

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
FB: @yorkvilleucc
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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



Covid-19 Updates

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Worship Services are online only Live Streaming on Facebook & YouTube Sunday's at 10:00 a.m.

YorkvilleUCC.Org website after 12 p.m. Sunday School Classes: e-Learning

Our Staff

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

Childcare Attendants

<u>Custodians</u> <u>Sextons</u> Timothy C. Rhodes
Mary Ellen Anderson
Barbara Thurlby
Liz Cronshaw
Doug Trumble
Sondra Shatters
Tina Andersen
Lori Runkle
Mariela Olvera
Brett Rhodes
Tim & Laurie Strong
Steve Redmon

Our Shepherds

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Recording Secretary
Operations: Personnel
Operations: Bldg & Grds
Operations: Bidg & 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

Aaron Shatters
Deanna Bazan
Sue Kimes
Kathy Farren
Tony Houle
Tim Andrus
Diane Stablein
Aimee List
Stacy Skinner
Lori Redmon
Pam Hamblin
Mary Ann Doetschman
Jeff Kline/Laurie Houle
June Davis
Gere' Ryerson

The Happenings







TIM's TALES

"Christmas is broken this year" was the forlorn exclamation of a woman I overheard in the grocery store parking lot. She was on her phone sorting out how her family would not be gathering this year for Thanksgiving or Christmas or anytime soon. She seemed strong in her resolve to make the sacrifice for her family. My heart broke with hers.

Brokenness can produce beauty.

In 1818, a roving company of actors was performing in towns throughout the Austrian Alps. On December 23 they arrived in the tiny village of Oberndorf, Austria where they were to re-enact the story of Christ's birth in the small Church of St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately, the St. Nicholas' church organ was broken and would not be repaired before Christmas. Because the church organ was broken, the actors presented their Christmas drama in a private home. That Christmas presentation put St. Nicholas' young assistant pastor, Josef Mohr, in a contemplative mood. Rather than walk directly to his house that night, Mohr took a mountain path that took him up over a hill overlooking the village.

From that hilltop, Mohr looked upon the peaceful snow-covered village. Reveling in silence of the wintry night, Mohr gazed down at the pastoral scene and recalled a poem he had written a couple of years prior. That poem was about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside.

Mohr decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation's Christmas Eve service. His problem was that he did not have any music to which that poem could be sung. The next morning Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Gruber. Gruber took the poem, and in a few hours, composed a melody which could be sung with a guitar. It no longer mattered to Mohr and Gruber that their church organ was broken. They now had a Christmas carol that could be sung without the organ.

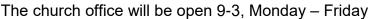
On Christmas Eve, the little Oberndorf congregation heard Gruber and Mohr sing their new composition to the accompaniment of Gruber's guitar.

We know the six-verse song, "Stille Nacht Heilige Nacht" as "Silent Night." We typically sing three verses that are verses one, six, and two of the original poem.

Christmas can be broken and beautiful.

Church Office Covid-19 Protocol

Due to increased Covid-19 mediation measures, the Church staff will adjust their work hours to improve safety. Everyone will wear a mask and maintain physical distancing.



Mary Ellen will be in the office 8-1, Monday – Thursday

Tim Rhodes and Barb Thurlby will be available via phone and by appointment.

All church meetings are to be remote or limited to 10 people, masked, and appropriately distanced.





From the Desk of the Chair

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

Christmas is a season of rejoicing! We spread this joy through giving. Giving is an expression of our love for one another. Love spread everywhere is literally your churches vision!

I want to keep this very simple. Give. Give of your time, talents, and treasures. Give not only to your family and friends but give where it is needed.

Please know that your time, talents and treasures are needed by your church and your churches various missions. We do more together. We do more when we pool our efforts and resources towards a common good. The church amplifies our individual contributions by combining them with others in a coordinated effort to do the work of God.

A perfect example of the amplifying effects of the church was seen during the November leadership meeting when a member brought up a concern for the needs of the Kendall Country Food Pantry. Less than 12 hours later, a total of \$1,850 had been pledged. This is your church acting as catalyst and channel through which we satisfy greater need together.

The church itself and the work of the church are one in the same. Supporting your church supports the work and mission of your church.

As you read through this newsletter, receive emails and letters from YCUCC, see YCUCC social media posts, listen to Sunday's announcements, and generally engage with your church, please be attuned to opportunities to spread joy and love through giving during this Advent and Christmas season.

Peace, Aaron Shatters SLT Chairperson







Christ caring for people through people

Are holiday times difficult for you?

Dealing with frustration, loneliness, illness, separation or divorce, loss of a loved one, or any other of life challenges?

Trained Stephen Ministers are available to care and listen!

Contact the church office, Lou Ann Hoffman or Carrie DeFuss

E-Giving is Easy!

Now is the time to sign up.

This is your monthly reminder to sign up for the "E-Giving Automatic Giving Plan" that is available from our website. This is the "set it and forget it" donation option. Giving has never been easier! More information can be found on our website, http://yorkvilleucc.org/. Click the "E-GIVING" button from our website and you will find the sign-up sheet. Please give this option strong consideration as this could be the best option for both you and the church.

Peace, Aaron

YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

COVID – 19: Path to return to Church/Sunday School – September 2020

* Any individual, (adult, or child), that tests positive of COVID-19 should alert church leadership; contacts should include:

- Board Chair Aaron Shatters
- Pastor Tim Rhodes
- Worship Shepherd Lori Redmon
- Christian Education Director Barb Thurlby

Necessary follow up will be completed.

Individual had close contact with someone who tested positive or is suspected of having COVID-19



May return after 14 days of quarantine.

Individual tested positive or is suspected of having COVID-19



May return after 24 hours fever free and either 14-day quarantine or one negative COVID-19 test.

Individual exhibits one or more symptoms of COVID-19 but is not suspected of having it.

E-GIVING



Possible other illnesses, may return after 24 hours fever free and 14 days of quarantine or one negative COVID-19

*** Questions or concerns about processes should be address with the SLT board.

Building and Grounds

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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



Things go on, even with COVID, just a little differently. The staff have adjusted their office hours to find a way to have the office open daily without having too many people in the office at one time. My office hours have changed to Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. The Building and Grounds will continue to do maintenance work but not meet weekly. We are listing what jobs need to be done in an email and then the various members are signing up to come in at staggered times to do them to help keep the number of people in the building down. Laurie Strong also adjusted her hours for cleaning to avoid too many people in the building.

The patch work we had done by Advanced Roofing on the flat roof is working and buying us some extra time until we need to replace the flat roof. We are changing the flat roof so that it will no longer have rocks covering the surface. Jeff Kline presented to the finance committee and the SLT members our recommendation for the new flat roof in November. I believe, financing opportunities will be investigated next to see which option to move forward with in the coming year. Replacing the flat roof is our main focus so that we know we have a safe and sound facility. All other projects at this time are on hold.

With the winter season fast approaching, we have planned for snow plowing our parking lots and our men will handle the sidewalks. Jeff Kline and Art Prochaska cleaned up the front gardens for the winter.

We want to thank Michael Obenauer for serving as one of our sextons for the past three years. Michael felt it was time for him to resign from this position. It is not always fun to leave your warm cozy home for a snowy cold car ride over to the church late at night. Thank you, Michael, for your service for the past three years!

We are still collecting only aluminum cans for recycling. We continue to collect clean recycled plastic bags for the Food Pantry. It is amazing how many bags they need each week.

Please share your committee meeting information so we can add it to the calendars. Most groups are meeting on Zoom which is good, but we still want to post it on the calendar that you are meeting.

Spiritual Formation Class

Are you ready for something new? The Spiritual Formation Class would like to invite you to join us in January. This group has been meeting to study topics like the Trinity, prayer, Revelations, world religions and evangelism. We have taken field trips to the Temple B'nai Israel (Jewish) and the Sri Venkateswara Swami Hindu Temple, both in Aurora. Most recently, the group has been studying the Book of John which has led to great discussions and a lot of learning. In January we are excited to begin a new series on the Book of Acts, and that makes it a perfect time to join us for learning, fellowship, personal growth and fun.

Classes are led by Michael Obenauer and meet on Wednesday nights, generally twice a month, at 7:00pm. Given our current restrictions, classes will be meeting online until it is safe to gather again. Consider joining us as the new year of 2021 begins. What better time to try something new?

For more information, please reach out to Michael Obenauer or Deanna Bazan.



This holiday consider giving a gift of coffee and give back to the church at the same time.







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Stewardship Ministry

Our yearly Pledge-Givings Campaign entitled "Beloved, LOVE" John 4:7, was dedicated on Sunday, November 8th. It is not too late to send in your Pledge-Givings for 2021. As of this printing no total tally is available.

A sincere thank you goes out to all who pledged and support our church!

Adult Education

The season of Advent, for me, is exhausting. At work, trying to help overexcited and often overtired children, settle down (or wake-up) enough to learn and take multiple, lengthy, tests just before Christmas break while doing all the planning, baking, shopping, and decorating necessary to comply with all the traditions and expectations of the season is a lot. That is why I love Advent devotionals. They are usually quick to read but give me a few moments to settle and reflect—so necessary to my sanity.



All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas by Quinn G. Caldwell. "These brief writings address the challenges and realities of the season and include a simple ection, ritual or meditation designed to gently steer the reader toward the deeper meaning that underlies the season. Smart, witty, edgy—and always hopeful—readings REALLY by Quinn Caldwell include a brief prayer for each morning and evening during the WANT to entire Christmas season." I loved this book! I found the readings worthwhile and grounding, just what is needed.



Light upon Light, compiled by Sarah Arthur. This is my Advent book this year and bonus—it contains readings through the season of Epiphany! It has weekly readings that include prayer, bible verses, and readings from literature. "Readers are invited to experience Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany in its raw strangeness, stripped of sentiment, and to turn toward Emmanuel." I am so excited to dig into this book!

I also really love the printable resources at SALT project. They have several advent resources that you can print at home, such as-- Advent and Hygge: The Art of Coziness and Maya Angelou and the Freedom poetry of Advent https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-church-print-resources. They are simple, guick, but very meaningful and beautiful!

Finally, I really love the resources at Sacred Ordinary Days (https://sacredordinarydays.com/) "A fresh approach, holistic tools, and time-honored resources to help you grow in Christ-likeness—and help the church come together—through intentional Christian spiritual formation" For those of you that like a paper planner, the Sacred Ordinary Days planner has daily bible reading and prayers and room for notes, thoughts, and to-do lists. (I am on my third planner.) The site also has books and other resources for sale.

Take some time this month to be still, pray, and reflect. Merry Christmas!

Aimee List

December 2020

Sat	5	12	19	56	
Fri	4	11	18	25 Christmas	
Thu	3 7:00 pm Christmas Hymn Sing on Facebook and You Tube	10 6:00 pm Finance on Zoom 7:00 pm SLT on Zoom	17	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Outdoor Worship Service in the parking lot Plan to join us in your cars. Church Office Closed	31 Church Office Closed
Wed	2 11:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference call 6-7:30 pm Bible Study—Liz/Barb 7:00 pm 7:00 pm Spiritual Foundation Class on Zoom	9 11:00 am Staff Meeting— Conference call 6-7:30 pm Bible Study—Liz/Barb	16 11:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference call 7:00 pm Spiritual Foundation Class on Zoom	Newsletter & Calendar information due	30
Tue	1 9:00 am B & G men come to do maintenance work a few members at a time	9.00 am B & G men come to do maintenance work a few members at a time 10:00 am Pastoral Care Meeting	9:00 am B & G men come to do maintenance work a few members at a time	9:00 am NO Building and Grounds Meeting	29 Mail Newsletters
Mon		7	7:00 pm Worship on Zoom—Lori Redmond	21	28
Sun		6 Advent Hope 9:00 am Confirmation Class on Zoom 10:00 Am Worship streamed on Facebook and You Tube Poinsettia orders Due	13 Advent Joy 9:00 am Confirmation Class on Zoom 10:00 am Worship streamed on Facebook and You Tube CE P.J. Collection ends AID Collection ends Operation Santa Ends	20 Advent Peace Christmas Fund Offering dedicated 9:00 am Confirmation Class on Zoom 10:00 am Worship Children's Christmas Pageant Video shown during the service streamed on Facebook and	27 Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship streamed on Facebook and You Tube

Christian Education During a Pandemic

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 has been a challenging year in ministry. I miss the Sunday School kids; I miss the Sunday School kid's families. The few weeks of in-person services was a shot in the arm for me and our teachers. It was fabulous to see the excitement and energy of students, even for a few weeks.

This experience has caused me to pause and reflect on the program that we have worked so hard to create over the past three and a half years. I have learned a few things; like patience. I understand not all things are in my timing, but in God's. I have learned that children are hungry for the things of God. They are curious and open to soaking in the love of God like a sponge. I have learned that the congregation at Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ is steadfast in their faith and love of this church.

Though I miss 'the good ole' days, my reflection has given my hope. Hope for an end to this pandemic and hope for a time that we can all be back together in worship. Until then, our Christian education team will continue to reach out to kids and families in creative and unique ways. Know that I continue to hold each family in prayer.

Blessings,

Barb

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah **29:11**)

Christmas Eve Outdoor Candl el ight Service

December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Join the joy of Christmas outdoors in the YCUCC parking lot! This half-hour service may be attended in your car, in person (masked & physically distanced), or on Facebook Live.

Bring a bell to ring and a candle for the singing of Silent Night.



If the weather is inclement, everyone will be notified & the service will be streamed on Facebook Live.



Christmas

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ Yorkvilleucc.org

Sunday, November 29, 10:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent, Celebrating Love Worship on Facebook Live Message: "Babies Get Born" Text: Mark 13:23-37

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m. Carol Sing! Fun on Facebook Live Sing your favorite Christmas Songs!

Sunday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent, Celebrating Hope Worship on Facebook Live Message: "Shouting Hope" Text: Isaiah 40:1-11

Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent, Celebrating Joy Worship on Facebook Live Message: "Pregnant Joy" Text: Luke 1:39-56

Sunday, December 20, 10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent, Celebrating Peace Worship on Facebook Live Children's Christmas Program

CHRISTMAS EVE Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Worship at the Church & on Facebook Live

All Are Welcome!
Bring a candle and bells to ring!

Sunday, December 27, 10:00 a.m. Worship on Facebook Live HYMN SING!



In order to love our neighbor and responding to public health guidelines, Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ is worshiping via Facebook Live. We all desire to worship in-person as soon as possible. As health restrictions are announced, Church Leadership will appropriately adjust church gatherings.

Welcoming & Outreach Ministry

Christmas Hope, Peace and Joy

Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift.

In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT During COVID-19

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19 Be generous and willing to share

AN OPEN, GENEROUS HEART By Winn Collier

After Vicki's old car broke down with no option for repair, she started scraping together money for another vehicle. Chris, a frequent customer of the restaurant where Vicki works at the drive-thru window, one day heard her mention she needed a car. "I couldn't stop thinking about it, Chris said. "I [had] to do something." So, he bought his son's used car (his son had just put it up for sale), shined it up, and handed Vicki the keys. Vicki was shocked. "Who... does that?" she said in amazement and gratitude.

The Scriptures call us to live with open hands, giving freely as we can – providing what is truly best for those in need. As Paul says: "Command [those who are rich] to do good, to be rich in good deeds". We do not merely perform a benevolent act here or there, but rather live out a cheerful spirit of giving. Big-heartedness is our normal way of life. "Be generous and willing to share," we are told.

As we live with an open, generous heart, we do not need to fear running out of what we need. Rather, the Bible tells us that in our compassionate generosity, we are taking "hold of [true] life". With God, genuine living means loosening our grip on what we have and giving to others freely.

Dece	embe	r Birthdays	
Marcus Schulz	01	Suzie Pratt	12
Bob Clack	02	Gavin Redmon	13
Terri Frisk	03	Holly Erickson	15
Kim Elleby	05	Barbara Davis	17
Dorothy Sanderson	06	Anne Stout	17
Jaxxton Golubla	09	James Anderson	19
Josh Kolowski	09	Joey Jerabek	22
Nancy Modery	09	Parker Trumble	25
Giovanni Olvera	10	Marie Wayne	25
Sue Kimes	11	Gail Gaebler	30
Linda Reingardt	11	Jeff Kline	31
Amy Ems	12	Ann Seagrave	31
Melissa Olvera	12	•	

Taking our faith outside the church walls Second Sunday of Advent VIOLET or BLUE Isa 40:1-11

VIOLET or BLUE Isa 40:1-11 Ps 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mk 1:1-8

Messengers of Hope

Third Sunday of Advent

VIOLET, BLUE, or ROSE Isa 61:1-4, 8-11 Ps 126 or Luke 1:46b-55 1 Thess 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 Shouts of Joy

Fourth Sunday of Advent

VIOLET or BLUE 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4, 19-26 Rom 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 Birthing a Promise

First Sunday after Christmas

WHITE Isa 61:10-62:3 Ps 148 Gal 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40 *Long Awaited Gift*

December Anniversaries

12/15Erik & Mike Mallon9 years12/18Gerry & Leslie Inukai43 years12/31Dusty & Abby Rhodes28 years

Altar Guild

Andy & Pam Hamblin

amazonsmile You shop. Amazon gives.

Exciting news! YCUCC is now participating in Amazon Smile. Just in time for the holiday season. This means that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases through https://smile.amazon.com to YCUCC if you select "Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ" as your preferred charity.

Use the following link to select your preferred charity: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2639077. From that point forward, qualifying purchases can be made through smile.amazon.com.

Happy Holidays! - Aaron

Missions Ministry

The Missions Ministry is currently working on our traditional A.I.D. Tree via online donations. When I say traditional, I mean as in we have done for some time now. Even with the Covid-19 virus we can continue to serve others. Our A.I.D. Tree chairperson is Gere Ryerson. She has already set it up for online giving. You pick a number, purchase the gift, wrap it and put the number on the package. Then bring it to church and place on the table in the narthex that has been set-up to receive your gifts. The recipients are appreciative of our church's generosity and so is the Missions Ministry.

A BIG THANK YOU all for helping to make this happen again this year.



5 for 5 Special Offering <u>THE CHRISTMAS FUND</u> For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

One of our 5 for 5 Mission Givings that Y.C.U.C.C. supports is "The Christmas Fund". For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations, over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the **Christmas Fund for the Cross and the Emergency Fund** to help support them in retirement and during times of emergency need.

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

Join with others of the United Church of Christ to make "the light shine in the darkness" for those who have given so much to our church.

Donations for this 5 for 5 Offering can be dropped off at the outside mailbox by the front doors of our church; you can bring it inside if you prefer; go on-line to donate; or mail it in. Designate on your envelope "5 for 5 Christmas Fund". Dedication Sunday is planned for Sunday, December 20th. You are able to give towards it till the end of the year.

Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Missions Ministry!



Those Grieving:

The Green Family, The Ruzicka Family, The Johnston Family

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Andrea Andres Jim Davis Harv Knell

Peg Knell

Sue Monahan Pat Rogers Pearl Undesser Kylie Brewick's sister-in-law's mom - leukemia

Health Concerns:

Avery Andersen Bill Andersen Myrah Baldwin Goldie Behrens Lynn Belcher Earl Bushnell Pat Dietz Jim Dirst
Joe Duran
Gail Fisher
Mary Freeman
Donna Fuss
David Hembree
Karen Hess

Diana Lee Kim Leszczynski Mazie Marshall McKenna Middlestaedt Joanne O'Brien Doug Pierce Debbie Potempa Dale Prochaska Larry Rezash Walter Scott Tsusaki Family Marie Wayne Kathy Wickens Tina Winefordner Vaclavik Family

General Concerns:

Brian Homerding Justine Jahp Lee Kinkade

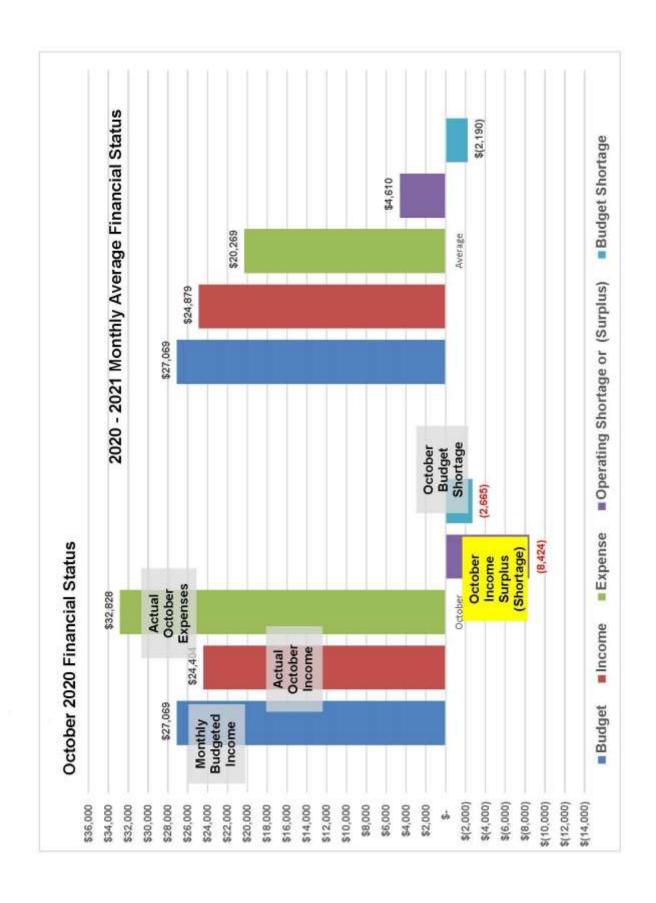
Samuel Nedrow, US Navy

Ruth Prince Michelle Terri Fred Wayne

The people who work on the front lines of the virus - doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, nursing home workers, first responders.

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Jim Follmer Andrea Prochaska Dorothy Sanderson



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: Click here OR

- 1. Go to our YCUCC Facebook page.
- 2. Click on the videos tab on the left side of the home page.
- 3. Scroll down to select the appropriate sermon date.
- 4. Click the arrow to view the sermon video.

Website: Click here OR

- 1. Go to our YorkvilleUCC.org home page.
- 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.

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