



## Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Web Page: [www.yorkvilleucc.org](http://www.yorkvilleucc.org)  
Office Hours: Monday - 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
<u>Custodians</u>	Tim & Laurie Strong
<u>Sextons</u>	Steve Redmon
	Mike Obenauer

### 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 &amp; 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

# The Happenings

# MARCH

## 2018



**For God so  
loves the  
world...**



In the message I gave on Ash Wednesday, I said that it's my hope, that throughout this Lenten Season, rather than dwell on all the ways you have failed God, made yourself unacceptable to God, your sins, your destructive past, on the ways you have added to the division and conflict we see in this world, that you would use this Lenten Season as a time to reflect on how much God loves you. And that rather than dwell on the past, why not make this season a time to look to the future? Someone later told me, "I do think about the future a lot more than the past. But it's not so much that I think about it, I WORRY about it!"

Well, I got me thinking about what Jesus said about "worrying about the future" in Matthew's Gospel:

*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these... indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:25-29, 32b-35 NRSV)*

As good advice goes, for many of us this passage ranks right up there with eat right, exercise, and get plenty of sleep. It makes really good sense... However it seems to defy every instinct and obligation of our daily lives. For the farmers and gardeners among us, you know there are tasks that require your attention, and need to be done in a specific season and with some urgency, or the results are bad and things don't grow and mature. For the business men and women among us, our clients, management and coworkers pretty much demand that we meet goals and deadlines. As members of a family, we know there are priorities of caring for those we love. And we may not be adding a single hour to our lives, but we figure that if we run fast enough and worry about the details, we can forestall a calamity and keep a step ahead.

So, we still worry. So, we still behave like pagans. Clearly if we had more faith we might be able to breathe a sigh of relief and rest in God's arms. But right now it feels like there are places to go and bills to pay.

Why do we find it so difficult to take comfort in knowing that God will take care of all our needs if only we will strive first, seek first, the Kingdom?

The Lenten season offers a wonderful time to let go of worry and to contemplate the future, the Kingdom and God's righteousness. May you find a way to incorporate that, put that first, in your daily practices during this Lenten Season.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Mark*

Dear Friends at Yorkville Church ,



As I walked home on Tuesday, December 5th at 6pm, I knew I was weary. I was entertaining serious doubts whether I was cut out to volunteer at the after-school program in my neighborhood. Who knew that basic math had changed so much? Why does it seem like that little girl hates me and why does it bother me so much that she doesn't listen to anything I say? If only I spoke more Spanish. If only I was Mexican. If only I was younger...If only. I had asked God for a way to serve and learn in my neighborhood. Was this really it?

But this past Tuesday after Christmas break I returned more rested, more hopeful and more joyfully present with the children. Playing board games and building towers at the beginning during free time is always my favorite. This week instead of staying completely up in the homework room, I was assigned to follow the 1st-4th graders through their afternoon. The Bible lesson involved talking about sin and the choices we make and I had an interesting conversation with Amando (4th grade) about the Holy Spirit and the fruits that can grow in our life when we give our heart to Jesus. We drew a picture together. Then during homework time, I let other volunteers tackle the math but enjoyed a little girl who was writing a book report on turtles. When I showed her the sign for turtle a big grin broke out across her face and she showed me her assignment book that had the alphabet in sign language and we got a little distracted from the book report while she started spelling everything to me in sign language. She said she was going home to practice on her mom. My walk home this Tuesday was far different and I know that there will be both joys and struggles. For now, it was a good afternoon and I can keep going. I am reminded, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." I Corinthians 15:58

This month please pray for the ministry of La Semilla that seeks to serve the children and families in Little Village by providing a safe place after school where children can grow both spiritually and academically. It meets Tuesdays (my volunteer day) through Thursdays September through May as well as a summer camp in the month of July. Pray for the leaders, volunteers, the children and their families – we all need it! Thank you! I appreciate you!

Abounding in God's grace,

Nan Ament Miller (630-272-6337) 2851 S Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60623

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### **MISSIONS MINISTRY**

The Missions Ministry THANKS ALL who in some way helped to raise \$270.00 on Soup Sunday, February 11th, 2018. Monies raised will go to the Yorkville Senior Services.

Designated monies from the Mission Ministry Budget disbursed to the following:

The Missions Ministry Budgeted money for the Yorkville Senior Services of \$350.00 has been added to the \$270.00 raised at our February Soup Sunday totaling \$620.00 .

## BEHIND THE SCENES

By PAM HAMBLIN

Ever wonder how some of the tasks concerning the operation of Yorkville Congregational Church get done? How about that there is a green envelope in the pew for that “Special Offering”? How about an announcement card or that more important request for a prayer that the entire congregation needs to know about. All this enables Pastor Mark to be able to conduct a more meaningful worship experience. These tasks and several others are really done in a behind the scenes kind of way by members of our Altar Guild. If you can give a few hours each week for one month during the year your help would certainly be appreciated. No particular skills needed, free training and a lot of satisfaction can be yours in this behind the scenes with this volunteer position. Contact Pam Hamblin at 847-624-7727 or any SLT member..

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**Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 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.

DIG INTO OVERFLOWING CLOSETS & CABINETS. CLEAN OUT GARAGES & BASEMENTS,  
AND DONATE LOST “TREASURES” YOU HAD NO IDEA YOU STILL POSSESS!! THIS EVENT IS A \*C-H-U-R-C-H\*  
\*WIDE\* RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE, SO EVERYONE, PLEASE ~~

**Let's raise last fall's Fundraising amount!**  
**'WE' CAN DO IT!!!!**

Message brought to you by  
~~ Peg Trumble ~~

**And a BIG Thank You to our many Volunteers**



## SLT news

Kathy Farren, SLT Chair

“I wish our church would grow.”

Many people have made this statement in recent years and that’s understandable. We love our church and the people who gather here each week.

“If other people only knew about our church and how we felt, they might be interested and curious enough to stop in to visit.”

So how can we get the word out about Yorkville Congregational Church?

Over the past couple of years we have participated in several community events- hosting Touch a Truck at Yorkville Hometown Days; marching in the Fourth of July parade and giving away popcorn in the park after the parade; joining the Yorkville Area Chamber of Commerce and handing out candy at the chamber’s “Biz Boo” event.

At each of these events- as well as at the fall and spring rummage sales- we have also distributed information about our church. In addition, we mail information to people just moving into the community.

Each Sunday, members take turns serving as greeters and a welcome desk is set up to make sure that visitors are offered a longer greeting, name tags and any information they seek.

If you have ideas of other ways we can spread the word, please let someone know. You can share ideas with me, with Outreach and Evangelism Shepherd Terri Frisk, or stop by the Welcome Center on Sunday and see Ellie Gentile.

All of this activity is being done by just a handful of church members and employees. The Outreach and Evangelism Ministry is small and would welcome more members and more help.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex if you would be willing to serve as greeters- truly one of the easiest and most pleasant “jobs” at church. The Ladies Day Out vendor event April 7th is expected to draw lots of people. It will be an excellent chance to share information on our church and let visitors know we are a welcoming congregation.

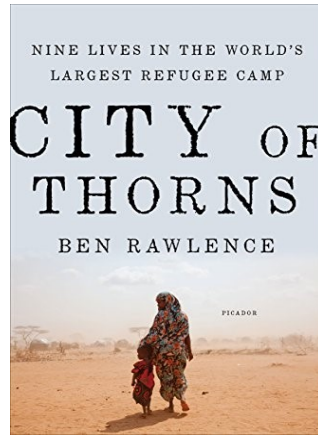
Once summer arrives, there will be another round of community events. Can you spend an hour or two distributing popcorn, or fliers about the church? You are almost certain to see people you know. And who knows, they might just be looking for a friendly church with members as nice as you.



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## **Easter Lilies the in Church Sanctuary**

Easter comes early this year, April 1st. To order Easter Lilies, forms are on the Welcoming Center in the Narthex. Please leave completed forms in the basket in the office **by Monday, March 12th.**



March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Fellowship Hall

After Worship

We have a new book for discussion!

City of Thorns by Ben Rawlence.  
We will be providing a light lunch.

Please come and join us!

Yorkville Public Library is lending us  
the books for all who are interested in  
reading this book for discussion.

Please see Gail or Fred Gaebler if you  
are interested.

## YCC WORKING TO INCREASE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

by Barb Thurlby, CE Director

It is no secret that we live in busy times. The opportunity to connect and simply relax is difficult to find. However, it is important that we do not lose sight of the need for fellowship and connection.

To encourage our ladies to connect and grow Yorkville Congregational Church will host our first "Ladies Day Out" vendor fair on **Saturday, April 7, 2018**. The event at the church will be held from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** It will serve as a fundraiser for our youth program, along with a donation to our local CASA program, and encourage women of our church and community to engage.

Various crafters and vendors will display their treasured items for shoppers to enjoy while visiting with friends and enjoying a cup of coffee. Save the date Ladies! This will be an enjoyable morning of laughter, shopping and connecting with friends. Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss this fun opportunity to connect!! Invite your friends and join us!!



The fun does not stop with our Ladies Day Out! Watch for details of our next exciting ladies event! It is sure to be a precious time of connecting and growth. Stay tuned!!

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

**Will you help make our church an even more welcoming place?  
Please consider the following welcoming strategies:**

**Circle of 10:** Greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within ten feet of you. Make a special effort to greet the people you don't already know within your Circle of 10.

**Rule of Three:** Please do not talk to other members for the first three minutes after the service. Talk only to those you don't know or people you know are guests. It takes guests about three minutes to exit the church after worship and we need to make sure someone has made contact with them before they leave.

**The Welcome Center:** Consider standing at the Welcome Counter, helping visitors with a name badge, orientating themselves to the church, giving them a welcome treat and introducing them to others. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex.



The Love Your Neighbor Ministry would like to thank all of those who donated items for the Abdoalkarem Family. We would not have been able to give these much needed items without your participation. Thank You!

## March Birthdays

Marilyn Clack	2	Harper Vaclavik	14
David Ems	3	Deborah Myers	18
Phyllis Yabsley	3	Ray Wheaton	20
Jim Dirst	4	Matthew Gette	23
Matthew Bazan	6	Jonah Hart	23
Mary Freeman	6	Timothy Kolowski	23
Chris Skinner	6	Robert Freeman	24
Sue Anderson	7	Troy List	24
Fred Dickson	10	Benjamin DeFuss	25
Darlene Niesen	10	Jacob DeFuss	25
Laurie Strong	10	Tim Sartori	26
Katelyn Gette	12	Sue Frahm	27
Harold McCracken	12	Ralph Goins	29
Dale Perkins	12	Jim Ruzicka	29
Gayle Jacobs	14	Greyson Tsusaki	30
Christine Keith	14	Jen Vinsel	31
Caleb Vaclavik	14		

## March Anniversaries

5th	Stephen & Carole Guenzler	32 years
18th	Dale & Ethel Perkins	68 years
25th	Bob & Marilyn Clack	57 years
25th	Ken & Marilyn Vogus	40 years
31st	Aaron & Sondra Shatters	11 years

## Church Guardians

03/04 Jeff Faren	03/18 Becky Jerabek
03/11 Andy Hamblin	03/25 Jeff Kline



**"Liturgy after the Liturgy"**  
Taking our faith outside the church walls

### Third Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Ex 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Cor 1:18-25

**John 2: 13-22**

*Beautiful Law*

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Numbers 21: 4-9

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

Eph 2: 1-10

**John 3: 14-21**

No Matter What

*One Great Hour of Sharing—5 for 5 Ofrg.*

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Jer 31: 31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5: 5-10

**John 12" 2-=33**

*Deep in Our Hearts*

### Sisth Sunday of Lent

**Palm /Passion Sunday**

VIOLET or RED

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12: 12-16

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Isa 50:4-9a;; PS 31:9-16; Phil 2: 5-11

**Mark 14:1-15, Mark 15: 1-39, (40-47)**

*Into Jerusalem*

Date	Greeters & Jr. Greeters	Acolytes	Liturgists
3/4	Joan McEarchen & Mary McCracken with Cayla Pottinger	Alexia Prochaska/Grube	John Morello
3/11	Laurie & Tim Strong with Luke DeFuss & Owen Shatters	Sadie Pottinger	John Morello
3/18	Terry & Christine Keith with Makayla Duran & Olive Fahey	Lexi Rein	Keith frisk
3/25	Alex & Jamie McLeod with D.J.Melhouse & Greyson Tsusaki	Jenna Anderson	Fred Gaebler





### **Those Grieving - Families of:**

Joe Hudgins	Evan & Joette Myers	William Roeder
Ralph Ginger	Barbara Groesch	

### **Those in Cancer Treatment:**

Dan Duus	Ed Neisen	Sandy Veselka
Norm Kuhman	Mary Ratos	Debbie Vogel
Sandy Lindblom	Cheryl Roberts	Bill Wallace
Olivia Mann	Judy Schrand	

### **Health Concerns:**

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

### **General Concerns:**

Tina Andersen	Rick Falato	Karsjen Family
Bill Behrens	Mary Freeman	Christine Keith
John Behrens	Bob Lee	Roger Melhouse

### **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 Schoenfielder  
Staff Sgt. Ryan Strong, son of Tim & Laurie Strong

Building Manager

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am-2:00pm

Wednesday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Mary Ellen Anderson

Cell: 630/674-4345

bldmgr@yorkvilleucc.org

The Building and Grounds committee have continued to work with the committee reviewing our Church Safety Policy. We have numbered all the exit doors and have replaced new numbers above all the rooms. New signs have been posted to help identify various rooms. Updated doors, windows, fire code safety issues and keys have always been on the agenda of the Building and Grounds committee. We work closely with the Christian Education Director to keep our teachers and children aware of safety concerns. We are putting a small basic first aid kit in each classroom. We are designating a Safety Day in the fall to review fire and tornado drills.

It has been very helpful in honoring our Church Safety Policy to have parents pick up their children at the end of Sunday School. It is important to include our elementary children in this reconnecting policy. Keep up the good work parents!

Our team of painters have now completed painting all the hallways. This spring we will be painting the north side of the building. Watch for the opportunity to lend a hand with this huge project.

This winter has been hard on our parking lot maintenance. We will be addressing the cracks and other areas where water is collecting this spring-summer.

Our church calendar is filling up quickly with spring and summer activities. Please include me in your emails in selecting dates for meeting and events. The church google calendar is a good place to check to see if your date is available.

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### **BEREAVEMENT SERIES**

A bereavement series will be held on Thursdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, 6—8 p.m. Call 815-740-4101 for more information.

### **HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES**

03/29: Maundy Thursday—7:00 p.m. Service with Communion

03/30: Good Friday Meditation—12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Silent Meditation

04/01: Easter Breakfast 8:30 am to 9:30 a.m. / Easter Service: 10:00 a.m.

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	2	3
4 10:00 Worship Communion Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Time—FH 11:30 am Personnel Meeting	5 6:30 pm PADS	6 5:00 pm Bible Study	7 Noon Bible Study 5:15 pm Alpha 5:30 & 6 pm Children's Choir 6-7:15 pm Brownie Troup 162 7:00 pm Adult Choir	8 11:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Financial Committee 7:00 pm SLT	9 Set-up for Private Party	10 1:00 pm Private Party— Gette
11 One Great Hours of Sharing 9:00 am Mission 10:00 am Worship Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Time—FH Outreach & Welcoming Book discussion—Diane Stablein Confirmants & Pastor Mark	12 6:30 pm PADS	13 10:00 am Pastoral Care Noon Preschool Screening 4:00 pm Church Safety Committee—Sandy 5:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry	14 Noon Bible Study 5:15 pm Alpha 5:30 & 6 pm Children's Choir 6:00 pm Pastoral Care 7:00 pm Adult Choir	15 11:30 am Staff Meeting	16 7:00 pm "Reel" People Movie "the Case for Christ" at the home of Ellie and Norm Kuhlman	17 8:30—4 pm Boy Scouts—FH, "Kid Zone, two classrooms - Dale Squires
18 10:00 Worship Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Time—FH Worship & Serving	19 <b>Election Equipment delivered</b> 6:30 pm PADS	20 <b>Election Day</b> Noon JOY Circle 5:00 pm Bible Study	21 Noon Bible Study 5:15 pm Alpha 5:30 & 6 pm Children's Choir 6-7:15 pm Brownie Troup 162 7:00 pm Adult Choir	22 11:30 am Staff Meeting	23 <b>Newsletter Submission Deadline</b>	24
25 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 Worship Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Time—FH Egg Hunt	26 6:30 pm PADS	27 10:00 am Building and Grounds Meeting 5:00 pm Bible Study	28 9 am Newsletter Mailing Noon Bible Study Children's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	29 11:30 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	30 Noon—7 pm Good Friday Prayers at the Cross	31 9:00 am Breakfast Set-up—Pam Campos FH & Kitchen

**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.



**“Bear one another’s burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2**

- Are you or someone you know burdened or hurting?
- Stephen Ministers are trained to *listen, encourage, and care.*
- They offer God’s love through a caring relationship on a *confidential* one-to-one basis.

**Contact Pastor Mark, Becky Jerabek or Lou Ann Hoffman to begin a caring one-to-one Christian caring relationship .**

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United Church of Christ**



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**MARCH, 2018**