

UPDATE – In-Person Services at Whitehorse United Church

Worship Committee recommended to Council AND COUNCIL HAS APPROVED that Whitehorse United continue with in-person services every Sunday from Nov 8 to Dec 27, unless Dr. Hanley recommends otherwise due to local COVID cases. After Christmas we will evaluate again.

We plan to continue with all the precautions practiced in the last two weeks. Masks, social distancing etc. are not optional.

The survey showed general satisfaction at how the two trial services went.

We will continue to need three greeters at each service.

The maximum number of people able to sign up in advance will be 30. Seating will include using the choir loft and the front pews, which are both somewhat unpopular but have to be used to allow the maximum number of congregants to come. This number allows for Elijah and two droppers-in. So far we have not had 30 people wishing to attend.

We plan for the services to still be live streamed as well. The technology gurus will advise us on the best way forward. The broadcast glitches are a considerable frustration, they are working hard to find and deal with the problems.

Christmas services will be very different this year. Plans will be announced in the next couple of weeks.

Celebrating 100 years young

Wanita Johnson will be celebrating this milestone birthday on Nov. 8th. We give thanks for her life so far and wish her all the very best today and in the year ahead.



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

New announcements

There will be **no Remembrance Day ceremony** at the Canada Games Centre this year.

Wreaths may be purchased, if you wish, from the Legion. 667 2800, or email whitehorseremembers@yahoo.com. Should you choose to do so, pick-ups will be drive-through fashion, from noon to 6 pm Friday the 6th, Sat the 7th, and Monday the 9th.

The Legion will conduct a short, by-invitation ceremony streamed live at <https://whitehorselegionbranch254.ca/> at 11 am on the 11th.



THIS WEEK - 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.

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.

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!

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.

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.

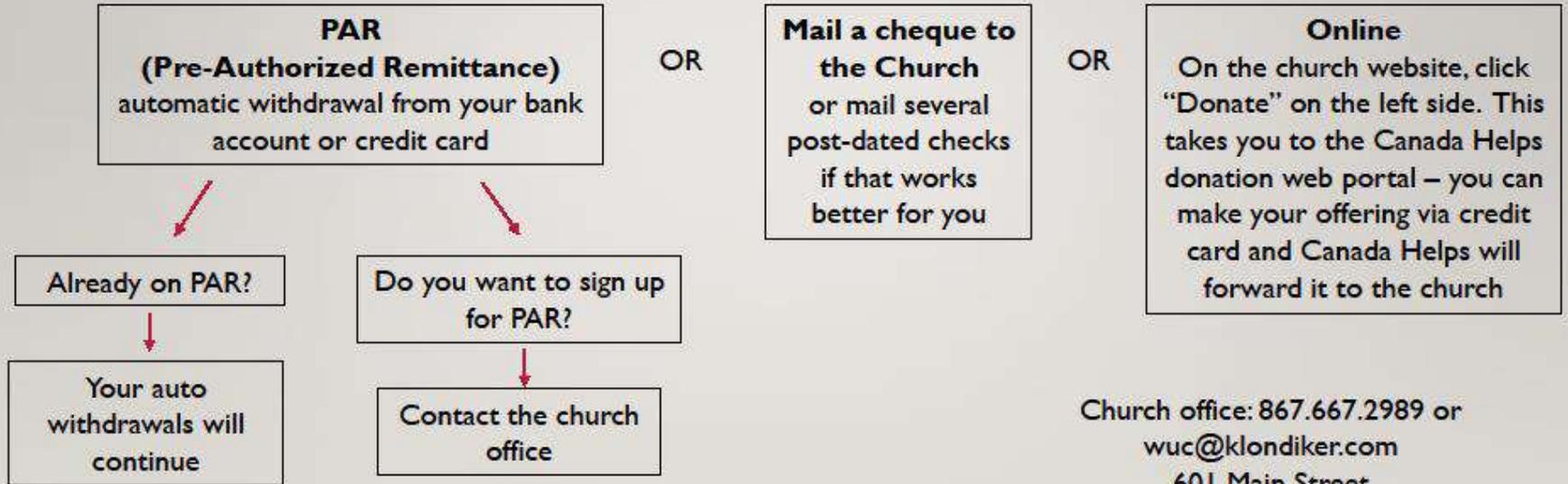
*And remember our **Tuesday** open lab sessions, same time same place.
Bring questions, problems, information, suggestions, advices about devices,
anything involving technology.*



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



Church office: 867.667.2989 or
wuc@klondiker.com
601 Main Street
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1M6

Questions about PAR? Or would like to increase your PAR?
Call the church office and someone will get back to you asap.

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>

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