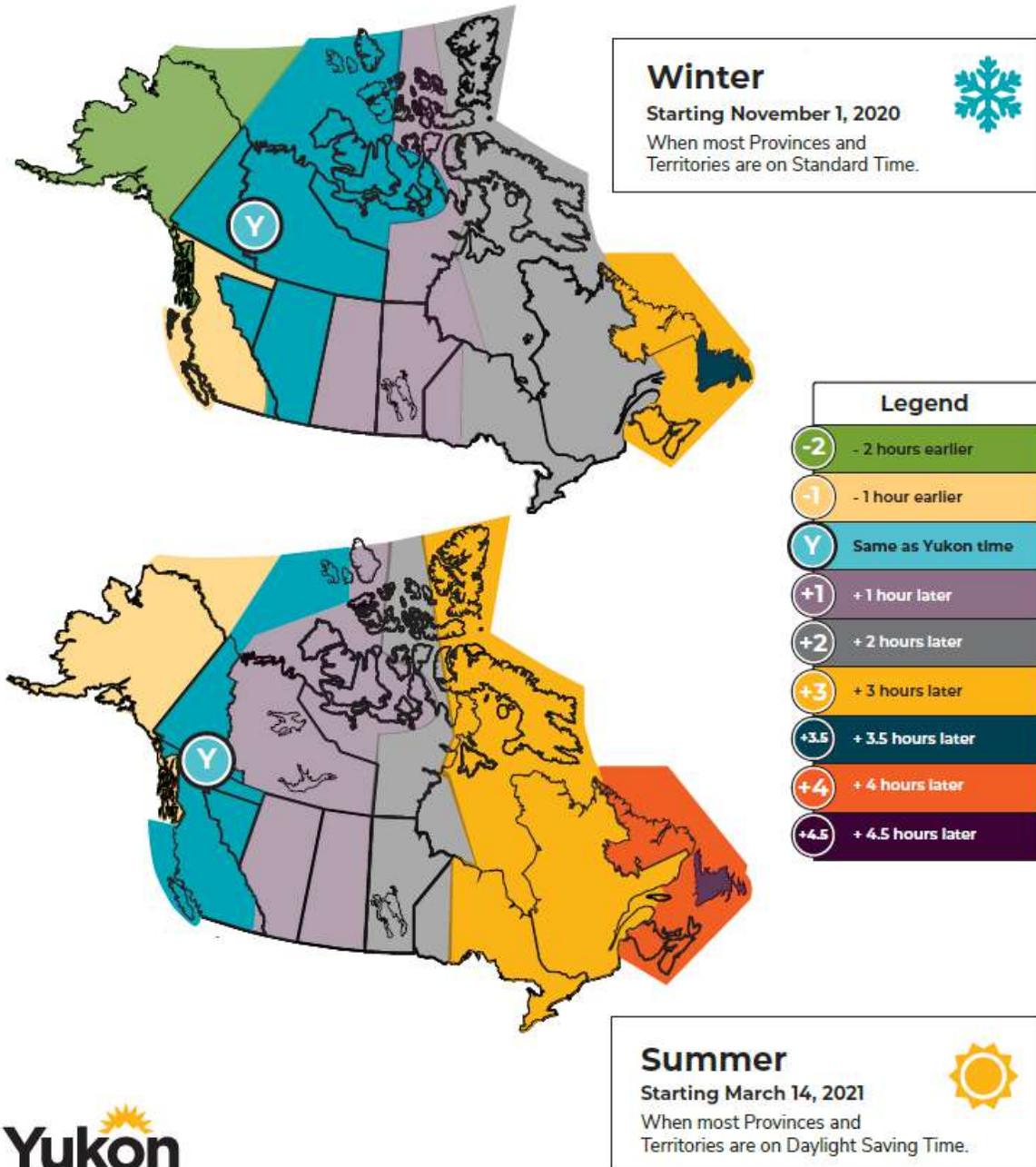


Remember – we do NOT “fall back” on Nov. 1 —
here’s how we will align with other provinces/territories



Memorial Donations Received

Donations have been made to Whitehorse United Church in memory of the following people:

Jean and Gerald Talbot

by Linda Talbot

Val Boorse

by the Boorse family

Stewart Breithaupt

Rev. Fred & Nellie Lane

by Jan Mann

Janet Agnes Tack

by Beth Roberts

Bill & Gertie Saville Brazier

by Bev Brazier

Jim Winberg

Brief Theology of Hallowe'en

In this age of pandemic, in many communities Hallowe'en will be different this year, another reminder of how “normal life” has changed as we travel together toward an eventual vaccine. But by the same token, it's all the more reason to pause and reflect on this strange, remarkable holiday, both so we can catch some of its spirit in new ways this year and so we can look ahead to celebrating it with gusto in 2021.

The name itself comes from “All Hallows' Eve,” of course, a carnival-like inversion celebrating the shadow side of life — ghosts and ghouls and such — just before the great festival celebrating the saints. Its deep roots may well include folk traditions of honoring the dead, appeasing evil spirits, and marking the end of the summer harvest and the beginning (in the Northern hemisphere, at least!) of the darkest days of the year.

But whatever its origins, Hallowe'en is worth thinking about. It's now one of the most popular holidays in North America (second only to Christmas!), and at its best, it's a magical, playful night of community-building and neighborhood-making. From this point of view, we might even call it a sacramental glimpse, if only for one night, of how the world is supposed to be: homes decked out in mischievous fun, front doors thrown wide open to visitors of all ages, a spirit of wit and excitement in the air, and simple, sweet gifts distributed to children (all children, not just “our” children!) dressed up as heroes and villains alike.

It's easy to grumble about “all that sugar,” “marauding teenagers,” “a waste of time,” and so forth. But think of it: when else do we intentionally spend this kind of time together as a community? When else do we do something as a neighborhood that's this intergenerational? This open to all? This playful, witty, and plain old fun? When else do our front doors swing open to so many strangers? And when else are so many gifts given out — often by strangers, to strangers — just for the sake of delight?

And there's an even deeper side to all of this, too: in many neighborhoods, lines of social division — segregated lines of race and class, for example — are often crossed on Halloween night. In such moments, Hallowe'en can become an all-too-brief time of sharing experiences and resources, catching sight of a true “commonwealth” too often obscured from view on the other 364 nights of the year. And what's more, there's now some intriguing social science showing a strong correlation between a community's health and the extent to which it celebrates Halloween.

At its best, then, Hallowe'en amounts to a vivid portrait of what “neighborhood” actually looks like. That alone is worth celebrating. And after all, what better way to honor the dead, prepare to celebrate the saints, and enter together the darkest time of the year than to embody — with equal parts creativity and joy — the “loving our neighbors as ourselves” to which Jesus calls us every day?

Those mini peppermint patties never tasted so good!

Stay safe this year — the pandemic is an opportunity to be more creative than ever. Tell some ghost stories at home, hold a physically-distanced outdoor costume parade, or an online costume party, or watch your favorite scary movie with your favorite candy on hand. And in any case: here's to Hallowe'en 2021!

Happy Hallowe'en!



All Saints' Day – Request and Challenge

"All Saints' Day" is Nov 1. It's a time in the church when we remember not only those who have been officially "sainted" but those who have played a role in our own lives of faith.

This year, I'm inviting you to do two things:

- 1) Give us the names of those you'd like to honour this All Saints' Day. Who are the people who have played a role in your faith life? Just their names. We'll make a list of them and use that list as a prayer of thanksgiving on Nov 1 at the service.
- 2) Write a note to a living saint; someone in your life, AND, (this is my challenge to you) someone in our congregation who has played a role in your faith life. It could be as simple as "it always feels good to me to go to church and see you there". Or "I remember the time in a meeting when you said something that helped me see more clearly" or.... use your imagination. Too often we just don't say thank you to the saints to live among us. Here's your opportunity.

If you would like us to mail them for you (since we have all the addresses) then that's fine too.

New announcements

Next meeting of the Anti Racism discussion group: Nov 25 (Wednesday) at 4 PM by Google Meet. The link to connect with be distributed a few days before the meeting. If you would like to participate, email Colin Graham at ccgraham@northwestel.net to be added to the list.

We agreed to keep reading Kendi's *Antiracism* in preparation for Nov 25th.

For the meeting after that (January, 2021?) we decided to talk about *The Inconvenient Indian* by Tom King.

Secret Sister Tea Party! Sunday, November 1 at 1:00pm - Lewis Hall (Whitehorse United)

Secret Sisters is an awesome ministry in our church family. Women of our congregation meet once a year to come together in community, to find out who was our Secret Sister last year and draw a new Secret Sister profile for the coming year. For the next year you will be a Secret Sister and remember your secret sister through prayer, cards, little gifts (if you want) all of which adds up to making someone else's day a little brighter.

It's an inside tea! So, wear your "tea dress", a hat or fascinator and bring your own tea or coffee in a travel and a snack for yourself if you wish. We will respect physical distancing and keep everyone safe!

If you simply want to join us for the Tea Party and social connection that is absolutely fine. You are welcome to join us **Sunday, November at 1:00pm in Lewis Hall.**

If you'd like to participate but are not free on Sunday, please contact the organizers before Sunday so ensure they have the information required.

For more info: Beth 633-2710, Sharon 633-3775, Jennifer 333-0228

Feeling Swept Along by the US Presidential Election ... to where?

Many (most?) of us are being swept along by the daily news from the US. We know that something is happening there that will affect us all – now and into the future. But, as used as we are to being able to vote, to protest, to write letters, this time there's nothing like that to do. When we are stripped of anything to do – that's a time when prayer really makes sense.

Some of us have agreed to recreate an old Christian tradition – the prayer vigil (remember Gethsemane?). It works like this:

1. We start at midnight on November 2 – just as Election Day begins in the US.
2. The first person goes to the church and prays, reads, maybe writes for one hour.
3. At 1 am someone else comes and replaces the first person for the next hour.
4. And so it goes at each hour until midnight on November 3 when the voting ends.

There's no special protocol. You just come for an hour and hold each American in your prayer – calling for peace and love in all hearts that day and in the weeks to come. You can read or write too if you want - there will be a vigil journal at the church.

From midnight to 9 am hopefully nine persons from our church will take part. From 9 am until 8 pm more than one person is welcome to join, observing the usual pandemic cautions (hand sanitizing, distancing, and masks if you wish).

We will let the other churches know that we are doing this and invite them to join us during these hours if they want.

If you want to take part by taking one hour, you can either go [here](#) and fill in your name or call Stu Clark 333-0979 and he'll do it for you.

Linnea sends Mt 22:34-46 The Greatest Commandment, The Question of David's Son

And from that day forward, no-one dared to ask him any more questions. I've been reflecting on a quote from Margaret Atwood this week:

"War is what happens when language fails."

Link to video (YouTube):



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkLmZrI9wZk&feature=youtu.be>

Blessings this week, Linnea

And for youth – don't forget to register!



time for **YOU** and laughter play singing dance
worship and *hope-full* conversations > *evolve* 2020

Nov 5 & Nov 6, 4:30-7:30pm + Nov 7, 9am-5pm

Pacific Time Zone (1hr later for Mountain Time Zone) register asap to get your actual
treats and snacks in the actual mail + a link to order free evolve 2020 swag!

**WHOVA-IN FROM
THE COMFORT
OF YOUR COUCH**

A FREE ONLINE RETREAT FROM PMRFIRSTIRD.CA
**GATHERING UNITED CHURCH YOUTH,
YOUNG ADULTS & THEIR LEADERS**

RAISING OUR VOICE IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE ACTION

Very reputable scientists from around the world have told us we must make some big changes starting now and before 2030.

In September the territorial government announced its long-awaited strategy to counter the climate crisis. Called [*Our Clean Future*](#), the strategy includes specific targets and timelines – unusual for such strategies. This is, to my knowledge, one of the best provincial/territorial plans in Canada – in particular because the government is committed to monitoring progress each year until 2030. It is also in line with Canada’s commitment to cut emissions by 30% by 2030 (but excludes mining emissions).

Such a significant policy change is important to our concern for our children/grandchildren and caring for the Earth. In addition, many of the new programs included will affect most of us in our church. We are therefore planning to review the plan together (see the link above) on **four consecutive Wednesdays at 7:00 using Zoom**.

We will break it up as follows:

Date	Topics	Page Numbers
October 21	Introductory Sections, overview, vision and values, goals— reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	1-17
October 28	Ensuring reliable energy, adapting to climate change, green economy, Taking Action, Working Together	18-33
November 4	Transportation, Homes and Buildings, Electricity Production	34-49
November 11	People and the Environment, Communities, Innovation, Leadership	50-68

When we are done, couple of volunteers will help us frame a draft letter to the territorial government from WUC indicating both our support and our hope for any changes. We will give this to the Church Council for approval at their November 17 meeting. Other activities may help us inform the rest of the congregation.

If you are interested to be part of this discussion (and everyone is welcome – it won’t be too technical), please let me know and I will send you the Zoom invitation.

Stu Clark (stu@stuandsusan.ca)

Finance Committee Update

We are very pleased with the congregation's response to the church's financial situation. This summer, we were projecting a substantial deficit unless immediate action was taken.

It is our pleasure to let you know that we have seen the results of all your efforts!

We have had a few more people sign up for PAR and many people have increased the amount of their PAR givings. Know that even a small increase makes a difference - compounded over the year and coupled with the changes of others - we have made good progress. Several large individual gifts have made a huge difference to our financial outlook for this year. We sincerely thank you for your generosity.

Thanks as well to the Fundraising Committee! They far exceeded their goal for the garage sale - raising over \$2,000! We can't wait for the Cookie Walk!

At this point, we are showing a modest positive net income. We project that if there is a deficit at the end of the year, it will be a relatively small one. Thank you to all of our church family who have answered our call! Your continued financial support is acknowledged and appreciated.

If you have questions - don't hesitate to contact the church office. Cathy will put you in touch with a member of the Finance Committee.

JENNIFER

Needed

Scraps of blue fabric, about 8" long by 1" wide – plain preferred as we need to write on them. Please drop off at the church office. To be used at the Blue Christmas service in early December. Thanks!

Interested in helping?

COOKIE WALK

It's a go!!! Well, not like our usual cookie walk, but this is what we know so far:
It will be the **first Saturday of December** as usual
There will be preserves and pies for sale. There will be cookies as well.
The cookies will be pre boxed: boxes of mixed Christmas cookies, as opposed to being able to choose from among the selection of cookies.

We'll keep you up to date as we work out more details. For now, we'd like to know who is willing to make cookies. Please let us know if you're willing to bake.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Whatever decision is made about worshipping in our sanctuary, it's clear that we'll not be able to be all together in the church Christmas Eve.

For the recorded service, I'd like to see as many familiar faces as possible.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE RECORDED, SIMPLY SAYING "MERRY CHRISTMAS" OR SAYING "MY NAME IS ___ AND MY FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROL IS ___"?

Carolyn Westberg is recording people, and very soon we'll choose a day where you can come to the church to be recorded. Stay tuned!

Need help with technology?

If you are 55+ and interested in learning more about your smartphone, tablet or computer, or being online, or digital security, or just need someone to help you fix a problem, consider attending Yukon Learn's digital skills workshops. These are free. The workshops are done via Zoom and there is lots of help available with that if you are new to it. Some limited one-on-one 'help' sessions are available by appointment. **On the following pages is some information on the offerings.**

Questions? Contact Ted Ackerman at ted.ackerman@yukonlearn.com

Seniors Outreach Computer Tutor Program



FREE to seniors 55 and up



Learn about:

Computers Tablets Smartphones
Internet Email Social Media
Digital Pictures Zoom ... and more!

Weekly online learning sessions – call 1.888.668.6280 to register.



Tuesdays 1:30 to 3:30 Open lab.
Questions, answers & discussion on a wide
range of topics, always interesting and lively.



Thursdays 1:30 to 3:30 Instructor led workshops.
See the latest schedule for upcoming topics.

AND ... by appointment:

One-on-one help with computers, smartphones,
internet ... just about anything technical.



*(Due to current COVID restrictions, one-on-one sessions must be held in
a suitable public place, and with face masks, gloves and sanitization.)*



This project was supported by a grant from CIRA's Community Investment Program
Presented in partnership with Elder Active Recreation Association



Seniors Outreach Computer Tutor Program



Schedule of Thursday Learning Events ----- Sep 17 – Nov 26, 2020

Times: Thursdays, 1:30 to 3:30

Location: Zoom

Sep 17 – Notifications – our smart devices have lots to tell us about (new email, app updates, your Dentist appointment this afternoon). The trick is – make sure you get the notifications you care about and not be bothered by things that don't matter so much.

Sep 24 – Sync devices – most of us have more than one smart device (computer, tablet, smartphone) and it's handy to see our stuff (email, photos, calendar) the same on all of them.

Oct 01 – Local services – a look at people and businesses in the Yukon that can help us with our technology when we need something new or help with a difficult problem. Some of them offer seniors discounts too, that's good to know.

Oct 08 – New Tech – there are new things coming out all the time, let's see what might be useful for us.

Oct 15 – Info sources – seniors web sites, including tech tips with a seniors context, scams to watch out for, and other information relevant to our group.

Oct 22 – Social Media is rapidly evolving, on the other hand Facebook is launching a new product for college students ... which was the original purview of Facebook. Despite all the churn, there is still relevance for many of us so let's see where it is all going.

Oct 29 – Housekeeping (review) – cleaning up unwanted cookies/data/apps, checking settings for privacy & security. We should do these things often to keep our smart devices safe and in good running order.

Nov 05 – Zoom – there have been some new features and other changes to Zoom. And it looks like we'll be using it for a while yet so improving our proficiency should be useful.

Nov 12 – Photo management – digital photos are great, you can take thousands of them on your smartphone! But keeping them organized is another matter. Let's take another look at this very popular topic.

Nov 19 – Ancestry – there is a lot of history on the internet, our history! Let's take another look at the genealogy sites and how they work.

if there are other topics you would like to see covered, let us know. We will try to work them in.

*And remember our Tuesday open lab sessions, same time same place.
Bring questions, problems, information, suggestions, advices about devices,
anything involving technology.*



This project was supported by a grant from CIRA's Community Investment Program
Presented in partnership with Elder Active Recreation Association



Spiritual Creativity

I am inviting you to join a Spiritual Creativity Group. Once a month (2nd Monday of the month) we will get together on zoom from 6:30-7:30. You will be given a spiritual quote or reading. You will have one month to ponder these words and then create something to explain what these words mean to you. You can paint, draw, sew, write a poem or story, collage, sing a song, anything that speaks to you. The first meeting will be Monday October 12 at 6:30. It will be a meet and greet and you will receive your first reading. After that, our meetings will include a new reading and a show and tell, if you want to share. If you would like to join please email the office at wuc@klondiker.com and I will put you on the zoom list.

Dianne Gale

Can you help?

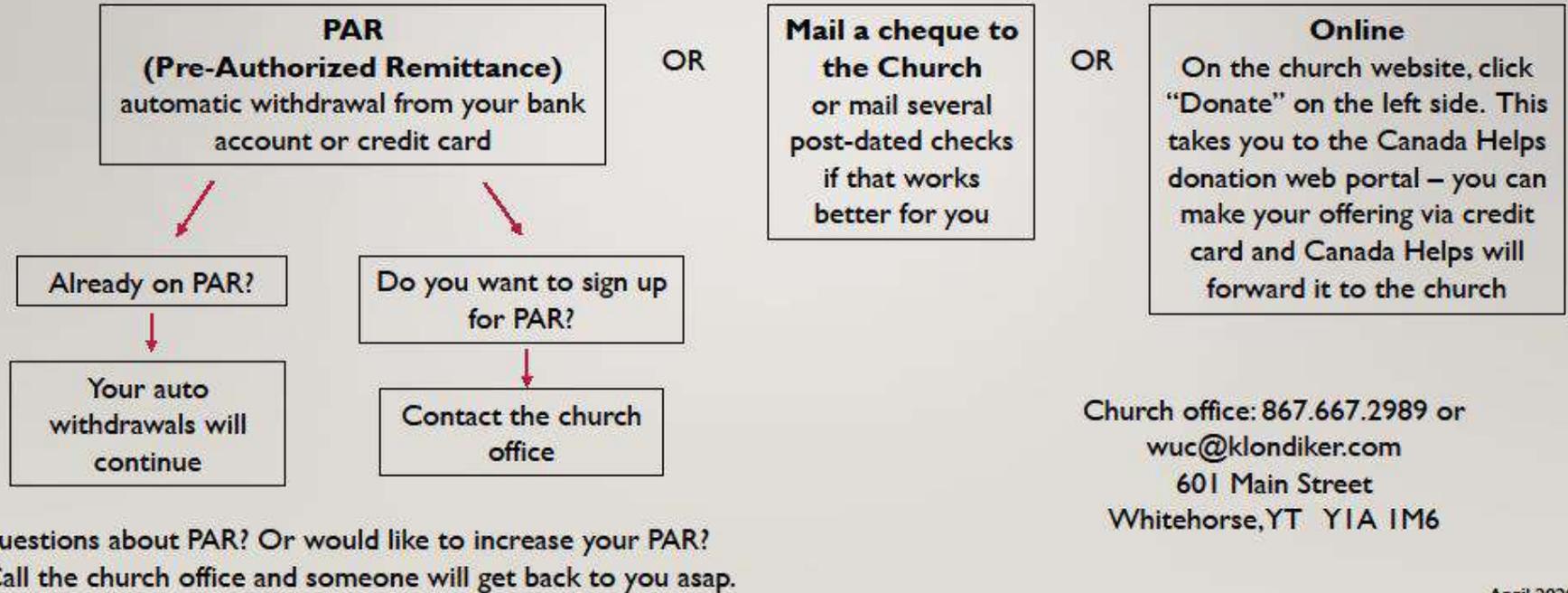
Quilters and other workers in fabric: Looking ahead to Advent, we're looking for blue fabric, large pieces of light blue and scraps of royal blue. Any help would be appreciated. Please let Bev or Diane Gale know if you have fabric to donate. Thanks!

Thank you to all who have continued to support the Outreach Van by dropping off soaps, toothpaste and other toiletry items that go into making health packs. As cooler weather starts in, **warm men's socks, gloves and caps** are always welcome. A bar of soap or a pair of socks means very little to most of us but everything to someone else.

Wishing to pass it on

Do you know of any family that would like a gift of gently used books, puzzles and DVD movies? Some pre-school age, some a little older. 2-6 year olds mostly - let us know and we'll make sure they get passed on to you.

How do I financially support Whitehorse United Church during this time of COVID restrictions?



April 2020

Need to talk with someone? Struggling to cope?

Here are some low/no cost Mental Health resources within the territory:

In-Person free- to low-cost resources

Counseling

In Whitehorse:

Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services Sarah Steele Building – 609 Steele St.,
Whitehorse: 1-866-456-3838

Canadian Mental Health Association – 209-1114 Front St, 668 6429

All Genders Yukon through *Ignite Counselling* - 3089 3rd Ave #1. Call 668-5498 for more information.

Hospice Yukon Society is a community-based not-for-profit organization that has been providing a range of *bereavement support* services to Yukoners. You can learn more about the programs and services that Hospice Yukon offers by visiting the website at www.hospiceyukon.net, dropping by the office at 409 Jarvis Street Monday- Friday 11:30 am - 3:00 pm, or calling 867-667-7429. Confidential support is provided free of charge.

In the communities:

Dawson City: Dawson City Community Hospital: 501 – 6th Avenue, Dawson City: 867-993-4300

There are also Mental Wellness hubs in Carmacks, Haines Junction, and Watson Lake. Please call 867-456-3838 or 1-866-456-3838 for more information.

(Gov)Employee Benefits (free to employees/ their families)

YG Employees can access the Employee and Family Assistance Program at 1 867 668-EFAP (3327) or 1-800-667-0993. Included in the YG Employee and Family Assistance Program is an online resource centre with additional supports related to health and wellbeing, family and relationships, career and work. **Access these resources at:** www.fseap.ca/resources.

City of Whitehorse Employees can access their Employee Assistance Program at www.homewoodhealth.com, and by calling 1-800-663-1142 (English), 1 866-398-9505 (en français).

Government of Canada Employees can access the Federal Government Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) available 24/7, free and confidential, 1-800-268-7708

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/occupational-health-safety/employee-assistance-services.html>

Online and Other Resources

Crisis Services Canada • 24-hour, confidential and anonymous suicide prevention and support line. • 1-833-456-4566 • www.crisisservicescanada.ca

Canadian Virtual Hospice • Information and support on palliative and end-of-life care, loss and grief. • www.mygrief.ca or www.kidsgrief.ca

Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention • <https://suicideprevention.ca/> • <https://suicideprevention.ca/About-Suicide-and-Life-Promotion>

Tao Tel Aide • Nos lignes d'écoutes sont ouvertes 24 h sur 24 365 jours par année. Un service de confiance | 1-800-567-9699

First Nations Hope for Wellness Help Line: This is a specific resource for First Nations and Inuit to provide immediate, culturally competent telephone counselling, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is available in English, French and upon request in Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut • Call the toll-free Help Line at 1-855-242-3310 or connect to the online chat at hopeforwellness.ca.

Road to Mental Readiness App (look for it in the App store or on Google Play) is a free mobile app developed by Department of National Defense to improve short-term performance and long-term mental health outcomes. <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/r2mr/id1148743063>

Upcoming Activities & Events (Also, check out the website [Church Calendar](#))

Date	Time / Location	Details
<p>All meetings and activities at the church have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Please stay tuned for information about the resumption of in-person meetings and activities.</p> <p>Please see the Facebook page for information about interactive Facebook daily 7 pm story time for the little ones and Sunday 10:30 virtual worship.</p>		

COVID-19 Related Information

NEW - REGARDING PASTORAL VISITS IN THE HOSPITAL

If someone is in the hospital and wants to see a spiritual care giver, you have three options:

1. there will be a chaplain on call and you can ask the staff to put you in touch with that person (chaplains are simply local pastors and ministers and priests, including me, who take turns being on call a month at a time),
2. there are iPads available for use at the hospital and they can help you arrange a visit from me that way, or
3. for those in palliative care, it's possible for me to make an in person visit but the patient her/himself, or the family, has to add me to the list of those who are allowed to visit in person.

“Virtual” health appointments are now available. Thanks to COVID-19, Yukoners now can have a “virtual health appointment” with a doctor or optometrist using a computer with a “tele-medicine” program called Doxy. Anecdotal reports from seniors who have used the service have all been positive – perhaps this option will continue after self-isolation is no longer required? It will make life easier for people in the communities or with transportation challenges in town. You still need to make an appointment with your physician in the usual way. Don’t forget the 811 phone service is also available if you have a health question or concern.

Reminder: COVID-19 information online

The one-stop-shop for information about COVID-19 in the Yukon – including government financial assistance programs – is at yukon.ca/covid-19. For a handy table comparing the symptoms for COVID-19, influenza and a cold, click [HERE](#).

If you can, support our local restaurants

Don't feel like cooking one night and want to support a local restaurant? What's Up Yukon has done a great job at keeping us up to date with all the restaurants that are still open and offering take-out/delivery services. If you have a favourite restaurant, now is the time to support them so they'll be around after the COVID restrictions are lifted. Click [HERE](#) for the list.

Let's Chat Yukon now operating

Stuck at home and wishing you had someone to speak with? April 15th marked the launch of Let's Chat Yukon, a toll-free line you can call for enjoyable conversation with a fellow Yukoner. Just because you're self-isolating doesn't mean you're alone. This is a free service run by volunteers. 1-877-321-1001