



The Happenings

Newsletter

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

409 Center Parkway
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E-Mail: adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org
Web Page: www.yorkvilleucc.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Worship & Sunday School: 10:00 am

Our Staff

<u>Minister</u>	Rev. Mark S. Gregory
<u>Building Manager</u>	Mary Ellen Anderson
<u>Christian Education Director</u>	Barbara Thurlby
<u>Administrative Asst.</u>	Susan Lange
<u>Chancel Choir Director</u>	Doug Trumble
<u>Children's Choir Director</u>	Sondra Shatters
<u>Organist</u>	Tina Andersen
<u>Pianist</u>	Lori Runkle
<u>Childcare Attendants</u>	Hannah Bazan
	Luke Schoenfelder
	Rachel Hart
<u>Maintenance</u>	
<u>Custodians</u>	Tim & Laurie Strong
<u>Sextons</u>	Ed Niesen
	Steve Redmon

Our Shepherds

<u>Chairperson</u>	Kathy Farren
<u>Vice Chairperson</u>	Sandy deRidder
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	Sue Kimes
<u>Operations: Personnel</u>	Deb Myers
<u>Operations: Bldg & Grnds</u>	Andy Hamblin
<u>Operations: Finance</u>	Tim Andrus
<u>Information Services</u>	Diane Lee
<u>Christian Education: Adult</u>	Fred Gaebler
<u>Christian Education: Youth</u>	Pam Campos
<u>Worship: Serving</u>	Lori Redmon
<u>Worship: Preparation</u>	Lee Kinkade
<u>Church Family: Caring</u>	Lou Ann Hoffman
<u>Church Family: Fellowship</u>	Jeff Kline
<u>Service: Missions</u>	June Davis
<u>Outreach/Welcoming</u>	Mary Lee Swickert



DAZZLEJUNCTION.COM



During our trip to Bridger this year, I shared one of the daily devotionals I get in my email each morning – it was not one of the UCC devotionals, but came from a Presbyterian church in Chicago. I thought it was an appropriate devotion for our group, because we were going to a place where the people practiced a much different faith than ours (Native Spirituality), and where even the Christians practiced their faith differently than we do.

Many on the “Mission Trip Team” commented on the message, saying that it made them think about their own attitudes towards others of different Christian denominations, and those of other faiths. It made me think about some of my own criticisms of certain other Christians and their faith practices. So, I decided that maybe it would be a good idea to share it with all of you. May the Spirit use it to help us all become more loving, more humble, more accepting, and less judgmental of others and their faith practices. Because in the end each of us is accountable to God for how we have lived, not how others have lived their lives.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Mark

Scripture passage: Paul's letter to the Christians in Roman, Chapter 14: 1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God. (NRSV)

Reflection:

Dalai Lama XIV once said, "Love is the absence of judgment." That's a very hard sentiment to let sink in. How often do we say we love someone yet we notice ourselves judging and even criticizing the way they behave or the choices they make? It can be as simple as picking apart their wardrobe or their choice in music. We easily assert our opinion and expertise on everyone we don't know, and sometimes even more so on those we do know and say we love.

In the passage from Romans 14, Paul reminds us our faith calls us to something higher and something more humbling. To be followers of Christ, we are called to live without judgment of another, especially when it comes to another's practice of their faith. Yes, we are taught certain doctrine and scripture. But we lose sight of Christ's real call to us, when we focus our energy on comparing our practice or ritual to that of another and examine it with critical eyes and hearts. Paul reminds us that only God can assess our faith and devotion. We must humble ourselves and not accept a responsibility that is not ours to bear. Instead we should continue to devote our lives to following Christ by loving and accepting and cherishing our neighbors, despite how different their faith looks from our own. Let us continue to nurture our humility in our words, our hearts, and our faith.

Prayer:

God of love and acceptance, gently guide us toward lives of humility and service. Remind us to look at one another with genuine love and be free from judgment and difference. Help us find peace in this lifelong journey. Amen.



**A Stephen Minister will
care, listen and encourage
you.**

**Christ caring for people
through people**

**Contact Pastor Mark, Becky Jerabek or
Lou Ann Hoffman**

Shepherds Leadership Team

You've been SO generous...

Coffee, candy, gift cards, money for new Friendship Pads and more! Your response to the Giving Tree has been tremendous. Every single thing donated is needed in some way by our church.

Since people just leave the tags and donations in the office, we often don't know who to thank. So, THANK YOU to everyone who has taken a tag and returned something. Please know that your gifts are greatly appreciated. They all help with our church's bottom line.

We've added a few more tags to the tree for new "needs". Check it out in the Narthex and see what you can do.

Everyone has been so generous that I hate to ask for more. But we really could use a little of your time, too.

There are about 2 months of summer Kids' Church left - and many vacant places on the sign-up sheet for adult helpers. Why not grab a friend and sign up together? You might find that you like it. Activities and lessons are planned. We just need a few more people to lead our kids as they learn about Jesus and have fun. You may enjoy it so much that you even consider teaching Sunday School in the fall. We could use more help there, too.

And how about a trip thru ancient Rome? Consider helping out with our Vacation Bible School. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and we're still looking for some handy cooks and bakers to help with meals for all our little Roman goddesses and gladiators.

Again, thanks for all that all of you do for our church with your gifts of time, talents and Giving Tree gifts.

Kathy Farren
Shepherds Leadership Team chair



Need to email the church?

If you need to contact any of the church staff members via email, please note their correct addresses:

Pastor Mark Gregory- markgregry@gmail.com
(Note: there is no "o" in Gregory in the address)

Christian Education Director Barb Thurlby- ced@yorkvilleucc.org

Administrative Assistant Susan Lange- adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org

Building Manager Mary Ellen Anderson- bldmgr@yorkvilleucc.org

PLEASE NOTE: The church email addresses NO LONGER INCLUDE A HYPHEN. If you are still using the former email addresses with hyphens, your message will be lost in cyberspace



MISSIONS MINISTRY

Keeping you informed where some of our Missions Budget allotment goes and Missions Ministry activities coming up in the church.

IN MAY	SPECIAL OLYMPICS – KENDALL COUNTY	\$200.00
	STARVED ROCK COUNTRY COUMMUNITY	\$300.00
	FOUNDATION (SRCCF) NAPLATE/OTTAWA	
	TORNADO VICTIMS	
	SUPPORT BRIDGER TRIP TO SOUTH DAKOTA	\$700.00
IN JUNE	OPEN DOOR – SANDWICH, IL	\$350.00
	KENDALL COUNTY FOOD PANTRY	\$450.00

A special donation of \$300.00 went to the Disaster Relief for Naplate/Ottawa, IL by your church Missions Ministry along with another \$200.00 from the Women's Joy Circle. Pamela of the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation could not thank our church enough for these generous donations, as there was no governmental relief given to them.

5 for 5 Mission Offering "Strengthen the Church" 2017 netted \$ 521.00.

The Annual CROP Walk will be on Sunday, September 24, 2017 at the Oswego Presbyterian Church in Oswego. Keep the date open on your calendars. If you would be interested in volunteering to chair this event in the future, talk to June Davis.

"Neighbors In Need" (NIN), another one of our 5 for 5 Offerings, will be collected on October 01, 2017.

Soup Sunday's are planned for November 19, 2017, January 14, 2018 and February 11, 2018.

As in the past, our Cookie Sale at Christmas Time will be on the first Saturday of December the 2nd.

Once again Missions Ministry will sponsor the A.I.D. Christmas Tree for the holidays starting in November.

School supplies will be collected going to the Kendall County Community Food Pantry during the late summer months.

5 for 5 Mission Offering "The Christmas Fund" (retired ministers/lay persons) will be collected on Sunday, December 17, 2017.



"Alpha" Youth Group Kicks Off!

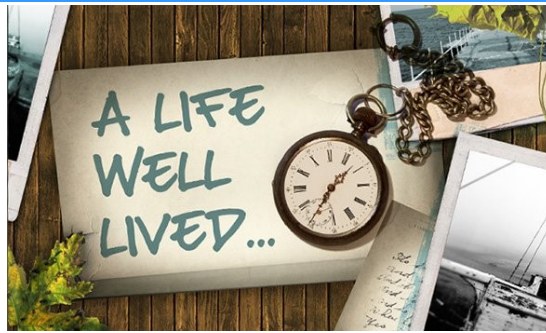
A new middle school youth group has kicked off at Yorkville Congregational Church. On Wednesday evenings, from 5:15pm until 7:15pm you can find YCC middle schoolers experiencing food, fun and fellowship!

Each meeting begins with prayer and a short meeting, followed by dinner. After dinner, the students enjoy an age-related devotional, a fun skit, an intense game time, snacks, a team meeting along with a closing chat time.

The current devotional uses age appropriate humor and cereal! Yes, every day, kid tested cereal! What young person cannot relate to cereal! Sounds curious, doesn't it? If you know a middle schooler be sure to encourage them to join us for the weekly fun at "Alpha", they will enjoy it!

If you have questions or would be interested in helping with this witty, fun and entertaining group, contact Barb at ced@yorkvilleucc.org.





Thank you Pastor Obenauer for your sermon. It has stayed with me and I have pondered it over and over.

I agree with the theology "The Kingdom of God is in the here and now". It is not just in the future "heaven". But how can we live it and make it happen? That is/was the big question!

And then I realized how one person made that happen in his lifetime. That person is my nephew, Michael Allen Koning. Mike died a few weeks ago. It was unexpected and sudden. All who knew him were - and are - devastated.

I knew the Mike that often visited me. He always did chores, fed me, entertained me and gave me which he thought I needed.

For example - On a frigid winter day, I was expecting him and opened my garage door. When I thought he had driven in, I waited at the door...and I waited...and waited. Finally, I opened the kitchen door to see where he was only to find him repairing my garage door. That was SO Mike. If he saw a job, he did it.

I realized the scope of his actions when Mike's daughter, Christy, gave me a partial biography. All of his life, Mike reached out to others as he did to me. He did this always with energy, enthusiasm and joy.

I have placed a couple copies of "A Life Well Lived" in our church library. You will find it a good read, a true story that is inspiring and uplifting.

Esther Koning Fraser



Eleven thousand four hundred and four. That is how many miles I have either flown or driven since February 15th. From one side of the country to the other and a lot of places in between. You might ask, "What could be more fun than that?" And I would answer, "Three things!"

The person that I did most of this travelling with is pictured here on our recent trip to Portland. Stephanie Hobold is the national coordinator for staff learning for our mission, I-58. She and I intersect in three areas. One way is that we are teaming together with Erika Lobatos in the neighborhood we live in called Little Village. The three of us carry the desire to see a home called Casa Tanya formally be a place of

refuge and growth for women whose hearts have turned towards following Jesus. The second place of intersection for Steph and I as it relates to her role in staff learning is that she has invited me to travel with her as she visits various staff around the country to learn and be with them in their ministry contexts. We make pretty good partners in our different ways of listening and asking questions and have great fun along the way. The last role I have gladly filled for Steph is as a cohort mentor. Staff who are new to the I-58 mission are placed together in cohorts for their study and learning and four times during their two-year commitment they gather together in one of their own cities for their development, learning, and relationship. Steph has invited me and an older staff man to be present during those times as people who listen to these folks and listen to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives and during the gathering. Right down my alley!

I just thought I would give you a peek into the window of my world the last few months. I am amazed at where this journey with Jesus has taken me and look forward to what lies ahead. Thank you for being a part of this with me! I appreciate your prayers on my behalf, your friendship and your generosity!

Grateful,
Nan Maree Miller
2851 S Ridgeway Ave, Chicago, IL 60623 (630) 272-6337
www.navigators.org/donate (to donate type in my staff # 17541863 or my name)

YCC KIDS CHURCH IN FULL SWING

Busy summer schedules do not dampen the kid fun at Yorkville Congregational Church! Another season of Kids Church is in full swing on Sunday mornings. With the help of amazing parent volunteers, the team manages to bring fun, games, videos, snacks, crafts and outdoor excitement to the little feet of our congregation.

During the summer families experience busy schedules, vacations, and events throughout the summer break. However, the commitment to the children of YCC does not waiver and the volunteers are vital to the success of the summer program.

Kids Church meets during our regular church service at 10:00 a.m. and is always open to willing and compassionate volunteers. Please consider volunteering for the fun-filled important ministry. Contact Barb or Mary Ellen at the church for more details.



What is this Ministry?

Our Mission Statement:

The mission of Love Your Neighbor at YCUCC is to enable refugees and other displaced people to establish new lives and regain hope, so that they become contributing member of the community.

Come Join Us!

- ⇒ Next meeting is July 16, 2017 after worship
- ⇒ Trip to Rogers Park is July 27, 2017 meeting at 8:30 am
- ⇒ Also check out our poster in the Narthex for updated information.



Last week someone vandalized our sign sitting on the corner of Rt. 47 and Countryside. That same week we received the following card:

"To Whom It May Concern: On our way to church yesterday we saw that your sign on Rt. 47 had been defaced. We have been very moved by your church's welcoming signs and were saddened to see this shameful expression of hatred.

We would like to contribute so that new signs can be made.

Peace & Love, The Gambros"

These people are not members of our church nor do they attend services with us yet they were moved enough to donate so that our church may continue to send out the message that EVERYONE is welcome.



Those in Cancer Treatment:

Fred Anderson
Dan Duus
Cordial Gilette
Holly Mann

Kathy Pearce
Mary Ratos
Cheryl Roberts
Judy Schrand

Sandy Veselka
Debbie Vogel
Bill Wallace

Health Concerns:

Bill Andersen
Lynn Belcher
Michael Franciose
Bob Freeman

Joe Hudgins
Dale Keith
Sandy Lindblom
Joanne O'Brien

John Patterson
Ethel Perkins
John Schneider
Duncan Skogsberg

General Concerns:

Tina Andersen
Mary Freeman
Karsjen Family

Dale Perkins
Michelle Terri
Marie Wayne

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Bob (Doc) Coleman
Cindy Coleman
Jim Follmer
Ralph Ginger

Andrea Prochaska
Dorothy Sanderson



Capt. Alex Houle, son of Tony & Laurie Houle
Marine Cpl. Christopher Johnson, son of Chris & Eva Schoenfielder
Staff Sgt. Ryan Strong, son of Tim & Laurie Strong

July Birthdays

Paul Mulligan	1	Nan Miller	21
Esther Fraser	2	Rachel Ems	21
Jana Pranga	3	JoAnne Matlock	22
Corey Clevenger	5	Rosey Clark	22
Trevor List	5	Wayne Cruise	22
Natalie Schroder	7	Ryan Strong	23
Nathan White	7	Cindi Knox	24
Brenda Bazan	10	Pat Ruzicka	24
Hannah Pierce	11	Monica Sartori	25
Betty McClure	12	Scott Myers	25
Dylan Johnson	15	Brecken Tsusaki	27
Bev Ament	17	Keith Frisk	28
Jillian Runkle	17	Chris Andrus	29
Bob Fisher	19	John Lies	29
Dusty Rhodes	21	Roger Anderson	30
Jacob Kolowski	21	Dave Heywood	31
Michael Ems	21	Dawn Ginger	31



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time GREEN

2 Kings 5:1-14 *Psalm 30 or
Isaiah 66:10-14 * Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Surprising Prophets

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time GREEN

Amos 7:7-17 * Psalm 82 or
Deuteronomy 30:9-14 * Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Caring Neighbors

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8:1-12 * Psalm 52 or
Genesis 18:1-10a * Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Word and Work

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time GREEN

Hosea 1:2-10 * Psalm 85 or
Genesis 18:20-32 * Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

Shaped by Prayer

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time GREEN

Hosea 11:1-11 * Psalm 107:1-9, 43 or
Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14; 2:18-23 *
Psalm 49:1-2

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Soul Investment

July Anniversaries

1	Mark Gregory & Michelle Prentice-Leslie	17 years
2	Roger & Jean Anderson	23 years
9	Tom & Sandy Lindblom	51 years
12	Brian & Deanna Bazan	20 years
14	Bob & Gail Fisher	60 years
14	Jon & Lori Runkle	33 years
18	Barry & Sue Kimes	46 years
20	Paul & Dawn Mulligan	31 years
20	Randy & Amy Ems	36 years
21	Bob & Carrie Johnson	10 years
26	Alex & Jamie McLeod	9 years
30	Fred & Mary Ellen Anderson	51 years

Date	Greeters
July 2	Justin & Jahp and Mary McCracken
July 9	Pat Stewart & Terri Frisk
July 16	Ben & Regina Moz
July 23	Gary & Jacobs & Joanne Vitok
July 30	Fred & Gail Gaeblor

Our Vision - YCUCC is an open and affirming congregation that seeks to meet each child of God—persons from the full diversity of creation including gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and intellectual ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure—where they are on life's journey as together we seek to transform all our lives through Christ's Gospel.

Our Mission - To nurture the divine spark within all people so that together we can advance God's peace and justice, serve others and care for creation with open minds, generous hearts and willing hands.

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Change Service Requested

July 2017