



# The Caller

Immanuel Presbyterian Church



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## The Pastor's Page

At the Women's Meet Up a few weeks ago, we discussed various Lenten disciplines and what people had done in the past to observe this holy season in their personal lives. I was struck by the insight that the most meaningful practices involved breaking a routine in one's life, whether that meant giving up one's customary cup of morning coffee or adding a daily meditative walk into one's schedule. Because they interrupted one's usual routine, these Lenten disciplines had the effect of causing the practitioner to stop and reflect on what she was doing. Instead of mindlessly reaching for the coffee maker, for example, the person instead had to stop and think, if only for a moment, about the fact that it was Lent. And that

might lead to pondering what it means to fast or give up something as a sign of devotion to God, or about other ways to deepen one's spiritual life or sense of connection to Christ.

Interrupting a routine increases mindfulness of what we are doing, which is helpful at any time of year but perhaps especially during Lent. Traditionally, this season is a time of reflection in preparation for celebrating Easter. It is a season in which we recognize our brokenness and sinfulness, and thus our need for the redemption and new life granted to us through the resurrection of Christ. What better way to reflect on our lives than to become more mindful and aware of various routines and acts in which we engage every day?

And so this year, I've decided to break one of my daily (or at least weekday) routines by taking a 5 minute prayer walk after dropping off my son at daycare, before heading to the car and getting on with the rest of my day. We're only two days into Lent and I've already forgotten to do it once, which just shows how hard it is to change a routine! But I'll try again tomorrow. I encourage you to find your own ways of being more mindful during Lent as well, whether that means interrupting a routine or finding a devotional to guide your prayer life during this time.

We will also be breaking some routines as a congregation within our weekly worship services. First, we will follow the traditional Lenten custom of avoiding the use of the word "Alleluia" during Lent, as a way of focusing

on somberness and repentance. We will be changing the antiphon that we sing in response to the Scripture readings. And we will be introducing new communion music to sing on those weeks when we share communion together (you can think of learning the new songs as our communal Lenten discipline!). These are small changes, yet hopefully they will be enough to cause us to pause and reflect on what we are doing, rather than mindlessly going through the motions of worship. And when the Alleluias return to our services (with an "Alleluia" hymn sing the Sunday after Easter!), may they be that much more joyful and meaningful because of their absence.

Thoughtfully,

Ellen





# Combine Your Love of God with Your Love of Children!

Sunday School teachers are needed for our younger kids (ages 2-11) and older youth (grades 7-12) for the spring unit, every Sunday from March 5 thru May 21.

Curriculum and materials are provided. There will be a sign-up sheet passed around at worship this week, or you can also email Heather MacAlpine

(hmacalpine@gmail.com) with the dates that you'd like to volunteer!

Sunday School begins at 10:00 am and goes until 10:50 am. In addition to the lesson for which the curriculum and materials are provided, a craft is usually done.

Please take this opportunity to share

your love about God with the most **impressible of our congregation. Let's get them off to the best start we possibly can and help them to face today's world with faith and trust in God!**



## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Report was presented at the Annual Presbyterian meeting on 2/12/17 following worship. 19 of 41 voting members were present and the three congregational meetings and the annual reports of the various IPC committees of 2016 were approved. The 2017 budget as approved by the session was presented. It is \$14,000 over what the projected income for 2017 will be despite the fact that the only funds approved for expenditure are those that are required and/or will keep the facility open, safe, and ministry intact (pastor salary and pianist). Copies of the 2016 Annual Report are available on the information table in the office.

## Presbyterian Glue

1 Corinthians 12:7

*To each is give the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

If you submitted a pledge this year you received offering envelopes. The first envelope in each box is labeled "Per Capita." We ask that each member of Immanuel pay their Per Capita amount of \$50.00 because Immanuel must pay a total Per Capital amount of \$1,798 to Presbytery which goes to PCUSA. Per Capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyteri-

an Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system. Please help us complete our payment to Presbytery/PCUSA.

*Paying per capita is similar to*

- ◆ contributing one's dish to a potluck meal
- ◆ paying to be connected to the Internet
- ◆ paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, water, and telephone
- ◆ pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip

## PLEASE RECYCLE...

There are 3 new green recycle bins in the fellowship hall-labeled as follows:

1. PAPER (clean), including cardboard
2. PLASTIC, water, juice, & other plastic bottles; "clam-shell" plastic containers from strawberries, blueberries, etc., milk jugs, AND aluminum & tin cans
3. GLASS of any sort



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins at 2am on Sunday, March 12! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed on the 11th so that you won't be late for church :)**  
*Spring Forward*





# Mark Your Calendar!

March 1, 6:30pm: Ash Wednesday worship service  
7:15pm: Choir rehearsal

March 3: World Day of Prayer

March 5: 1st Sunday of Lent  
Special congregational meeting after worship

March 8, 6pm: Ladies' Night Out at Hula Hands (501 W Fireweed)  
7:15pm: Choir rehearsal  
International Day of Women

March 12: 2nd Sunday of Lent  
Taize style worship service  
Endowment Committee meeting after worship  
Daylight Savings Time begins

March 19: 3rd Sunday of Lent  
Pulpit supply: Rev. Nathan Rogers

March 20, 6:30pm: Men's Night Out at TBD

March 22, 6:30pm: Session meeting

March 26: 4th Sunday of Lent  
4-6pm: Worship and fellowship at Sitka Place (tentative date)

April 2: 5th Sunday of Lent  
1-3pm: Session leadership retreat  
Self Development of People and Justice Advocacy Sunday

April 5, 7:15pm: Choir rehearsal

April 9: Palm Sunday

April 12, 6pm: Ladies' Night Out at TBD

April 13: Maundy Thursday  
6pm: Potluck and worship around the tables

April 14: Good Friday

April 16: Easter  
No Sunday School or Adult Forum  
11am Worship, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

April 17, 6:30pm: Men's Night Out at TBD

April 19, 7:15pm: Choir rehearsal

April 22: Earth Day

April 23: "Alleluia" Hymn Sing during worship  
Mission committee meeting after worship

## A TESTIMONY TO FAITH....

The Rev. Alice Green was honored at the Presbytery of Yukon meeting in February. She celebrates her 100th birthday on July 17th of this year! Alice began her mission work in Alaska **in 1945 and was ordained in the 60's** with her first assignment as an ordained minister on St. Lawrence Island!

## Help Us Celebrate HIS Rising

In celebration of Easter on April 16th – please consider bringing an Easter Lily, Tulips, Daffodils, or other beautiful spring flowers to brighten the Sanctuary.



## Presbyterian Youth Group

7th thru 12th graders  
3/5 1:30-3:30 pm at Trinity  
3/24-25: 1st Presbyterian Wasilla: 30 Hour Famine Retreat  
Online Lenten Devotional *Journey to the Cross*: <https://www.d365.org>  
Youth group adult advisors: Danna Larson (1st Pres.), Dora Soria (Trinity), Robbie Russell (Trinity)

# Apology for a Painful Past

In June 2016 at the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the PCUSA, an apology was issued to Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians for the pain the church caused as it led efforts to educate and assimilate indigenous peoples in boarding schools and otherwise. Rev. Curt Karns the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Yukon presented the apology at the October 2016 Alaska Federation of Natives. Then in February of this year, im-

mediately prior to Kitgviq in Utgiagvik (Barrow), the PCUSA Stated Clerk presented the apology to the community of Barrow. Through the extreme generosity of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the Village Corporation, a representative from each of the churches in the Presbytery of Yukon were able to attend this historic event. Two videos are worth watching – the first was produced by the Office of General Assembly and the 2<sup>nd</sup>

(Youtube) is the parting words of the Stated Clerk.

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2017/2/9/pcusa-leaders-issue-apology-native-americans-alask/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tshc5mwli6o>



## Immanuel Presbyterian Church

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**Women's Meet-Up:** Enhancing Your Spiritual Journey AND a Time for Fellowship

**Mondays, 7:00 pm @ Candace Arlian's home, and**

1 Saturday/month

Call Elizabeth Amber for information: 538-7758

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*REMINDER Corner: Soup – Cookies – Clean Up*

*3/5: Haldane-Anderson – same – same*

*3/12: Jacobs – Jacobs - Laurence & Ezric*

*3/19: Collins – Collins – Collins*

*3/26: Sharon Arlian – Candace Arlian – Van Order*

*Ushers for March: Laurence & Ezric*



3/14 Ellie Reiter

3/26 Elizabeth Amber

4/9 Barbe Neeson

4/14 Maria Ashworth

4/16 Luke Ashworth

**Upcoming Events:** Stone Soup Group a nonprofit created in 1992, working to sustain the health and well-being of Alaskan children with special needs and their families .  
3/16 5:30-7:00 Alaska's ABLE Act- A New Savings Account for Persons w/Disabilities @ SSG  
3/24-25 Wrightslaw Special Ed. Law & Advocacy Training @ UAA  
Ongoing: Building Strong Parents, WII Club @ SSG  
More Information: <https://www.stonesoupgroup.org>



## Meet Your Leadership

Mark Anderson is one of your newest Ruling Elders; ordained and installed in December 2016. Mark spent his growing-up years in Juneau, Fairbanks, and several of the lower 48 states. He attended UAF where he obtained his Bachelors and then Masters in Arctic Civil Engineering. Mark worked for the Indian Health Service to improve water and sanitation, first in OK, then in AK. In 2003 he began working for the National Park Service where he works to improve park roads and structures. Befitting to his professional experience, Mark is your new chair of the Building and Grounds Committee and is also chair of the Endowment Committee. Mark is an avid outdoorsman albeit not able to spend as much time out of doors **as he wishes, but when he can, he's cross country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking.** Most of his spare time however is spent

trying to meet the daddy needs of 2 busy sons and doing handy-man chores at home or for the church.

Sandy Haldane is in her 2nd term as one of **Immanuel's Ruling Elders but is not** new to the work of Sessions. Prior to moving back to Anchorage in 2012, Sandy was a 2 term Ruling Elder of New Hope Presbyterian Church in **Derwood Maryland and in the 70's the** youth representative to the Pastor Nominating Committee of Trinity United Presbyterian Church, then located in Spenard. Sandy is a Registered Nurse, earning her Bachelors from Baylor University and her Masters from UAA. Not currently working, Sandy remains busy in the nursing profession by participating in several committees in the community as well as with family duties and church activities. Sandy is married to Mark Anderson, they have 2 sons, Cole and Stevie.

## Springtime

Gentle Spring's around the corner,  
Waiting just to show her face  
And to bring us flowers and sunshine;  
Winter's almost run his race!  
Be not, then, my friends, discouraged  
That there's cold and ice and sleet;  
For Springtime soon will be with us,  
And the flowers we will greet:  
Daffodils, so bright and yellow,  
Hyacinths of varied hues,  
As they nod their heads, in gladness,  
Telling us they bring good news...

–Gertrude Tooley Buckingham  
(1940s)

