



The Happenings

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

409 Center Parkway
Yorkville, IL 60560
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E-Mail: adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org
Web Page: www.yorkvilleucc.org
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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>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>	Rachel Hart
	Mariela Olvera
	Halle Jones
	Dana Malinowski
	Tim & Laurie Strong
	Steve Redmon
	Mike Obenauer

Custodians
Sextons

Our Shepherds

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

April

2018





The Gracious Love of God

When I think about Easter, when I think about Christ's crucifixion and more importantly, Christ's resurrection, one word, above all others comes to my mind. That word is Grace.

Now if you ask any Christian what "grace" is, their likely response will be a textbook answer: "the unmerited or undeserving favor of God to those who are under condemnation." Or maybe they will say, "Grace is the free gift of forgiveness and mercy given to every child of God through the saving acts of Jesus the Christ." Good theological answers. But what is grace, REALLY? How would **you** define it?

When I think about grace, it is always inseparably linked with love. That's because every time I have experienced God's grace, it came with an awareness of being loved. Whether that grace came from a family member, a church member, or from God. Each time I had a moment when I was very aware that I was accepted and loved, in spite of my mistakes or shortcomings.

So, for me, grace is a feeling, but it is also the knowledge that no matter how bad I have behaved, no matter how I have hurt God, or hurt another of God's children, that person, or God is still there, with arms open, ready to take me back, ready to heal the rift I have caused in the relationship.

So, I believe that grace and love go hand in hand.

That's why I believe that it is through the cross and the empty tomb, that God reveals to me (to every one of us), that even when I sin, even when I turn my back on God, betray God or deny God, God still loves me, still accepts me, right where I am.

The love that comes from God is gracious love, overflowing and never ending. God loves us, NO MATTER WHAT! The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the church at Rome, said it best: *For while we were still weak, Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

God loves us so much, that God was willing to come and live in a broken world, among sinful human beings. God was even willing to risk that our selfishness, our hatred, our greed, our all-around sinfulness would lead to cruelty, suffering and death because humankind would reject God and God's love.

And you know what. We're all STILL sinners. As Paul wrote to the Roman: *For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...* But we are also ALL STILL LOVED! As, John's Gospel tells us, *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that **everyone** who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life.*

Our mistakes, our failures, our wandering away from God, even our downright rejection of God, cannot separate us from the love of God revealed in Christ. Now, that is not to say that there are not consequences for our sins and our bad behaviors. But the loss of God's love is never one of those consequences. And each time I look at the cross, I am reminded that even when we sinful humans killed God's Son, God raised him back to life. And I can almost hear God saying, "Even if you do the worst thing you can possibly do, even if you kill my son, I won't abandon you. Because I love you as much as I love Him. So, I will raise him up and overcome the evil that you did in this act. And I hope that will reveal to you that my love is more powerful than anything – your sins, your hatred, your greed, your selfishness, your hopelessness. My love will always win."

For me, that is the meaning of GRACE! God's love will always win!

And how we respond to that gracious love is up to each of us. God hopes we will follow Christ's example and give the same grace, the same love, to each other. It is possible, since Jesus told us: *Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and in fact, will do greater works than these* (John 14:12). We can do great acts of love, overwhelming acts of grace. The question always is, will we?

With love in Christ,
Pastor Mark

*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor **anything else** in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (emphasis mine). –Romans 8:38-39

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is given that the annual congregational meeting of the Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018 immediately following the worship service.

Items on the agenda include adoption of the budget for the fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2018, and election of the slate of Shepherds Leadership Team members.

It is important that members make every effort to attend the meeting to learn about the business of our church. Please put this on your calendar.

At their meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2018, the Shepherds Leadership Team will approve the budget to be presented and voted on during the annual meeting. Copies of the budget will be available in the Narthex for your review on Sunday, May 13, 2018 and during the week between then and May 20, 2018.

JOLIET SLAMMERS BASEBALL GAME

If you love baseball but hate to pay the price of tickets to Cubs or Sox games, we've got a deal for you.

Join a group of us from YCUCC for a reasonably priced trip to the Joliet Slammers baseball game on Wednesday, June 6. Tickets will cost just \$10 each for adults, \$5 for youth under age 18.

Since we pay a discounted rate for purchasing a group of tickets, any funds raised over our cost per ticket will go toward Vacation Bible School this summer.

We had a great time when we visited the Slammers park last year. They even invited our group to lead the singing of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" for the seventh inning stretch. Thank goodness many of our choir members were on hand to make us sound good!

There's a sign-up sheet for the game in the Narthex or see Kathy Farren to buy your tickets.

It's a great opportunity to spend a pleasant night out in the company of fellow church members and raise a little money for VBS at the same time.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

The Missions Ministry thanks everyone who gave to our One Great Hour of Sharing—5 for 5 Giving. YCUCC raised \$1,250.00. Designated monies from the Mission Ministry Budget disbursed to the following: Habitat for Humanity \$350.00; IL Conference Cue \$650.00; IL Conference Bensenville \$400.00

Feeling alone?

A Stephen Minister will care, listen and encourage you.

Christ caring for people through people

Contact Pastor Mark, Becky Jerabek or Lou Ann Hoffman



Grandparents Day!



Sunday School teachers and students would like to invite grandparents, and honorary grandparents, to Grandparents Day on Sunday, April 8, 2018 during the 10:00 a.m. service. Please join us in the Kidz Zone!!



Second Annual Trivia Night

Sponsored by the Yorkville Area Chamber of Commerce

When: Tuesday, April 24 2018

Where: Yorkville American Legion Hall

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per ticket (as a not-for-profit member, YCUCC will receive \$5 back for every ticket sold)

Trivia teams are six (6) member teams and will play five rounds of trivia

Prizes: \$300 for 1st place, \$200 for 2nd place and \$150 for 3rd place

YCUCC WON the \$300 prize last year. Let's make it two years in a row.

See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Spring is Here! In a few days, we will be setting up for our annual Spring bake Sale! Our committee is anxious to see what delicious items will be coming in for the sale. We have a wonderful community following for our bake sale. It is impossible to walk past our tables loaded with delicious items that you baked without purchasing something!

We will be receiving your bake goods on Thursday, April 26th from 8:30 am – to 7 pm. Our busy fingers will be pricing and wrapping to display your generous donations. We are always amazed by your support! Popular items are cookies, brownies, breads, cupcake, candy and our pies are too good to pass by.

YCUCC is looking forward to being surprised and amazed at the delicious items you will be donating to our sale. Proceeds will be used to help support our community outreach Vacation Bible School program. We hope to double the number of kids attending this year. Your bake goods will help us reach that new goal!





Spring *into* Action



YCUCC's Spring Rummage & Bake Sale
Friday, April 27th & Saturday, April 28th, 2018



ITEMS 'NOT' ACCEPTED FOR DONATION:

Electronics (TVs, computers, printers, typewriters, land/cell phones, fax equipment), infant car and/or booster seats, any size mattress, cribs

DONATING A LARGE ITEM FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE AND REQUEST A PICK-UP?
CALL YCUCC'S CHURCH OFFICE (630.553.7308) TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.
(SCHEDULING BASED ON STORAGE AND/OR ROOM AVAILABILITY)

******* Donated Clothing should be clean, with no holes or stains. *******
Please use a safety pin to secure matching outfits!



WHY SHOULD EVERYONE GET-ON-BOARD WITH THIS EVENT?



Previously, proceeds from the YCUCC Rummage & Bake Sale helped support the church's facility, ministries and programs. Community based organizations, including Kendall County Food Pantry, Chapel on the Green, PADS, AID, Mutual Ground, Association for Individual Development, Open Door, Wayside Cross, Feed My Starving Children, Ottawa Tornado Relief, Suicide Prevention Services, and Cornerstone Young Women's Learning Center also benefited from donations made possible by YCUCC's Rummage & Bake Sale proceeds.



SPONSORED BY THE J.O.Y. CIRCLE

Questions? Contact Peg Trumble

630-553-1166 (H) pjltrumble@comcast.net 630-768-5924 (C)



Let's raise last fall's Fundraising amount!
'WE' CAN DO IT - THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!!



Thank you to everyone who has supported our Giving Tree through your very generous donations, so many of which are made anonymously, already this first quarter of 2018. Your continued support for The Giving Tree helps in so many ways. Donations have already been received to buy bibles for the Alpha Group, Sunday school items, office needs and coffee fellowship. There are still many opportunities to help out, so if you have not had an opportunity to look at The Giving Tree, please take a moment to check if there's a red tag for you!

Sandy deRidder - SLT Vice Chairperson

BEHIND THE SCENES

By PAM HAMBLIN

Last month I wrote a brief article about the operation of Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ. Things that go on behind the scenes that makes the church operate smoothly. So many of the tasks that are performed by the Altar Guild are taken for granted. This month I want to acknowledge this group of volunteers and the months they serve our congregation. If you see a month with no name that means we have just the spot for you to serve in this behind the scenes task. Just call Pam Hamblin at 847-624-7727.

ALTAR MINISTRY (GUILD) SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS 2018

January	Pat Stewart Goldie Behrens
February	Jill Mickelson Sue Kimes
March	Pam Hamblin Andy Hamblin
April	Jan Essex Joann Morr
May	Sue Kimes Nancy Kolowski
June	Jill Michelson Ellie Gentile

July	Joe Duran Tracy Duran
August	Jean Anderson Goldie Behrens
September	Pat Stewart Ellie Gentile
October	Alpha Group - Barb Thurlby
November	Nancy Kolowski Sandy deRidder
December	Jan Essex Joann Morr

April Birthdays

Zach Drew	01	Stacy Skinner	17
Jill Micekson	02	Tiim Strong	18
Jim Stott	02	Lynn Enders	19
Laurie Reifsteck	02	Artie Prochaska	19
Maya Meyers	02	Mariela Olvera	19
Leslie hart	03	Adam Morello	20
Andrew Goss	05	Smantha Keith	21
Owen Shatters	08	Carig Pottinger	21
Kara DeFelice	09	Eva Schoenfelder	22
Colton Kolowski	09	Brant Corwin	22
Collin Snow	10	Matthew Ekwinski	23
Davis Snow	10	Melissa Drew	23
Jacob Snow	10	Julie Gawne	24
Raegan McLeod	11	Fred Wayne	26
Chase Pranga	13	Beth Goss	27
Martin Drew	15	Sarah Pottinger	27
Tyler Zenz	15	Jo Pierce	29
Donna Fatten	16	Bob Johnson	29
Matt Skinner	16	Robin Campos	29



EASTER

WHITE

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 25: 6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Cor 15:1-11 or Acts 10: 34-43

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Now What?

Second Sunday of Easter

WHITE

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20: 19-31

Marks of Faith

Third Sunday of Easter

WHITE

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24: 36b-48

Christ Among Us

April Anniversaries

04/06	Tony & Pam Campos	27 years
04/12	John & Ruth Morello	32 years
04/16	Rod & Lois Sheldon	9 years
04/26	Tim & Laurie Strong	32 years

Fourth Sunday of Easter

WHITE

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Enfolded by Love

EARTH DAY

Fifth Sunday of Easter

WHITE

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4: 7-21

John 15: 1-8

Abiding in Love

Church Guardians

04/01 Ben Moe	04/22 Jeff Farren
04/08 Brian Bazan	04/29 Andy Hamblin
04/15 Fred Dickson	

Date	Greeters & Jr. Greeters	Acolytes	Liturgists
04/01	Tim & Tracy Andrus: Cayla Pottinger	Chris Andrus	Sandy deRidder
04/08	Joanne Vitek & Nancy Modery: Luke DeFuss & Owen Shatters	Maddy Gawne	Sandy deRidder
04/15	Al & Goldie Behrens: Makayla Duran & Olive Fahey	Trevor List	Sandy deRidder
04/22	Keith & Terri Frisk: D.J. Melhouse & Greyson Tsusaki	Aidan Donahue	Sandy deRidder
04/29	Pat Stewart & Terri Frisk: Emma Contreras & Luke DeFuss	Sadie Pottinger	June Davis



Those Grieving - Families of:

Joe Hudgins	Evan & Joette Myers	Lindblom Family
Ralph Ginger	Barbara Groesch	Kuhman Family

Those in Cancer Treatment:

William (Bill) Flowers	Mary Ratos
Norm Kuhman	Cheryl Roberts
Sandy Lindblom	Sandy Veselka
Ed Neisen	

Health Concerns:

Don Ament	Dale Keith	John Schneider
Bill Andersen	Mazie Marshall	Jim Stott
Michelle Atwood	Joanne O'Brien	Sandy Young
Lynn Belcher	Dale Perkins	Walt Hamblin
Bob Freeman	Ethel Perkins	

General Concerns:

Fred Anderson	Rick Falato	Michelle Terri
Tina Andersen	Mary Freeman	Marie Wayne
Bill Behrens	Bob Lee	
John Behrens	Christine Keith	

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Bob (Doc) Coleman	Andrea Prochaska
Cindy Coleman	Dorothy Sanderson
Jim Follmer	



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

YCC WORKING TO INCREASE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

by Barb Thurlby, CE Director

Ladies, It is almost time! Adjust your calendars accordingly!! Our 1st Ladies Day Out Vendor Fair is Saturday, April 7, 2018, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You will not want to miss this fun special event!

Various crafters and vendors will display their treasured items for shoppers to enjoy while visiting with friends and enjoying a cup of coffee. This will be an enjoyable morning of laughter, shopping and connecting with friends. Invite your friends and join us!!

Building Manager—Mary Ellen Anderson
Cell: 630/674-4345

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8:30—1:00 p.m.
Email: bldmgr@yorkvilleucc.org

Please note the temporary office hours change. I am needed at home in the early afternoon for a few weeks, so I have changed my office hours. You can reach me on my cell phone with a text message or phone call.

Follow up improvements from our Church Safety meetings, has kept the Building and Grounds committee members busy. Norm has researched the camera systems that will monitor the exit doors. With approval from the B & G committee, the SLT and the Church Safety committee the equipment has been ordered and we will do our own installation.

Two hallway mirrors to viewing the north hallway have also been ordered and will be installed. The mirrors will help us all to see if there are people in that hallway. The men also replaced the outdated Knox Box that holds the keys to our building for the fire department. They also replaced several batteries in the emergency lights, so they will be working if the power goes off.

Additional hand sanitizers dispensers have been installed in the Kid Zone, the Alpha Room, large meeting room and one down by the Kid's Library. There is no charge for the dispensers, just the solution and our men installed them.

April 29th will be our "Weather Smart" Sunday. We will talk to the Sunday School children about tornado safety and take them on a building walking tour looking for red and green tornado signs indicating safe and dangerous areas in our building.

The Scouts that hold their monthly meeting at our church have offered to help clean up the Labyrinth Garden when the weather breaks.

When warmer days start coming, our men will start power washing the north side of the church building and do some repair work. If you are handy with a hammer, please let Andy Hamblin, our B & G Shepherd, know and you will put a smile on his face. After the repair work is completed they will spray paint the north side of the building. The men usually come on Tuesday mornings to do some short-term repair work. On the weekends, bigger projects will be tackled. Additional help is always appreciated.

General building use communication is improving. Simple steps to follow when planning an event or meeting.

1. Check the google calendar to see if that date is available.
2. Text or email Mary Ellen your event/meeting information with **start time** and **end time** and room usage
3. If you need **childcare** for your event, contact Barb Thurlby our Christian Education Director
4. If you are planning on using Fellowship Hall during our normal coffee time, signs need to be put on the doors indicating the change in room usage and the kitchen crew who prepare the coffee time refreshments need to be told in advance
5. Add Mary Ellen to all emails sent to committee members in making your plans.



~ YCUCC'S SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE ~ APRIL 27TH & 28TH, 2018



SORT



**PRICE
HELP**



BAKE



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: WEEK OF THE SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

- Sunday, 4/22** Set-Up Crew begins immediately following the Worship Service
 - Donations accepted (Narthex) following the Worship Service
- Monday, 4/23.....** Donations received from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 4/24.....** Donations received from 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, 4/25...** Donations received from 8:30 a.m. - NOON only!!
 - Sorting & Pricing from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 4/26.....** Sorting & Pricing continued from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.;
 Drop off Bake Sale Donations from 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, 4/27.....** 1st Sale day: 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 - Volunteers arrive at 8:30 a.m.
 - Bake Sale - today only!
- Saturday 4/28** 2nd Sale Day: 9:00 a.m. - Noon only; \$3-a-Bag Sale and ½ price day
 - Volunteers arrive at 8:30 a.m.
 - Tear-Down Crew begins promptly at NOON
 - Leftovers boxed & set out for Wayside Cross pick-up-1:00 p.m.



***** PLEASE SIGN UP FOR SET-UP AND/OR TEAR-DOWN CREWS *****

***** CONSIDER HELPING ANY TIME SUNDAY THRU SATURDAY *****

**~ J.O.Y. CIRCLE MEMBERS ARE COUNTING ON YOUR SUPPORT! ~
 THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

***** Volunteer Sign-up Sheets are posted in the Narthex! *****



Questions? Contact Peg Trumble

YCUCC's Rummage & Bake Sale Chairperson

630-553-1166 (H); pjltrumble@comcast.net; 630-768-5924 (C)

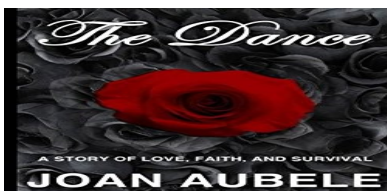


Our Vision - YCUCC is an open and affirming congregation that seeks to meet each child of God—persons from the full diversity of creation including gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and intellectual ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith 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.



Timeless



Time to Celebrate Women
Salad Luncheon May 5th
11:30 am in Fellowship Hall
Featuring Joan Aubele
Author of "The Dance"
Time for women to connect

Yorkville Congregational Church United Church of Christ



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Change Service Requested

APRIL 2018