



Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

409 Center Parkway
Yorkville, IL 60560
Phone: 630/553-7308

E-Mail: adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org
Web Page: www.yorkvilleucc.org
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Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Worship & Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

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 Assistant</u>	Liz Cronshaw
<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>	Trevor Farbisz
	Alarra Fritsch
	Halle Jones
	Dana Malinowski
	Mariela Olvera
	Brett Rhodes
	Tim & Laurie Strong
	Steve Redmon
	Mike Obenauer

Custodians
Sextons

Our Shepherds

<u>Chairperson</u>	Sandy deRidder
<u>Vice Chairperson</u>	Aaron Shatters
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	Sue Kimes
<u>Operations: Personnel</u>	Kathy Farren
<u>Operations: Bldg & Grds</u>	Tony Houle
<u>Operations: Finance</u>	Tim Andrus
<u>Information Services</u>	Diane Stablein
<u>Christian Education: Adult</u>	
<u>Christian Education: Youth</u>	Sarah Pottinger
<u>Worship: Serving</u>	Lori Redmon
<u>Worship: Preparation</u>	Pam Hamblin
<u>Church Family: Caring</u>	Mary Ann Doetschman
<u>Church Family: Fellowship</u>	Jeff Kline/Laurie Houle
<u>Service: Missions</u>	June Davis
<u>Outreach/Welcoming</u>	Gere' Ryerson

The Happenings



E piphany Day
January 6, 2020



*Jesus is the gift that perfectly
fits the size of every heart.*

— unknown



By the time you read this “musing”, it will be a new year, 2020. I know most people like to pause on New Year’s Eve or New Year’s day and reflect back on the year gone by. And I think looking back and reflecting on the past is a good thing, as we remember and celebrate, again, all we accomplished, and we even take note of those things that didn’t go so well, and can learn to avoid repeating past mistakes. But reflecting on the past and dwelling in it are to very different things. Reflecting is a process that helps us move forward and accept the changes that have occurred, so we are prepared for the changes that a new year will bring. And unless you are living in a complete state of denial and doing all you can to dwell in the past, you know in your heart that change will come – it’s part of life, and change can be very instrumental in our growth as individuals, and as a community of faith.

I guess that’s why I believe it’s unproductive to dwell in the past. So, while I do like to reflect on the past year, I want to get moving forward into the new year and start focusing on all it will bring – even the changes!

And that’s why at the beginning of every new year, after doing some reflecting, I do some reading. And what I read every New Years day is a passage from the prophet Isaiah, written while the people of Israel were living through some tough times, times of change, their time in exile:

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people (Isaiah 43:18-20)

This passage helps me to stay focused on looking forward, not back. It reminds me that I really need to keep my eyes and ears open for the “NEW THINGS” God will be doing, because I know in my heart that God is always doing “new things”. But I also know that we can miss those “new things” if we’re dwelling in the past, holding on to the former things, and aren’t alert (a word from an Advent sermon) and paying attention to the people and things around us.

This is not just true in our personal lives, it’s also true in our communal life as a church family.

Let me give you an example. Every year in January, our church pauses and reflects on the lives and actions of the people in our church family who passed on and gone to be with God. It is good to remember and celebrate those individuals, because they are people we loved, people who touched our lives and made us spiritually richer because of what they gave to us – grace, acceptance, companionship, hope, support, laughter and love. In 2019, we lost 6 members of our church family. So, we are not the same church today without them living and serving and loving among us. There have been changes, drastic changes in our family. And sometimes we might feel that life will never be the same. We might even wish we could go back to the way things were.

It’s true that life will never be the same as it was yesterday, or last week, or last month, or last year. My dad and best friend is no longer here where I could talk over my questions and struggles with him. I can no longer talk hockey with my son who died in 2017. And his children have moved away and are out of our lives. Life is not the same and will never be the same without those who have died, those who have moved away, those who have broken away. But we must not let the grief and the loss stop us from looking forward and moving forward. God is always doing a new thing. When we lose loved ones to death, when we lose people who move away, when changes come upon us, we need to celebrate with joy the gifts they gave us, and of course, keep their love in our hearts, and never forget all they gave us and what they taught us about being a faithful servant and disciple.

But then we need to look out and up, in faith and trust. That’s what our life as a community of faith, our life as a follower of Jesus is all about. When Jesus was crucified, at first his disciples hid out in a locked room, dwelling in the past, focused on all that Jesus had done, wishing things were still the same. But God was doing a new thing, a REALLY new thing. And as Jesus walked into the room, they all quickly learned that things would NEVER be the same again. And that was GOOD NEWS!!

That's the promise of our faith. When we DWELL in the past, we don't get much "Kingdom Work" done. But if we reflect on the past and keep our eyes and ears open, God will always bring NEW LIFE, NEW THINGS that God is doing into our lives. And the Good News is, life will never be the same.

Did you know that this past year we welcomed 9 new members into our church family? People who are touching our lives and are making us spiritually richer because of what they give to us – grace, acceptance, companionship, support, hope, laughter and love.

Did you know that our church school now has 44 children in it? That's 16 more than a year ago. So, no we are not the same church family we were a year ago – we are different. And that's Good News.

Life can be hard. Loss and change are hard. And I am sure that in the year ahead, both as individuals and as a church family, we will experience some struggle and loss and change. But if we keep our eyes focused on God, and trust, God will lead us through to something new, we will be okay.

There's a contemporary Christian song I like - Maybe It's Okay, by We Are Messengers. The words to the chorus are: *Maybe it's ok, if I'm not ok, 'Cause the One who holds the world is holding onto me. Maybe it's all right if I'm not all right, 'Cause the One who holds the stars is holding my whole life.*

And I'll add, the One who holds your whole life and my whole life, is always doing something "NEW" that will make them better than okay! May we always have eyes to see and ears to hear!

Blessings for the New Year!

Pastor Mark

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me...

—Jeremiah 29:11-13a

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Pledge Campaign had a slow start, but now has received 49 pledges totaling over \$170,000.00 for year 2020 compared to 37 pledges totaling \$139,404.00 for year 2019. This is good news. Thanks to all who have pledged so far. Have you done yours?? Pledges are accepted at any time. Please place in the offering plate addressed Campaign Pledge. This includes E-Giving Pledges too.

Stewardship is: "What we do with what God has given us." The privilege and responsibility of stewardship has been around since the creation. Every day is a Stewardship Day.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 NV



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Stephen Minister
Training Begins
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
@ 7:00 p.m.



It doesn't seem possible to me that we are entering the year of 2020. Such a blessing to have lived so many years in one century and now the added blessing of living so many more in another. The year 2020 sounds so futuristic to me and yet remember when the novel "1984" was published? And someday are we going to sound like our parents and grandparents who told us stories about when they didn't have indoor plumbing and the only way to get to school was "by walking". What will our stories sound like? Could it be about archaic communication devices called cell phones or the way we shopped and received packages? Oh, to have a perfect crystal ball!

Yet, here we are with another yearly church calendar completed and half our fiscal year in the rear view mirror. The holidays are now captured in our photos and memories, the stockings and tree stored away, gifts exchanged and now we're all looking ahead to find what the New Year will hold. I was looking at the 2019 church calendar and was amazed at all we have been through together, all we achieved and how we have grown. We have so many blessings to be thankful for, in fact, so many my article would be a novel if I listed all of them so I ask that each of you take some time to review and reflect on our church life in 2019. Even though we had many challenges and are still facing financial shortfalls, we all come together when it matters and we clear the road of obstacles that stand in our way to achieve our goals.

The church leadership has not made any clear cut "resolutions" for 2020 such as "we will do" but instead remains focused on growing the church, caring for our current church family and continuing community outreach and missions. I have personally stopped making specific resolutions because I always seem to fail at keeping them, so like our leaders, I'm focusing on how to move forward and find new ways to help others and to continue to seek ways to improve and grow. I wish all of you a blessed and happy New Year. May you keep God beside you no matter what comes your way because through him, life's journey is simply a bit easier.

With caring love for all, Sandy deRidder - SLT Chairperson

Building and Grounds
Office Hours Tuesday – Thursday 8:00 am – 2:30 pm

Mary Ellen Anderson
630-674-4345
Bldmgr@yorkvilleucc.org



The Building and Grounds members are doing their best to keep the building ready for your activities. Bill Scott and Tony Houle are on snow shovel duty. Jeff Kline, Jim Davis and Art Prochaska on tracking the heating of the various rooms. Andy Hamblin is keeping up with the aluminum pop can recycling. Jeff Farren and Jon Runkle and the rest of the members put away all the Christmas decorations. Pam Hamblin saw that everything was labeled before it went into storage.

The men have two winter projects to complete. They plan to install a lockable exterior mailbox by the main entrance doors. Several times the postal carriers arrive outside of our normal office hours and have left the mail on the ground outside the church or shoved the mail between the door cracks, mail delivery has been a problem. Having an exterior mailbox will correct this problem. The second project will be to install plexiglass panels over the lower sections of the three stain glass windows in Fellowship Hall. We hope this will protect the windows from further damage.

As we move into the new year, it might be time for you to share your contact information to use in case of an emergency. If you would require medical treatment while attending a church event, who would you like us to contact and what is the best number to reach this person. It only takes a few minutes to complete the form which could make a difference in a true emergency. The forms are in the church office and kept there in a red binder for easy access in a true emergency. Having this information is part of our church safety policy.

Missions Moment...

Our A.I.D. Giving Tree gifts were delivered December 3rd. They were graciously accepted and YCUCC was thanked numerous times for donating the gifts; this year and past years as well. Thanks to all who shared.

Our December 15th Soup Sunday raised \$600.00 for "A Shoe That Grows". This helps support our Sunday School children's mission project. Thank you everyone who helped make this event successful.

One of YCUCC 5 for 5 Offerings, "The Christmas Fund" was dedicated on Sunday, December 22nd. The monies collected supported the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund for UCC clergy, and lay persons.

Soup Sunday in January will be on the 12th with monies raised for Sunday School VBS (vacation bible school) in the summer. Sign-up sheet is on the narthex bulletin board by fellowship hall door.

Soup Sundays are February 16th, and March 29th will be the last one until fall.

A Season Of Blessings

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

As the holiday season falls upon us, I often take a moment to reflect. I believe that self-reflection is important. According to the dictionary self-reflection is *'meditation or serious thought about one's character, actions, and motives*. As I take a quiet moment in the hustle of the season, I find gratitude. I am grateful for so many things. I am grateful for the opportunity to minister to the children and families at Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ.

It is a blessing to see our students grow in the scriptures and see small signs of maturity in their faith. I see them come each week and they are family; they are happy, they are connected and full of wonder. Each one different and unique but learning about and serving the same God.

One Sunday morning elementary students made ornaments for our tree and each wrote down something they were grateful for. The responses and honesty were touching, and I could feel the blessing from the Lord for the work that we do in ministry. Thank you for joining me on this amazing journey of faith.

This holiday season, I wish each of you joy and peace as we remember and celebrate the birth of our King.



January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Years Day Church Closed	2 11:00 am Staff Meeting 3:00 pm Pastor & SLT Chair 6:00 pm Prayer Group 7:00 pm Spiritual Foundation	3	4
5 10:00 am Worship Communion Mission Moment—LYN Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Time FH 11:15 am Worship—Laurie Stephen Ministry Overview	6 6:30 pm PADS	7 5:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision—Lou Ann	8 Noon Bible Study 5:15 pm Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 Jubilation Choir 6:00 pm Sunshine Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	9 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Financial Committee 7:00 pm SLT	10 7:00 pm "Reel" People @ the home of Gail & Fred Gaebler "Stand By Me"	11
12 10:00 am Worship Remembrance Sunday Sunday School 11:00 Soup Sunday—VBS	13 6:30 pm PADS	14 10:00 am Pastoral Care Information meeting 5:00 pm Bible Study 6-8:30 PADS—Anne FH 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	15 Noon Bible Study 5:15 pm Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 Jubilation Choir 6:00 pm Sunshine Choir 6:00 pm Pastoral Care Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	16 11:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spiritual Foundation	17	18
19 10:00 am Worship Children's Message Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Time 11:15 am CE Meeting	20 Church Closed Martin Luther King Day	21 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	22 5:15 pm Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 Jubilation Choir 6:00 pm Sunshine Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	23 Barb Attending CPC Conference	24 Newsletter Calendar Deadline	25
Pastor Mark on Vacation in Florida from Sunday evening, January 19th through Monday, January 27th — Back in the office 1/28						
26 10:00 am Worship with Rev. Obenauer Children's Message Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Time FH 4:00 pm Chili Cook-Off & family games -Laurie Houle	27 6:30 pm PADS	28 10:00 am Building & Grounds Committee meeting 5:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	29 9:00 am Mail Newsletter Noon Bible Study 5:15 pm Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 Jubilation Choir 6:00 pm Sunshine Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	30 11:00 am Staff Meeting	31 7-9:30 pm Stephen Ministry Retreat	

January Birthdays

Cliff Jahp	02	Kevin Vaclavik	18
Megan Frisk	03	Brodie Zenz	18
Douglas Clack	05	Pam Hamblin	19
Tom Lindblom	05	Joe Wayne	19
Jenna Yabsley	06	Luke DeFuss	20
Sandy deRidder	08	Peg Knell	20
Nancy Kolowski	10	Nick Campos	21
Alex Mulligan	11	Kelly Fischer	29
Atticus Golubla	12		
Bryan Grube	12		
Tony Houle	12		
Sandy Lindblom	12		
Louise DeFuss	13		
Ruth Morello	14		
Daune Walden	15		
Nellie Ng	16		

January Anniversaries

1/2/20	Jeff & Julie Kline	42 years
1/25/20	Scott & Leslie Hart	23 years

Altar Guild

January, 2020
Kristine Arch & Chanel Bravo

February, 2020
Jill Mickelson & Sue Kimes



Second Sunday after Christmas

WHITE
Jer 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Psalm 147:12-20 or
Wisd of Sol 10:15-21
Eph 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Another Road

The Baptism of Christ First Sunday after Epiphany

WHITE
Isa 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matt 3:13-17
Possibilities Unfolding

Second Sunday after Epiphany

GREEN
Isa 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Cor 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
All That We Are

Third Sunday after Epiphany

GREEN
Isa 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Cor 1:10-18
Matt 4:12-23
Called Together

January 12th



January 26th



January 10th



Date	Greeters	Liturgists	Guardians
1/5	Ellie Gentile & Gere' Ryerson	Fred Gaebler	Lee Kinkade
1/12	Olvera Family	Fred Gaebler	Brian Bazan
1/19	Jan Essex & Joann Morr	Fred Gaebler	Fred Dickson
1/26	Brian & Deanna Bazan	Fred Gaebler	Jeff Farren



Raise the Roof Campaign!

***Thanks to all who have contributed to the Roof Fund!
We have met about half of the finances needed to
complete the roof in the Spring.***

***If you are able, please consider taking a shingle from the
cardboard church in the Narthex!***

The Spirit of Christmas Pageant

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

The Spirit of Christmas was evident in the voices and faces of children performing our annual Christmas Children's Pageant on Sunday, December 22, 2019.

The delightful performance, directed by Sondra Shatters and assisted by Peg Trumble and Lori Runkle, provided holiday blessings to all in attendance. Students of all ages sang and performed as they delivered the precious message of Christ's birth and the true meaning of Christmas.



Great
Job



to
ALL!!

Reel People Group



Won't you join us for a discussion of this movie! Just view the movie beforehand, let the hosting family know you're attending and bring a snack to share and/or beverage of your choice. Eating is half the fun!

Movie: *Stand By Me*

When: Friday, January 10, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

Hosts: The Gaebler Home

Where: 202 E. Main Street, Yorkville, IL 60560

Email: Fred - rdcomfig@sbcglobal.net
Gaebler3@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (630) 553-5188

Welcoming & Outreach...

Greetings Church Family and Friends
Happy New Year!!

The picture in the photo represents God's plan for us as we move into another year, as we move through life. All things are possible if we place our faith and trust in Him always. Let us open up our hearts and minds to HIS WILL for us today and always.



To all who baked, worked & help setup and clean up for the 10th Annual Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale!

And thank you to all who purchased!

Funds raised were distributed \$500 each to LaSalle Veterans Home, Kendall County Area Food Pantry, and Raise the Roof campaign.

Operation Santa at YCUC!

Thanks to each and every one of you for making Operation Santa such a huge success this year. Thanks to you there will be lots of smiling faces on these beautiful children on Christmas morning. Special thanks to the Joy Circle ladies for donating 120 fast food gift cards plus \$300.00 to purchase gifts. The gift tables kept growing and growing. Someone must have planted some gift fertilizer on the table.

Thank you. But most of all, thanks to God for all his blessings on our Church Family.

Regina Moe



Children helping children!



Those Grieving:

The Ament Family, The Englehardt Family, The Brauch Family, The Kimes Family, The Coleman Family, The Erickson Family

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Andrea Andres	Cheryl Roberts	Jackie (Friend of Brewicks)
Steve Hagman	Pat Rogers	
Harv Knell	Bob Stout	
Michelle Meyers	Pearl Undesser	

Health Concerns:

Bill Andersen	Mary Freeman	Terri Moe	Dale Prochaska
Michelle Atwood	Karen Hess	Joanne O'Brien	Walter Scott
Myrah Baldwin	Cliff Jahp	Dale Perkins	Donna Whitfield
Lynn Belcher	Bob Johnston	Doug Pierce	
Earl Bushnell	Diana Lee	Macayla Poch	
Joe Duran	Mazie Marshall	Debbie Potempa	

General Concerns:

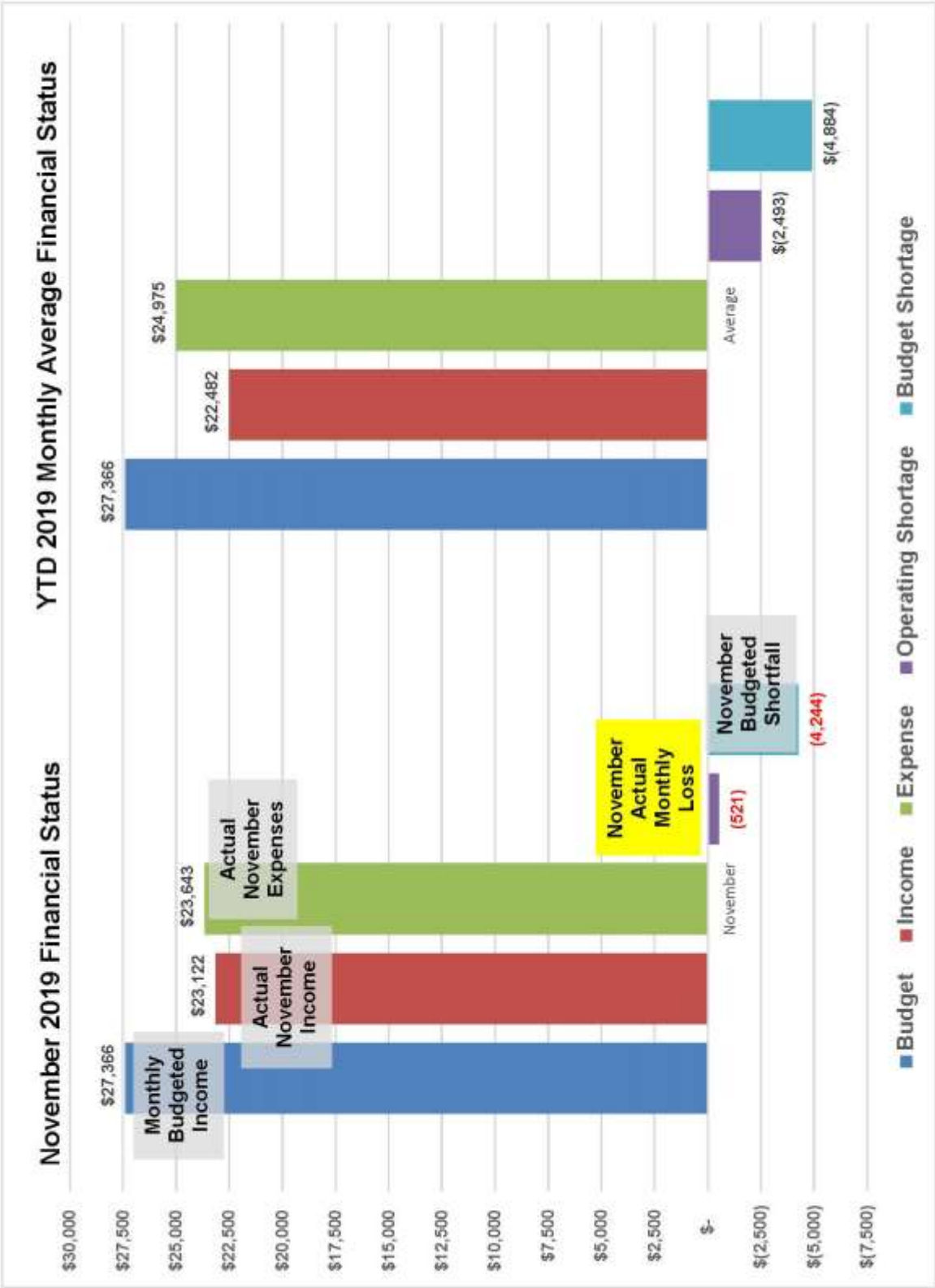
Carsten Family	Ruth Prince
Louise DeFuss	Michelle Terri
Ashley Grube	Fred & Marie Wayne
Brian Homerding	

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Jim Follmer	Dorothy Sanderson
Andrea Prochaska	



Zachary Overmyer
Staff Sgt. Ryan Strong, son of Tim & Laurie Strong



Our Mission Statement

*To live as Jesus lived: Love without Judgement, Welcome without Exception,
Serve with Compassion, Teach by Example.*

Our Vision Statement

God's community of unconditional love, made real for everyone, everywhere.

Open & Affirming Covenant

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.



CHIEF!
COOKOFF
& Family Game Night!

*Stay Connected!
Sunday,
January 26, 2020
4:00 p.m.*

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United Church of Christ**

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Change Service Requested

January, 2020

