



# The Happenings

## Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Web Page: [www.yorkvilleucc.org](http://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
<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>	
<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



## 2018





I remember going through confirmation class when I was in eighth grade. At the start of each Saturday morning class, our pastor, Rev. Ingle, would have us read the UCC statement of faith in a responsive manner – he’d read a line, and all us confirmands would read a line. He would begin in an uplifting and joyful voice – “We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father, and to his deeds we testify: ...” (This is the original version – I was confirmed in 1968!) Then we confirmands would begin, in a low monotone, “He calls the worlds into being...” At this point, Rev. Ingle would stop us, and say, “Okay, hold on. Now stand up straight. Smile! Look up at me. Project your voices. This is suppose to be meaningful to you. It’s suppose to be something you’re happy about. Make a joyful noise!”

So, every Saturday morning, Rev. Ingle was helping me learn that my faith was something to be happy about. God’s love for me, Christ’s presence with me, was a really good thing! Something to be thankful for and joyful about.

Then the next day, I would be in Sunday morning worship. And we would come to the responsive prayers and readings. And I would listen to the adults in worship read their part of the response – it was always done in a low monotone, straight-faced, looking down. I remember wondering why Rev. Ingle didn’t stop the adults who were responding in a low monotone, and say, “Hold on. Now stand up straight. Smile! Look up at me. Project your voices. This is suppose to be meaningful to you. It’s suppose to be something you’re happy about. Make a joyful noise!” Especially when the reading was from one of the Psalms like Psalm 96, or Psalm 100 (my confirmation Psalm):

**Leader:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands!

**People:** **Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**

**Leader:** Know that the LORD is God!

**People:** **It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Leader:** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

**People:** **Give thanks to him, bless his name!**

**Leader:** For the LORD is good;

**People:** **His steadfast love endures for-ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Every Sunday it was the same. No matter how uplifting Rev. Ingles' voice, the congregation would respond in a low, lumbering, lifeless tone. I wished that the adults would speak those stanzas with gusto. Let the words rise up joyously.

But then, everyone comes to church with joys and concerns. Who wants to tempt fate by releasing a happy proclamation into a bitter or challenging world? Who wants to stand out as that edgy kook who reads an ancient poem just a bit too enthusiastically? It’s enough--it truly is enough--to speak these words in calm devotion. Even so, this is a psalm of celebration. It contains the writers’ recognition (and hopefully our own as well), that God is God. God created us, and loves us, and God and God’s love for us is ALWAYS faithful and dependable. If we allow it, the very reading of these words, and all those other uplifting Psalms and prayers can draw us up into a spirit of rejoicing.

Every once in a while, a memory of that youthful character in confirmation class will reach across the decades and will ask, with a little joyful prod, "Are you saying it like you mean it?" And I will straighten up, and smile, and lift up my voice to show it is meaningful to me, and I am happy to be praising and worshipping God!

As we enter the joyful month of May, the month of flowers (a beautiful gift from God), the month when we confirm 6 of our young members (6 more wonderful gifts from God), and celebrate mothers and those who have filled a mother's role in our life (another gift God gave every one of us), and music Sunday where we celebrate the gift of music and get to hear our choir make a joyful noise to the Lord (our music staff and noise-makers are a gift to our whole congregation), maybe you will reflect on how you want to respond to the gifts and love of God, in worship, and in everyday life.

A Life with God is never a life lived in monotone (a monotonous life)! It's abundant! It's amazing! It's filled with joyful noises! "So, smile! Look up to God. Project your voice. This is supposed to be meaningful to you. It's suppose to be something you're happy about. Make a joyful noise!"

Blessings and peace,

*Pastor Mark*

*O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. – Psalm 96:1-3*

## **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.

## **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT**

1 Peter 4:10

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

## **MISSIONS MINISTRY MAY 2018**

The Final total of Our 5 for 5 Givings of “One Great Hour of Sharing” in March came to \$1,444.01. Missions is very grateful and appreciative to all who contributed and made this happen. Thank You and May God Bless Each of You.

No Soup Sunday till fall time - Sunday October 21st and November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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

Illinois Conference – Bensenville/Embrace Living Communities - \$650.00

Illinois Conference – CUE – Chicago United Eden Seminary - \$400.00

Our 5 for 5 Offering this month will be taken up on May 20<sup>th</sup> Pentecost for “Strengthen the Church”, that grows the UCC’s future funding, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation – especially among women and people of color; administered by your church’s Conference and Local Church Ministries. Envelopes enclosed in this Newsletter.

YCUCC is looking into working with Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity locally building houses.

### **“SHIPWRECKED” VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMING SOON!!**

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

The month of April may have brought snow, but we are still looking forward to an exciting summer! This year’s Vacation Bible School theme promises to be a huge splash of fun as we experience a ‘shipwrecked’ theme! Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 8th thru July 12<sup>th</sup>! The VBS schedule will run like last year; we will set sail promptly at 5:15 p.m. and send off will be 7:15 p.m.

Remember, we open the fun-filled evening by serving dinner, so mark your calendars, invite your friends and neighbors as we venture out for ‘Shipwrecked’!! Registration begins May 1<sup>st</sup> and the weekly cost is \$15.00 per child. Volunteers are still needed; contact Barb at [ced@yorkvilleucc.org](mailto:ced@yorkvilleucc.org) for more information.





### **Stephen Ministers Offer Comfort in Trying Times**

Marian is a Stephen Minister at a Lutheran church in Ohio. She thinks of herself as an “*after*” person. She’s there *after* a loved one dies, *after* a mom welcomes a new baby, *after* the diagnosis of a serious illness. The care and comfort she gives comes by way of weekly visits in which a person talks about what he/she is experiencing.

Stephen Ministry takes its name from Saint Stephen, the first layperson commissioned by the apostles to provide care to those in need. The ministry traces its roots to 1975 when Rev. Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained members of his St. Louis congregation to assist him in his pastoral role by providing emotional and spiritual support to struggling members of his congregation and community. Since then more than 600,000 people have been trained by Stephen Leaders who enabled Stephen Ministers to care for millions of care receivers worldwide.

At another Ohio church, Pastor Micah describes the work that Stephen Ministers do as an extension of his ministry by helping people who are hurting. Bob, a Stephen Minister said “*We can’t fix things, but we can walk along with people who are hurting*”.

Stephen Ministers remind of God’s presence. One care receiver said, “*Each time we met, I could feel the burden lighten. I can feel the healing hand of God at work I my life*”.

At our church, Stephen Ministers are trained by our Stephen Leaders in topics such as listening skills, Christian caregiving and maintaining strict confidentiality. Stephen Ministers do not share the identity of their care receiver or anything the person says.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a connection with kind, listening person, contact Pastor Mark or Lou Ann Hoffman.

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### **EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST**

Thanks to all who contributed to our YCC tradition of the Easter Morning Breakfast. There were 16 volunteers who set up on Saturday morning, and another 18 people who donated egg casseroles, coffee cakes and pastries, milk, juice and more. Thank you to our confirmands Maddy Gawne, Chris Andrus, Aidan Donahue and Trevor List who helped to serve and clean up. Together we served just over 100 people on Easter morning. Our congregation is always so willing to take those foil pans home and bring them back full of delicious treats. Kudos to those who help to organize and orchestrate the event each year; you are an amazing team! We truly have an amazing church family, don’t we? Thanks again.!!!

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

Recently I celebrated my one-year anniversary at Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ; I celebrated with a good cup of coffee, a moment of prayer and a reflection.

As I reflect on the past year, a whirlwind of thoughts travel through my mind. I survived. I survived my first week, my first YCC rummage sale, my first Kids Church, my first 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, my first Vacation Bible School, my second rummage sale, my first Christmas Season, my first....well you get it. There have been a lot of 'first' experiences this past year. And what a year it has been! We have increased our children's programming, added a new Kindergarten class (and looking to add another toddler class), we streamlined a nursery ministry, created Alpha middle schoolers youth group, hosted a Fall Fest, enjoyed a Ladies Day Out....and I believe, touched the lives of many wonderful children.

The families of our church, young and old, are simply extraordinary. I say simply, because the simple genuine love this church exhibits to this CE Director, to our community, to the staff, to one another, and to our children is without measure. YCC is a beautiful church, both in building and congregants.

I believe Yorkville Congregational Church is the kind of church Christ would have visited. I think YCC is the kind of church that disciples might have written about back in their day; a church that is loving, excepting and working for the greater good.

Thank you, Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ, for welcoming me so warmly and serving so strongly by my side. It has been a fabulous year and I cannot wait to see what adventures lie ahead! Peace and blessings,

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## WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? GET TO KNOW THEM?

By Kathy Farren, SLT Chair

Ever wonder who that couple is that sits near you in church on Sunday? Do you wish you knew more than just a few people in our church? Why not get to know them?

When you greet them during worship, tell them your name and ask theirs. (And don't forget to wear your name tags!)

Stay after worship for coffee fellowship and sit down with someone you don't know well. Or ask someone new to sit with you.

When you see a visitor, greet them and take a minute to talk to them. Let them know you hope they come again.

Take the time to attend other church events. There will be a picnic this summer, a trip to the Joliet Slammers baseball game on June 6 and more throughout the year. There has even been talk of holding some family movie nights- complete with popcorn!

You can also get to know people when you work with them. More members are needed on just about every ministry of our church. If you would like to help prepare the sanctuary for worship, work at the next rummage sale, help with Sunday School, clean up the church yard this summer, raise funds for our mission work, start a book group, or help out in dozens of other ways, you would be more than welcome. Whatever your interests and talents, there is a place for them and people who share them.

There is a list of the Shepherds Leadership Team members on the front of this newsletter. If you're interested in helping with a ministry or committee, check there to see who to contact, or just call the office. The staff can connect you with the right person.

We can also use some help over the summer- cook a hot dog for Vacation Bible School dinners, walk with the church float in the Fourth of July parade, make and give out popcorn in the park after that parade, greet visitors at Touch-A-Truck at Hometown Days, or hand out candy at the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce Biz Boo Trick-or-Treat event. On all of those occasions you can work with and get to know church members. You will also have the chance to distribute information about our church to others in the community. You might say you'll be making friends while inviting others to join us and become our friends, too.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
 Quarterly Report for Pastoral Care Ministry  
 Quarter: 1 Year 2018  
 Reports for dates: 01/01/18 through 03/31/18

<b>Worship Attendance</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Special Service</b>	<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>Monthly Total</b>
01/07/2018	92	24		116	
01/14/2018	117	10		127	
01/21/2018	98	14		112	
01/28/2018	115	34		149	
<b>Total for January</b>					<b>504</b>
02/04/2018	85	20		105	
02/11/2018	75	23		99	
02/14/2018	43	2	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	45	
02/18/2018	100	25		125	
02/25/2018	109	22		131	
<b>Total for February</b>					<b>505</b>
03/04/2018	128	12		140	
03/11/2018	121	27		148	
03/18/2018	129	26		155	
03/25/2018	149	36	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	185	
03/29/2018	51		<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	51	
<b>Total for March</b>					<b>679</b>
<b>Quarterly Total</b>					<b>1688</b>

Additions (0)

Confirmation  
 Confession of Faith  
 Letter of Transfer  
 Reaffirmation of Faith

Losses (1)

Death 2/14/2018 – Ralph David Ginger  
 Transfer  
 Other Removals

Baptisms (1)

Child 0-12  
 Adult 12 and over: 2/11/2018 Alex McLeod

Weddings: (0)

Funerals: (1) 2/19/2018 Ralph David Ginger

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Goldie Behrens and Diane Dillow

## May Birthdays

Justin Sartori	01	Matt Strong	10
Kris Schoenfielder	02	Vanessa Strandell	10
James Shalek	03	Emily Gawne	11
Brian Bazan	03	LeaAnn Skogsberg	13
Paul Myers	03	Monica Sleezer	13
Brad Schroder	05	Morgan Sleezer	13
Ashlynn McLeod	06	Jerry Engelhardt	16
Robbie Strandell	07	Natalie Culberson	22
Salli Walden	08	Megan Rhodes	23
Anne Engelhardt	09	-Johnson	
Gere Ryerson	09	Chandler Cathey	25
Jamie McLeod	09	Ashton Guenzler	27



## Sixth Sunday of EASTER

WHITE

Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98  
1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 15:9-17  
Friends Together - Rural Life Sunday

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

WHITE

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1  
1 Jn 5:9-13 John 17:6-19  
Guided in Prayer - MOTHER'S SUNDAY

## May Anniversaries

05/02	Terry & Christine Keith	3 years
05/05	Wayne & Delores Cruise	69 years
05/11	Art & Andrea Prochaska	33 years
05/18	Jeff & Diane Dillow	40 years
05/25	Keith & Terri Frisk	33 years
05/28	Salli & Duane Walden	13 years

## PENTECOST Sunday

RED

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek 37:1-14  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Rom 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
Jn 15:26-27; 16:4b-15  
Spirit for All - Mental Health Sunday  
5 for 5 Strengthen the Church Offering

## Trinity Sunday

(First Sunday after Pentecost)

WHITE or GREEN

Isa 6:1-8 Psalm 29  
Rom 8:12-17  
Jn 3:1-17  
Mysterious Encounter

## Church Guardians

05/06 Jeff Kline	05/20 Jeff Kline
05/13 Brian Bazan	05/27 Jeff Farren

Date	Greeters & Jr. Greeters	Liturgists
05/06	Mary McCracken & Nancy Modery:	Salli Walden
05/13	Laurie & Tim Strong:	Salli Walden
05/20	Chrisine & Teyy Keith:	John Morello
05/27	Joann Morr & Jan Essex:	John Morello



### **Those Grieving :**

Al Behrens Family      William (Bill) Flowers Family      The Young & Vaclavik Families

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

Norm Kuhman	Cheryl Roberts
Sandy Lindblom	Sandy Veselka
Ed Neisen	
Mary Ratos	

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

## YCC SPONSORS 'LADIES DAY OUT'

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

The Yorkville Congregation Church sponsored our 1<sup>st</sup> Ladies Day Out Vendor Fair on Saturday, April 7, 2018. Approximately 90 ladies joined the shopping fun as several vendors displayed their specialty items.

Beautiful tables of crafts, clothing, home products, household products and a variety of other specialty treasures delighted those in attendance.

Mary Ellen Anderson hosted a darling café featuring coffee, water and a plethora of donated delightful treats for shoppers.

Vendors donated various items for a guest raffle that was enjoyed by twenty surprised and happy shoppers.

The monies collected will benefit our church youth program, along with a donation to Kendall County Casa.

I would be amiss if I neglected to say thank you to the countless volunteers that helped make this event possible. There were many gracious ladies (and some gents) that stepped up to help with set up, baked goods, assist with registration, food service, raffles, greeters, and take down. Thank you for providing amazing support and encouragement for this fun event. I am honored to work with each of you!



## **JOLIET SLAMMERS BASEBALL GAME**

Get ready for some baseball! Join a group from YCUCC for a 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. Anyone interested in car pooling to the game can meet at the church, or you can drive to the game yourself.

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **NEEDED BEFORE DISASTER HITS**

### **CAN YOU HELP BRING SPONGES & CLOTHESPINS ?**

2017 was a disaster-full year. Church World Service shipped 127,256 hygiene kits to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and Cuba after hurricanes struck those communities last fall. To re-stock and prepare for future disasters, the Disaster Ministries of the Fox Valley Association and Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ are collecting items to fill 100 “Disaster Buckets.”



The Shepherds’ Leadership Team voted in April to help with this project. Specifically, they volunteered our church to collect 75 five-inch by eight-inch sponges. and 150 packages of 50 clothespins by early July. Won’t you help by purchasing a few of these items over the next few weeks? Boxes will be set up in the church office to collect them.

If you would rather not shop, we will also accept cash donations and do the purchasing for you.

Other churches in the Fox Valley Association will be collecting items such as laundry detergent, scrub brushes, dust masks and work gloves. Working together, our association will be able to provide real necessities to 100 families when disaster strikes again- as it very likely will.

**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 5<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am in Fellowship Hall  
Featuring Joan Aubele  
Author of "The Dance"  
Time for women to connect

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**MAY 2018**