

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Yorkville, IL 60560
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E-Mail: adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org
Web Page: www.yorkvilleucc.org
FB: @yorkvilleucc
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

Our Staff

Minister
Building Manager
Christian Education Director
Administrative Assistant
Chancel Choir Director
Children's Choir Director
Organist
Pianist

<u>Pianist</u> <u>Childcare Attendants</u>

Custodians Sextons Rev. Mark S. Gregory Mary Ellen Anderson Barbara Thurlby Liz Cronshaw Doug Trumble Sondra Shatters Tina Andersen Lori Runkle Trevor Farbisz Halle Jones Dana Malinowski Mariela Olvera Brett Rhodes Tim & Laurie Strong Steve Redmon

Our Shepherds

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Recording Secretary
Operations: Personnel
Operations: Bldg & Grds
Operations: Finance
Information Services
Christian Education: Adult
Christian Education: Youth
Worship: Serving
Worship: Preparation
Church Family: Caring
Church Family: Fellowship
Service: Missions
Outreach/Welcoming

Sandy deRidder Aaron Shatters Sue Kimes Kathy Farren Tony Houle Tim Andrus Diane Stablein

Mike Obenauer

Sarah Pottinger Lori Redmon Pam Hamblin Mary Ann Doetschman Jeff Kline/Laurie Houle June Davis Gere' Ryerson

The Happenings

APR 2020





Easter is almost upon us. And I have been doing some thinking about my Easter sermon (yes, I do plan my sermons ahead sometimes). Since we are in year "A" of the Revised Common Lectionary, that means on Easter Sunday we can read from either the Gospel of John, or Matthew's Gospel.

Well, I was reading through both texts this past week trying to decide which one I would like to use. Here is what I read in Matthew:

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So, they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." – Matthew 28:1–10 (NRSV)

"Do not be afraid." I found it interesting that we find those words at the beginning of two of the gospels – Matthew and Luke. They occur in the beginning of Jesus' story, when the angel approaches Mary in Luke and Joseph in Matthew. In both instances, the angel tries to calm each down as he/she lets them know what God is about to do, and the role they will play in God's unfolding plan of salvation for ALL people.

We also hear the "Be not afraid" words in the chorus of the angels' song to the shepherds in the fields as the angels proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth—good news told first to those who were usually left out and left behind. But have you ever really noticed them in the story of Easter, the story of the resurrection?

"Do not be afraid," the angel tells the women when they arrive at the tomb. "Do not be afraid," says Jesus when he suddenly meets them where they are and informs them of the next role they will play in the unfolding of God's plan of salvation for ALL people. "Do not be afraid." Given the fact that those words frame this entire Gospel narrative, they must tell us something of God, don't you think?

They must tell us something of the way God wants us to understand the heart of the Holy One. They must tell us something of the way God wants us to understand our lives here in our world. They must tell us something of the way God feels about us, those whom God has created. They must tell us something about the fact that the role God calls us to play in God's unfolding plan of salvation for ALL people, is something to embrace, not fear.

Do not be afraid. In a world that traffics in fear and mistrust, God's constant refrain of "Do not be afraid" is challenging. And yet, what if we really lived it and embodied it every single day of our lives? I imagine it would feel like Easter every day, here and now!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Mark

Let your faith be bigger than your fear

My hope for today and every day is that each and every one of you are safe and staying well. This has certainly been the most trying of times, at least for those of us who have never experienced the horrors of a physical war. None of us could have ever imagined or dreamed of living through this horrendous health crisis and all its subsequent side effects. Fortunately, most of us have a strong belief that even though God cannot stop this virus in its tracks, God will walk beside us and help us to shoulder this burden during this time of uncertainty.

Once we can resume our normal lives, let's never forget the impact of "social distancing" and loneliness. So perhaps we can spend less time holding our phones or other technology devices and instead hold someone's hand or extend a warm and welcoming hug.

Life does go on and our church life continues as well. We have collected the funds needed for a new shingled roof, skylights, gutters and projector system and we will all be able to reap the benefits of these much needed changes when we return to worship together. New Stephen Ministers are being trained and will soon be commissioned so that they can provide caring comfort to those in need. Our CE programs are being planned so that our children can experience the excitement of a summer program and Vacation Bible School. The Interim Pastor Team is continuing to work towards selecting the person who will help us transition from Pastor Mark to our new settled pastor. Your leadership board members continue to meet to discuss ongoing church issues and each of their ministry programs.

And last but not least, since Pastor Mark has offered to stay as our part time pastor for a month or so, we will be able to gather together to celebrate his eleven plus years with us and his retirement. There is no better way to end this other than saying "Halleluiah" and thank you God.

Keep hope in your heart and faith in your soul. Trust God and Believe.

Respectfully submitted with



Sandy deRidder, SLT Chairperson

Thank you so very much!

Michelle and I want to say thank you to everyone in our church family. We have received so many cards expressing your sympathy, care and concern after my mom passed away in February. It means a lot to both Michelle and I to know we are held in your thoughts and prayers, as my mom is now held in the arms of our amazing God.

My mom had an amazing life, and a full life – 98 years. We had a great visit with her just 4 weeks before she passed away, and she taught the yoga class she led twice a week, three times after we left. So, her passing was guick and peaceful. We are all grateful.

Several people have either given us memorial gifts or asked about giving one somewhere. This was my mom's & dad's 2nd church home over the last 11 years, so if anyone wants to make a memorial gift in my mom's name, give it to YCUCC, or to her church home in Florida, Faith United Church of Christ. The address is as follows:

Faith United Church of Christ 4850 FL-64, Bradenton, FL 34208

Thanks again for all your love and support. We will miss my mom very much, but feel blessed to have had her with us for so long!

Love in Christ,

Pastors Mark and Michelle

Building and Grounds Office Hours Tuesday – Thursday 8:00 am – 2:30 pm Mary Ellen Anderson: 630-674-4345 Bldmgr@yorkvilleucc.org



Spring brings new challenges for this team of men. They hope to be helping with any church events once we get back to normal. We do have a Workday planned for Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm weather and virus permitting. They want to prep the west side of the church exterior siding for painting. They plan to power washing the siding, replace baseboards, cover the windows to protect them from the spraying and then spray painting the lower part of the west side. Help is needed during the day. If you can help for a few hours either in the morning or afternoon, it would be greatly appreciated.

Spring also means yard work. The church gardens need cleaning up after the long winter. Signs of spring keep popping up out of the ground daily. We will keep you posted when workdays are going to take place. Many hands help lighten the load, and we feed our workers.

This group of men are available to help out with small home repairs. They helped Ellie with a chair repair, and she served them lunch. Win-win on both sides! If you need help with a small project, please contact us and we can see if we can help you. That's what church community is about.

Our committee plans to look into upgrading and repairing our exterior lights both in the parking lot and on the building. This will probably take two years to complete as they rewire and change light fixtures to take the same size lightbulb. If you have electrical experience, they would appreciate your help.





By Barb Thurlby, CE Director

While on hiatus, our Christian Education program is not slowing down. There are a lot of fun and interesting things happening! Christian Ed news, updates and information is being formatted into google slides for easier, better and more condensed communication to families and students. In one google doc families will have access to YCC music news, Sunday School news - from preschool through Alpha - information will be located and updated in one place. This is exciting stuff! Stay tuned for the fun!

Speaking of fun changes We are creating a Yorkville YCC Kids page on Facebook! Families and friends will have access to YCC Kids programming and news on their own page. During this time of 'social distancing' this is a great way to reach out to our families, friends and students. Watch for more details.

A special thank you to Sondra Shatters for encouraging and kicking off the google slides project; and a special thank you to Lori Redmon for kicking off the new YCC Kids
Facebook page. Great ideas and great teamwork ladies!

Families and students, please know that I pray for you daily and wish you all peace and wellness during this challenging time.

Blessings,

Ms. Barb

THE SHOE THAT GROWS MISSION

Thank you to everyone that donated to our "Shoe That Grows" Mission project! Due to your generosity 47 children will receive much needed shoes! Your kindness to provide such a simple child need means the world to these beautiful children.

Thank you, Barb Thurlby, CE Director

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NIV









We received a very sweet letter of thanks from Central DuPage Hospital for the fleece blankets that we donated to the children's ward. They said the parents and patients were in awe with the thoughtfulness from our congregation for the comfort and love that was given to them through these blankets.



Stephen Ministers and Care Receivers





Contact Lou Ann Hoffman or Carrie DeFuss for more information.



Care Receivers

A care receiver is a hurting individual who receives care from a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers

- +Lay people trained to provide one-to-one Christ-centered care.
- +Compassionate heart for those who are hurting.
- +Equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders.
- +Has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

Attention: CANCELLATIONS!!

Please note there is no calendar in this newsletter because <u>ALL</u> church events have been cancelled **until further notice**. We will be keeping everyone updated during the month as to when we will be able to begin in-person worship again.







The Messiah in the Passover event we had planned for Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020 has been cancelled because of concerns related to the Covid-19 virus.

We have already rescheduled this special meal for Maundy Thursday 2021.







YCUCC's 2020 Spring Rummage & Bake Sale, scheduled for April 24th & 25th, has been canceled!

HOWEVER....



<u>Please</u> save items you planned to donate in April for the 2020 R&B Fall Sale, scheduled for September 18th & 19th.

YCUCC is not accepting donations at this time!

J.O.Y. Circle will be happy to receive your "Treasures" the week of the fall sale.

Thank you for your continued support of our church family and community!

Peg Trumble, J.O.Y. Circle Chair / R&B Sale Chair Questions? Contact Peg. Her email is: (pjltrumble@comcast.net)



Information Sunday in Print

Capital Fund Raising Results

Let's start with the "good news" about our capital funds project to raise \$50,000 to replace our peaked roof and projector. As of March 9, the latest update available, we have collected \$92,023, of which \$48,613 came directly from the capital fund raiser and the remainder from other generous donations. There is an additional \$17,100 coming from our insurance carrier and \$1,470 in designated Memorial money bringing the total funds available to \$110,593. After paying for all the roofing shingles, labor, skylights and gutters, there is \$18,523 remaining to use to purchase a new projector. The projected cost of a new laser projector and mounting is between \$12,000 and \$13,000. The leadership team voted to set aside \$13,500 to cover this purchase with some additional funds for any unexpected costs associated with installation. We are in the process of selecting the final product and any money not spent will be returned to capital funds.

A huge thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity!!!!!

Roof Project Status

Advanced Roofing started the roofing project on Saturday, March 21st. Art Prochaska has confirmed that they have the approval to work on the roof during the "Stay at Home" statewide mandate. They will be working using all safety protocols and of course ensuring they can continue to keep our building protected if they run into any weather conditions that cause any delay. By the time we return to our regular worship services we will have new shingles on the peaked roof, new skylights and gutters. Praise be to God!

Lent Kickoff

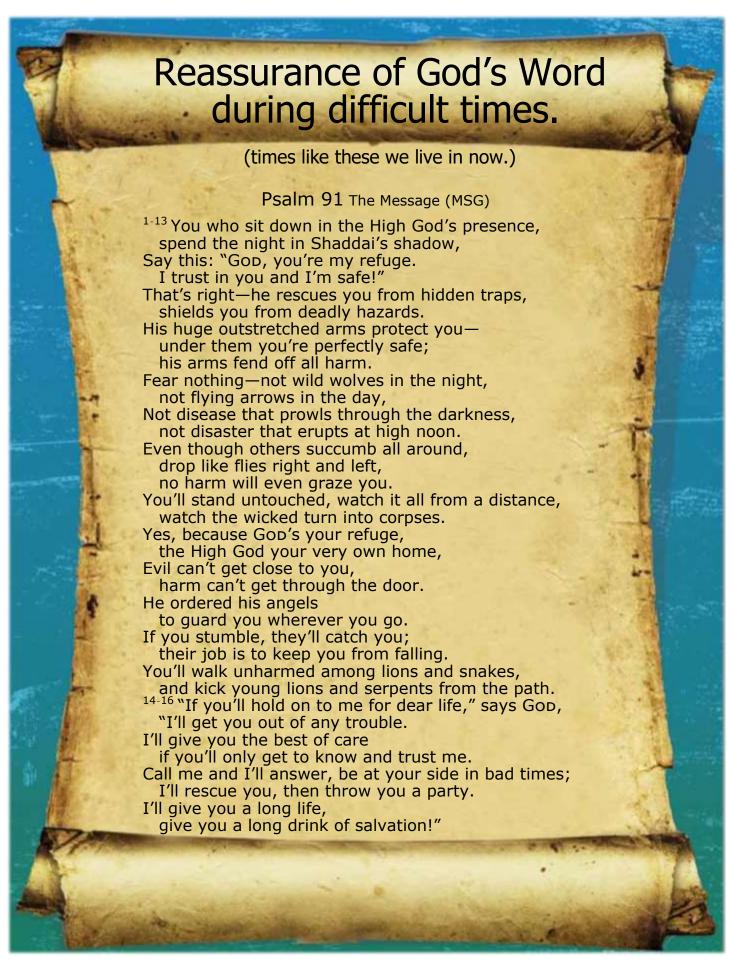
Sunday, February 23, we celebrated our first Fat Sunday in Fellowship Hall. This was our new interpretation of Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. Typically, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is celebrated with decadent feasting which starts the season of Lent.

We had festive Mardi Gras decorations (masks and beads) with a bubbly green punch fountain and delicious Belgium chocolate fondue. Many of our church members helped by bringing appetizing desserts, pastries, and delightful treats. Thank you to all that participated. We hope to continue this celebration in the future.









Interim Pastor Search Update – April 2020

The interim pastor search team has been working with the UCC Fox Valley Association to search for an interim pastor after Pastor Mark takes his leave. The primary focus of the interim pastor will be to help guide and prepare our church in the selection of, and transition to, a final settled pastor. At the same time, our church needs to maintain our strength and community, and we need an interim pastor who can take on an active role in the day to day needs of this congregation. The Fox Valley Association will provide our church with candidates to evaluate, however, we need to know what we are looking for in order to evaluate. To this end, we reached out to the congregation via a survey to solicit people's expectations of an interim pastor.

Survey Results

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ performed a survey of the congregation to select the top 12 out of 43 expectations of an interim pastor. There were 53 respondents. The top 12 most often selected items are noted below followed by the percentage of respondents who selected this item.

Our church needs a person who...

is an effective preacher/speaker. (96%)

is a compassionate and caring person. (72%)

is effective in planning and leading worship. (66%)

deals effectively with conflict. (55%)

is accepting of people with divergent views. (51%)

is a person of faith. (49%)

builds a sense of fellowship among the people with whom he/she works (47%)

is mature and emotionally secure. (47%)

make pastoral calls on people in hospitals and nursing homes and those confined to their homes. (45%)

maintains confidentiality. (45%)

encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives. (43%)

ministers effectively to people in crisis situations (38%)

Take-Aways

It is extremely clear that our congregation wants to be "strong on Sundays" and offer an excellent service and deliver a message that people can take into the world with them. This can be seen by the responses to items 1, 3, 6 and 11 listed above.

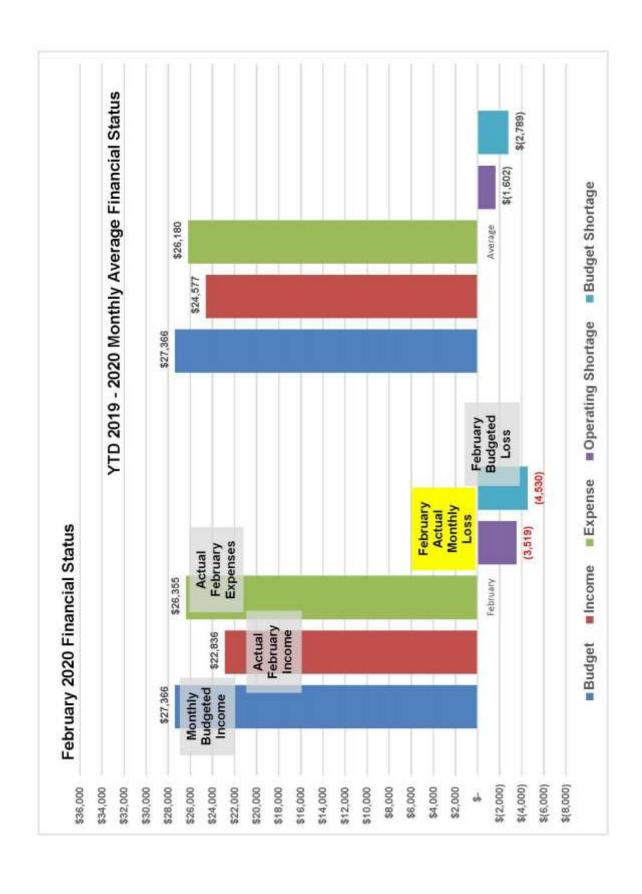
It is clear that our congregation wants a caring leader who will bring people together, remain open minded, and constructively reconcile differences. This can be seen by the responses to items 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 listed above.

It is clear that our congregation values pastoral care activities and that our church needs to continue to excel in this area. This can be seen by the responses to items 9, 10 and 12. It is understood that this is an area that must be ministered to.

Next Steps

We have been blessed with an extension to Pastor Marks stay with YCUCC. Proceeding through the interview process during this uncertain time would have been difficult to say the least, however, our congregation is in a good place. We know who we are and we know what we are looking for. Our next steps are to finalize an interview process and start evaluating candidates whose profiles will be made available to us by the UCC Fox Valley Association. With the latest news of Pastor Marks extended stay with us, the association will have to factor this timing into their selection of candidates. The details surrounding this adjustment in schedule have yet to be finalized, but we ready!

Peace, Aaron Shatters



The letter below was sent out as an "All Church" e-mail. We are including it here for all those who do not do e-mail!

Dear Church Family,

Many prayers are being said during this time of a global health crisis and daily sacrifices are being made by each and every one of us around the world. This is also a time for reflection and making decision's, sometimes on a daily basis, based on our ever changing mandates, such as the current one to stay in home until April 7th or possibly for much longer if necessary.

Pastor Mark and Michelle have also been praying and reflecting on the state of our country, the state of our church, and their retirement plans. After much prayer and conversation with each other, Pastor Mark approached me saying he was concerned about the church being without a pastor, or having a brand new one who would have no chance to get to know people due to the current situation of not being able to gather together, as well as the need for social distancing. So, he offered to delay his retirement and continue on as our pastor in part-time capacity, at half salary, for the period of time that we remain in these uncertain conditions. I asked how this would affect his retirement plans, and he said, "Like everyone else, our life has been put on hold due to the Covid-19 virus. It's possible we may not be able to move once this is even settled. So, I am making this offer in the hopes it will help the church, both spiritually and financially. Please know this is an offer, and it's fine if the church wants to keep to the current plans."

I want to be clear, Pastor Mark is **not** changing his mind about retiring. He has offered to do this until we are able to gather again to worship and do ministry together, however, he would like to be retired by no later than the end of July (and certainly, we all pray that we are done with this by then). After hearing his offer, I asked him to discuss it the our Fox Valley Association minister, Rev. Kim Woods, to get feedback and be sure this was a good and proper thing in light of today's situation. He did so and then spoke again with me. Rev. Woods agreed we are living in a unique time, which may call for unique approaches, and that a short delay in the process was not a problem. I was filled with joy and relief to know that Pastor Mark could stay with us a bit longer, and that we can have some time together to celebrate his release of service and retirement.

I then discussed this with the Interim Pastor team, who collectively agreed to this plan. This action was followed by holding a special leadership meeting via conference call to present this option. A motion was made, followed by discussion and was seconded to have Pastor Mark remain with us on a part-time basis through the end of July *if necessary*, and the motion was carried by 100% of the SLT voting "aye".

I hope that this message brings you joy knowing that we will continue to have a pastor who knows us, and whom we know, as we navigate this crisis. God is Good All of the Time and we will endure and remain a loving and caring church family.

Sandy deRidder SLT Chairperson



Alpha students who attended the Dickson Valley Youth Event on Sunday March 8, 2020.

Photos from the Roof Project



South slope of Fellowship Hall



Three skylights ready to be installed



North slope of Fellowship Hall



North slope of Sanctuary



Those Grieving:

The Gregory Family, The Guenzler Family, Rhonda Ladson's grandkids, The McIntyre Family

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Andrea Andres	Michelle Meyers	Pat Rogers
Tommy Marcum	Sue Monahan	Pearl Undesser
-		Kylie Brewick's sister-in- law's
		mom—leukemia

Health Concerns:

Bill Andersen	Jim Dirst	Cliff Jahp	Doug Pierce
Michelle Atwood	Joe Duran	Bob Johnston	Macayla Poch
Myrah Baldwin	Mary Freeman	Donald Kimes	Debbie Potempa
Goldie Behrens	David Hembree	Diana Lee	Dale Prochaska
Lynn Belcher	Karen Hess	Mazie Marshall	Walter Scott
McKenzie Brewick	Carlene Hudgins	Joanne O'Brien	Bob Stout
Earl Bushnell	J		

General Concerns:

Brian Homerding Ruth Prince Michelle Terri Fred & Marie Wayne

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Jim Follmer Dorothy Sanderson Andrea Prochaska



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

April Birthdays			
Jill Mickelson John Sleezer Jim Stott Leslie Hart Andrew Goss Elisabeth Mallon Owen Shatters Colton Kolowski Collin Snow David Snow Jacob Snow	02 02 02 03 05 08 08 09 10 10	Carole Munson Tim Strong Sara Gelsomino Mariela Olvera Art Prochaska Adam Morello Samantha Keith Craig Pottinger Brant Corwin Eva Schoenfielder Julie Gawne	18 18 19 19 19 20 21 21 22 22 22
Raegan McLeod Dan Melhouse Chase Pranga Hudson Martinez Tyler Zenz Donna Fatten Matt Skinner Stacy Skinner	11 13 13 15 15 16 16	Fred Wayne Mackenzie Brewick Beth Goss Sarah Pottinger Kiera Sommerfield Robin Campos Jo Pierce	26 27 27 27 28 29 29

April Anniversaries			
4/6	Tony & Pam Campos	29 years	
4/12	John & Ruth Morello	34 years	
4/24	Mary Dycus & Cindi Knox	21 years	
4/26	Tim & Laurie Strong	34 years	

Altar Guild

April, 2020 Jan Essex & Joann Morr May, 2020 Sue Kimes & Nancy Kolowski



Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)

VIOLET or RED Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Matt 21:1-11 Liturgy of the Palms

Easter

WHITE Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

Second Sunday of Easter

WHITE Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31 Holy Language

Third Sunday of Easter

WHITE Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 Breaking Bread

Let your *Joy burst forth...* like flowers in the Spring!



Date	Greeters	Liturgists	Guardians
4/5	Gere' Ryerson & Ellie Gentile	Sandy deRidder	Brian Bazan
4/12	Lee Kinkade & Nellie Ng	Sandy deRidder	Fred Dickson
4/19	Lee Kinkade & Nellie Ng	Sandy deRidder	Jeff Farren
		•	
4/26	Gere' Ryerson & Ellie Gentile	Sandy deRidder	Andy Hamblin

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.

Watch our church services on the internet!!

Facebook: <u>Click here</u> OR

1. Go to our YCUCC Fa-

- cebook page.

 2. Click on the videos tab on the left side of the
- 3. Scroll down to select the appropriate sermon date.

home page.

4. Click the arrow to view the sermon video.

Website: Click here OR

- 1. Go to our YorkvilleUCC.org home page.
- 2. Click on the Worship/ Media Tab.
- 3. Scroll down to select the appropriate sermon date.
- 4. Click the arrow to view the sermon video.

YouTube.com: Click here OR

- 1. Go to the search bar.
- 2. Type in "Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ".
- 3. Click on the channel.
- 4. Select the appropriate sermon date.
- 5. Click the arrow to view the sermon video.

Yorkville Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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April, 2020