
Visit Our Website:  
[www.PBYukon.org](http://www.PBYukon.org)

## From Curt

Personally, I find difficult to be tuned-in to my own spiritual needs. A few days ago, one of our Commissioned Pastors called me to make a pastoral call. "How are you doing?" was what the beginning of the call was about. The truth was that I was not doing so well. Social isolation was getting to me, as were several work issues that I honestly don't know how to address in this new COVID-World we all are living in. Still, I'm the presbytery executive, so I tried to be strong.

"I'm fine, how are you?"

But the pastor wasn't buying it, and asked to pray for me. I was touched, both by the outreach from a brother/sister in Christ, as well as by the prayer and words of encouragement. By the end of the prayer and our conversation, I was moved to tears. Reaching out to people in grief is what pastors do, but when someone returned that favor, I gave myself permission to recognize my own grief. I felt ministered to by God, as well as by this member of my Christian family.



The changes that have come upon our world in the past five months have been profound, and have produced a great sense of grief for many, many people. Some people are talking about it in terms of a triple pandemic. We have faced the COVID-19 pandemic, which immediately creating a recession they are calling the economic pandemic,

all of which illuminated the gravity of the racial injustices in our society, which they are calling the racial justice pandemic. We are dealing with so much change, from so many sources all at once it feels like the whole world has shifted. That much change disorients people, and often leads to a profound sense of grief for many.

I also have found myself spending time encouraging people. I encourage them not to be hard on themselves for not functioning as well each day as usual, because grieving people often find it difficult to be motivated to do

what needs to be done. I encourage them to take pride in what they have accomplished. Indeed, I see parents homeschooling kids, while keeping jobs. I see churches suddenly embracing just about everything virtual: worship services, Bible studies, meetings. All of that would have been unheard of before. I see people, like this colleague, calling others, or greeting them on social media when they know those others are distressed, and needing support.



In the conversations I have had, almost no one thinks they are doing any of that as well as they "should." Yet all of that, plus all the other actions I don't have room to list, are out of the ordinary, and they are doing them. I encourage people to take pride in what they have accomplished, even as they are grieving the loss of the familiar world they knew.

Grief comes whenever our personal world shifts, whether through the death of a loved one or something else. At such times we are called to give up the life we had, for the new life that is emerging. Such times of change are necessary, and embracing the new thing that God is doing is what faithfulness is all about. However, the process of embracing the new thing inevitably includes passing through grief for what is lost.

Jesus famously called us to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily, and to follow him. He then told us, "Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" (Luke 9:23-25)

Grieving is natural. It is about recognizing that we are losing our old life. Yet, we do not grieve as people without hope, for we know that God is at work in all things. Grieving admits our losses, but opens us to follow into the new thing that God is doing.

Some people-people like me-are either blind to their grief, or are tempted to weather it alone. Yet, talking and praying with someone can make such a difference. I know that for me, it opened me to a new sense of the Spirit's wind, renewing me for the day at hand.

If you are also grieving in this time-perhaps a loved one's death with less than normal funerals, or perhaps huge changes in daily life-I hope you will be gentle with yourself. Undoubtedly, you are not doing your daily tasks perfectly, and you may find it difficult to get some of them done at all. However, grief is the process we go through to slow us down, so we may be equipped to embrace this new world. Without grief, we may continue on, but we will be unable to live with real joy in this new life.

If you are needing encouragement, consider who you might reach out to as a prayer partner for you-hopefully someone in your own church or community. Remember that God, Who is love, created us to live in fellowship with one another, and not in isolation.

I also encourage you to be attentive to those around you. They can use encouragement and, if appropriate, a prayer partner. In reaching out to others you will be making a difference, even though they may not tell you that.

Therefore encourage one  
another and build  
each other up, just as  
in fact you are doing.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

DailyVerses.net



## **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)**

### **Resource Links from PC(USA)**

For links to official PC(USA) Racial Justice Resources, see this web page:

<https://www.pcusa.org/racial-justice-resources/>

For links to official PC(USA) Covid-19 Resources, see the following web page, noting that new entries are marked with as a large, red bullet point:

<https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>

### **Presbyterian Foundation Webinar Series**

# WEBINAR 2020 SERIES

## In Covid-19- new normal

**July 7th**

Fall Campaign- during social distancing  
*Practical and creative ways to communicate and build the budget*

**July 11th**

Messaging (Stewardship)  
*Different this year...how do we do it and what do we say*

**August 4th**

Offering 2.0  
*Where is the offering plate going?*

**August 11th**

Livestreaming worship  
*It is not going away. How to make it good and sustainable*

**Teams NW**

Two teams - Team Northwest 1 and 2  
will meet at separate times to exchange ideas after each of the webinars. Limit 7-10 per team. Times TBA.  
At the time of registering indicate joining a team

### WHEN:

All webinars will be at  
10:00 am PDT  
Instructions to join will  
be sent out three days  
prior.

### TO REGISTER:

Rob Hagan  
509.521.5400  
rob.hagan@presbyterianfoundation.org

Presbyterian  
FOUNDATION



**Rev. Dr. Rob**

Ministry Relations Officer  
Presbyterian Foundation

Rob loves to work with  
the church to help it

flourish

and grow through  
stewardship and generosity. He works with  
pastors and church leaders to cultivate  
generosity and promote stewardship within  
their congregations.



**Karl Mattison**

Vice President for  
Planned Giving  
Presbyterian Foundation

Karl enjoys seeking

great stories and  
solutions to share with churches on a  
wider scale so that churches can more  
easily learn from each other. Karl is the  
original developer of the Planned  
Giving Navigator, a technology program  
to help churches implement outstanding  
planned giving programs.

## Church Financial Leadership Academy

The Presbyterian Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of the Church Financial Leadership Academy (CFLA). The CFLA is an E-learning platform designed to help pastors institute best practices for church financial leadership, introduce them to new models of giving and stewardship, and offer new ways to talk about money and form generous disciples within their congregation.

The CFLA will enable you to:

- \* Complete the courses at your own pace
- \* Use the courses as a resource later
- \* Share your playlist with other congregational staff
- \* Access courses and resources at no cost to you

Experience the interactive online educational tool for pastors today. Simply visit [Churchfla.org](http://Churchfla.org) and create an account using the registration code: PCUSA

If you have questions or comments feel free to contact us at [serving@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:serving@presbyterianfoundation.org), or 800-858-6127 ext. 5904.

## Opening Our Doors Again

Depending on what is happening in their communities, Presbyteries of Yukon member churches are making different decisions about when to again open for worship and other services for face-to-face gatherings. The Presbytery of Yukon has asked all churches allowing face-to-face gatherings to provide the presbytery with a copy of their COVID-19 mitigation plan, showing compliance with the state guidelines.

One challenge for churches is to communicate their plan to members and others. The following shows what Delta Presbyterian-Faith Lutheran Church has already sent out to their constituents, and what they also post in their Sunday bulletins:



*In accordance with our Session and Council approved  
COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, we kindly request  
that you observe the guidelines below:*

- *Anyone with symptoms or positive COVID-19 test results may not enter the premises.*
- *Masks must be worn when entering and exiting the church, while standing, while singing, during communal prayers, and spoken responses. If you need a mask, one will be provided at the door.*
- *Upon entering the sanctuary, please sanitize your hands using the hand sanitizer near the door and move to your assigned seat (For maximum occupancy, a seating plan will be provided upon entry).*
- *Please do not congregate at the door as we must strive to maintain appropriate distancing of six feet by all non-household members.*
- *We will "Share the Peace" while seated and without touching.*
- *Worship leaders may stand, unmasked, a minimum of 15' from congregants.*
- *Tithes & offerings may be placed in the collection plate at the entrance.*
- *Bulletins and prepacked communion cups are available at your seats.*
- *Please deposit used communion cups in trash receptacles as you exit.*
- *Zoom services will continue for all who wish to join worship from home. and those who will not fit into the sanctuary owing to space limitations.*
- *The downstairs will not be used except for restroom use.*
- *Please read and follow directions on all signage, specifically seating, adjacent to restrooms and when exiting.*

*We thank you for your understanding and patience.*



*We wish to balance welcome and hospitality  
with COVID-19 mitigation for the safety of all.*



*If you wish to read the mitigation plan in its entirety, copies are available at the church entrance or may be downloaded from our church website, <https://dpflc.org/>.*

## Richard Mauer's Ordination

For the past six years, Richard Mauer has been commissioned by the Presbytery of Yukon to serve as Commissioned Pastor at Delta Presbyterian-Faith Lutheran Church in Delta Jct. On Sunday, July 12, the church celebrated his ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Rich completed his training to become an ordained minister through the Lutheran TEEM program (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries). TEEM does an assessment of all the life experiences and trainings a person has already had, and then custom designs a study program to allow the candidate to qualify as Minister of Word and Sacrament. The student does not Rev. Mauer, Bishop Wickstrom finish with an M.Div., as is normally required for that ordination, but they end up with an equivalent level of training. Rich has decades of training and experience on a range of topics including School Boards, Counseling, Administration, public speaking, and more. The presbytery's Ministries Commission is interested in the possibility of partnering with the TEEM program to authorize their program for candidates to be ordained in the PC(USA) through our presbytery.



The ordination service was delayed from its original date in March due to the COVID-19 situation. The local church and the Lutheran Synod decided it would be possible to hold the ordination in July using a combination of limited local attendance (employing social distancing), and Zoom. The church has been holding services via ZOOM since March, making this approach possible.

The preacher for the service was the Rev. Moses Penumake, Rich's supervisor for his studies, who preached via ZOOM from his home in Minneapolis. People attending via ZOOM included members from Delta Jct., members of the presbytery, and a few of Rich's family members from the Lower 48. The service was followed by a celebration feast which, unfortunately, could only include the local people.

Rich will continue service at Delta Presbyterian - Faith Lutheran Church, and will continue as a member both of our presbytery, and of the Alaska Synod of the ELCA.

## From the Presbyterian Mission Agency

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is now accepting grant applications for the Native American Leadership Development Fund Award. The 2020 one-time awards are being made available for education and/or leadership development of Native American Presbyterian leaders or Native American Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) organizations and communities.

For more information, check with CP Paul Bodfish at Atqasuk Chapel, or Curt Karns at the presbytery office.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Ongoing

### Wednesday Night Prayer Service

At 7:30pm

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

By conference call: 907-276-1095

**Sept. 17-19,  
2020**

### 2020 Russia Mission Network Conference - ONLINE

For more information contact Jean Waters at:

[waters.jean@gmail.com](mailto:waters.jean@gmail.com)

**September 22,  
September 29, &  
October 6, 2020**

### Stewardship Kaleidoscope ONLINE

For more information visit: [StewardshipKaleidoscope.org](http://StewardshipKaleidoscope.org)

**October 9-10,  
2020**

### Our Next Presbytery Meeting

Location: TBD

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

