



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

<u>Minister</u>	Timothy C. Rhodes
<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>	Mariela Olvera
	Brett Rhodes
<u>Custodians</u>	Tim & Laurie Strong
<u>Sextons</u>	Steve Redmon

Our Shepherds

<u>Chairperson</u>	Aaron Shatters
<u>Vice Chairperson</u>	Deanna Bazan
<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>	Aimee List
<u>Christian Education: Youth</u>	Stacy Skinner
<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



Give thanks TO THE Lord
for HE is good!
For His mercy endures
FOREVER!

1 Chronicles 16:34



TIM's TALES

At the dawn of each New Year, I try to recalibrate my values. The holiday thrum is past, and a fresh year lies ahead. Life's question becomes, "how will I live forward?" I use the following Howard Thurman poem to guide my entry into the next year of my living.

Howard Thurman was a 20th Century giant of thought and faith. The grandchild of a former enslaved person and raised by a single mother, he rose from the segregated South to become one of the leading academics and authors of his time.

This poem is in Thurman's *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*.

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
 To make music in the heart.

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.

The church office will be open 9-3, Monday – Friday
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

Finally! The year we've all been waiting for, 2021. Let's just cut our losses and start fresh, right? We have renewed hopes, renewed commitments, renewed promises. We can recenter our lives to appreciate what we have in the family and friends around us. Let's leave 2020 in the dust and don't look back, right?

Though, in many ways, January is focused on the past. We have "Remembrance Sunday" where we honor the memories of our passed loved ones. We have "Heritage Celebrations" where we explore the remembered history of our congregation. We have Martin Luther King Jr. Day where we celebrate the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr.

In Washington, D.C., on a statue in front of the National Archives, it is quoted, "The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future". We need to use the past to inform our hopes and actions for the future.

On a personal note, reflection upon my dad's life and recent passing has helped me remember to appreciate today and to be optimistic about tomorrow. Two of my dad's most frequent utterings were, "life is good" and "it's getting better every day". Those are so basic, but so foundational. It doesn't need to be complicated.

Let's look back for the purposes of looking forward with a well-trained eye. Let's take the lessons of our past, pivot them over the fulcrum of today and let them motivate the hopes and actions of our future.

Peace and Happy New Year!

Aaron Shatters

CE Sells STARBUCKS CARDS

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

In these different and challenging times programs at Yorkville Congregational Church are getting creative. Board president Aaron Shatters was able to connect the church with the Scrip program. Each gift card sold will provide a percentage back to the church.

Gift cards are an easy and popular way to shop and the church benefits! If you are interested in a Starbucks gift card for a teacher, neighbor, friend, teenager or anyone you might like to shower with a gift, you can contact Barb at 630/330-4448 or ced@yorkvilleucc.org.

Cards come in \$10.00 or \$5.00 amounts.

Consider giving a gift of coffee and give back to the church at the same time.



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. January is the perfect time to update your routine! 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



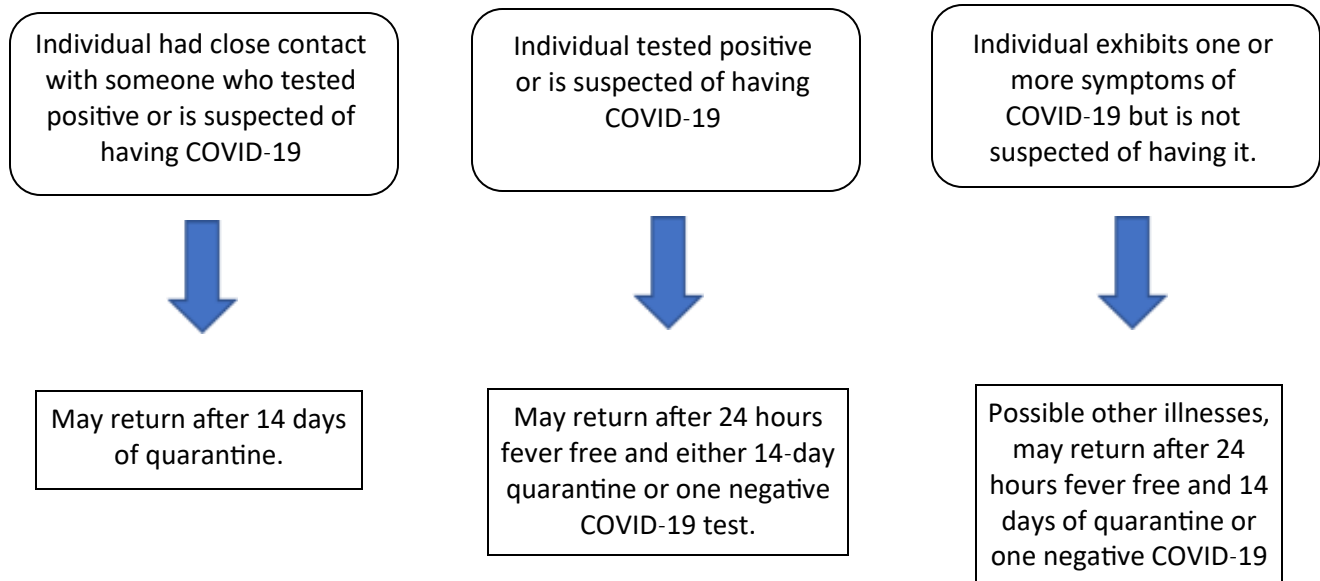
YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

COVID – 19: Path to return to Church/Sunday School - TBD

** 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.



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



Building and Grounds
Mary Ellen Anderson
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.
630-674-4345
Bldmgr@yorkvilleucc.org

The start of a new year and
hopefully, a healthy year for all!
The men continue to meet on Tuesday
mornings at 9:00 a.m. and then break into
small groups to do maintenance work.



*Thank you Sondra Shatters and Peg Trumble for
your outstanding work on the Children's Christmas
Pageant! It was fabulous! Nice job to all of the
YCUCC Kids too!!*

*If you have not watched the pageant, check out
the worship service from December 20, 2020.
Its worth the watch!*

Missions Ministry News

The Mission Ministry at Y.C.U.C.C. was busy during the month of December. Our thanks go out to the congregation for helping with the A.I.D. Christmas Tree of Gifts and their generous contributions. Thanks to Gere Ryerson/Chairperson for doing all the online work. This was necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The A.I.D. Christmas gifts were packaged and ready to go when they were picked up for delivery to the recipients. Again, Thank You ONE and ALL.

Budgeted Mission Ministry items sent in the second quarter of the year were:

October 2020 – Special Olympics \$200.00

November 2020 – Wounded Warriors – Yorkville American Legion - \$100.00

November 2020 – Wayside Cross in Aurora for Men - \$250.00

The 5 for 5 Offering 'The Christmas Fund' taken up on December 20th came to \$2,795.00. The Mission Ministry sends a BIG Thank You to all who gave to this worthy cause. Retired ministers and lay people truly appreciate our gifts.

Stewardship Ministry

Our yearly Pledge-Givings Campaign entitled "Beloved, LOVE" John 4:7, was dedicated on Sunday, November 8th. Following is a comparison of campaigns from the past few years.

Received 40 pledges in 2020 for 2021 totaling \$146,428.00 averaging \$3,661.00

Received 45 pledges in 2019 for 2020 totaling \$160,876.00 averaging \$3,575.00

Received 37 pledges in 2018 for 2019 totaling \$139,404.00 averaging \$3,767.00

You can pledge during the year if the urge sparks you. Come to the office and get the paperwork from the Administrative Assistant, Liz. Some of us give using the automatic-Giving Plan, where your giving is taken out of your specified bank.

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

Always remember that our God Loves a Cheerful Giver. S M I L E !!

Thank
you

OPERATION
SANTA

Thank
you

I am just blown away by the response to Operation Santa.

Our Church Family is absolutely awesome!

A lot of churches were not able to contribute this year, but this has been the best year ever for YCC!

You guys rock! I am so overwhelmed by the support and generosity of our Church Family.

Come Christmas morning there were lots of smiling happy children!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Regina Moe

Operation Santa

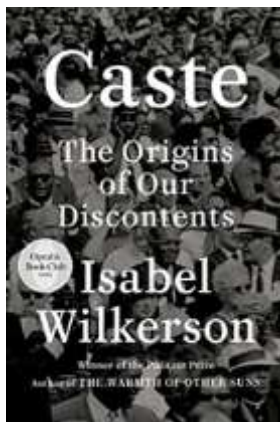


Join in Remembrance Sunday, January 17, 10 a.m. Worship

In the embrace of God's eternal grace, Yorkville Congregational UCC will gather on Facebook Live and YouTube to celebrate the lives of those who died in 2020. The members of YCUCC who died will be named and commemorated during the service. Also celebrated will be the countless people who have touched our lives and passed on. The service will feature prayers, a homily, and uplifting music.

As you worship online, please have a candle at home to light during the service to commemorate the life of people you loved who have died.

This Remembrance Sunday service will be limited due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Church leadership is planning a fuller celebration of life for later in the year.



Adult Education

To continue our church study of social justice issues, I would like to announce *Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson will be the next discussion book! The book was a recent Oprah's book club pick, Oprah says the book is "One of the most profound and important books I have ever read, and I have been reading since I was 5 years old. I think it is an absolute must-read for all of humanity, and by humanity I am talking about people who care about our humanity. And I think this will be a real catalyst actually for a real awakening." I read the book with Oprah and found it to be a brilliant book that helped me gain new understandings.

There will be two discussions. The first will be Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. covering chapters 1-12. The second will be Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. covering chapters 13 to the end. Discussions will be on Zoom unless COVID restrictions loosen and the church goes back to in person services. Contact the church office or email me at ajlsan1@hotmail.com if you are interested in joining us. Grab your copy and start reading, I am looking forward to our first meeting.



YCUCC Giving to the KCCFP

with a total of \$2,590.00!

Our church giving to the community.



For the Kids at Central DuPage Hospital



We want to continue the fleece blanket mission for the children's ward at Central DuPage Hospital. In the past we used money from the bake sale to cover the cost of the fleece material. However, this year we are putting tags on the "Giving Tree" to support this sweet tender mission. Pam and Andy Hamblin have agreed to help with this mission by ordering the material, cutting the blankets strips, and then washing and packaging them when we are ready to take them to the hospital.

We will need help in tying them once they are ready. The blanket packs will be out for pick up in January. You can come by the church during office hours to pick up a bagged blanket. Take the blanket home to tie and then return the completed blanket back in the bag to the church during the week. We are trying our best to honor our COVID plan.

Please look for a tag on the "Giving Tree" and help support this mission.

Donations can go in the offering box, church office, or mail it to the church with attention Mary Ellen.

We know that these warm cuddly fleece blankets of **HOPE** will put a smile on the patients face and a smile on their parents heart!

Please plan to get involved with this mission!

Christian Education Looks To 2021!

By Barb Thurlby, CE Director

2020 has been a challenging year for most of us. The coronavirus has caused us to minister in new and different ways as we worked to connect with families and children from our beloved church. Phone calls, mailings, weekly e-learning, zoom meetings, video visits, drop in visits and drop by gifts have all been part of the creative changes in our ministry program. Like many, we are looking forward to 2021 and the hope of getting back together in person.

2021 has some exciting themes and lessons for YCC kids! In the new year students will embark on fascinating lessons of biblical parables. Students will continue to receive our weekly e-learning lessons of the parable studies. Parables are an excellent way for students to learn important biblical messages in an enjoyable manner.

As we close out the 2020 year, I wish you all peace and blessings and thank you for your continued support and encouragement of our Christian education program. I am honored to serve with you.

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day	2
3 10:00 am Worship streamed on Facebook and You Tube No Sunday School No Confirmation Class	4 7:00 pm Heritage Celebration—video conference	5 9:00 am B & G men come to take down Christmas 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision on Zoom	6 11:00 am Staff Meeting Conference call 7:00 pm Spiritual Formation Class on Zoom	7 7:00 pm CE Teachers meeting on Zoom—Barb	Church Closed 8 7:00 pm Alpha on Zoom—Barb	9
10 9:00 am Confirmation Class on Zoom 10:00 am Worship streamed on Facebook and You Tube 1:00 pm Heritage Celebration video conference	11 7:00 pm Worship Committee on Zoom—Lori Redmond 1:00 pm Heritage—conference call	12 9:00 am B & G men come to do maintenance work 10:00 am Pastoral Care Meeting	13 11:00 am Staff Meeting Conference call 1:00 pm Heritage—conference call	14 6:00 pm Financial on Zoom 7:00 pm SLT on Zoom	15	16
17 <u>Remembrance Sunday</u> 9:00 am Confirmation Class on Zoom 10:00 am Worship streamed on Facebook and You Tube 1:00 pm Heritage Celebration video conference	18 Martin Luther King Day Church Closed	19 9:00 am B & G men come to do maintenance work 7:00 pm Heritage Celebration—video conference	20 11:00 am Staff Meeting Conference call 7:00 pm Spiritual Formation - The Book of Act—on Zoom	21 1:00 pm Heritage Celebration video conference 7:00 pm Heritage—conference call	22 Newsletter & Calendar articles due for the next Newsletter	23
24 9:00 am Confirmation Class on Zoom 10:00 am Worship streamed on Facebook and You Tube 1:00 pm Heritage Celebration Video conference	25	26 9:00 am B & G men come to do maintenance work	27 11:00 am Staff Meeting Conference call Mail Newsletter	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Confirmation Class on Zoom 10:00 am Worship streamed on Facebook and You Tube 4:00 pm Family Game Night—On Zoom						



Staying Connected

During COVID Times

We created an emergency notification book a few years ago. In this red binder that is kept in the church office, we have forms with two emergency names and phone numbers in case we need to contact a members family or close friend in times of an emergency. Some of you filled out this sheet and we have your information in the red binder. Some of your information may have changed or you just never got around to filling out the form. Please consider sharing your information with your church now.

With COVID times, these phone numbers can come into use. Pastor Tim and others are attempting to keep in touch with all of our members by phone now that the church is restricted in attendance and with limited participation. When we cannot reach a person after several attempts, we need to know another family member or close friends phone number so we can reach out and check to see that you are all right and to put our concerns to rest!

You can complete the next page in this newsletter and drop it off in the locked mailbox by the main entrance door, mail it to the church or drop it off in the office. We appreciate your help.

Let's keep everyone safe!

Thank you!

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION FORM

Please PRINT the following information:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

In the event of an emergency, I the undersigned, authorize any member/staff of the Yorkville
Congregation United church of Christ to notify the following persons:

1st Contact Name: _____

Best Contact Number: _____

OK to leave message / voicemail: Yes, No

2nd Contact Name: _____

Best Contact Number: _____

Ok to leave message / voicemail: Yes, No

I understand and agree that the church and/or its staff will have no obligation or liability
to notify such persons in case of an emergency.

Signature

Date

Heritage Celebration

Join in the fun of exploring the history and heritage of YCUCC! The church has worked to abolish slavery and end homelessness, hosted baptisms and weddings, served countless suppers, prayed through world wars, lived through two global pandemics, engaged social movements, and celebrated life's largest events. There is much in the congregational memory and now is the time to celebrate YCUCC's distinct heritage.

Your voice is essential to this celebration! Join in a video conference or telephone call where you will be guided through engaging questions that will stir memories. And you'll experience the memories of your church family. The sessions are guaranteed to be interesting and fun.

SIGN UP for a 90-minute session by contacting the church office via email (Adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org) or phone (630.553.7308). Each session will have limited participation so signing up quickly is vital. A few days prior to the session you will receive instructions on how to join in the fun.

Monday, January 4, 7 p.m.



Sunday, January 10, 1 p.m.



Monday, January 11, 1 p.m.



Wednesday, January 13, 1 p.m.



Wednesday, January 13, 7 p.m.



Sunday, January 17, 1 p.m.



Tuesday, January 19, 7 p.m.



Thursday, January 21, 1 p.m.



Thursday, January 21, 7 p.m.



Sunday, January 24, 1 p.m.



Questions? Please contact Rev. Rhodes.

The Heritage Pilgrim leaders are Brian Bazan, Pam Campos, Gavin Redmon, Lee Ann Skogsberg, Rev. Rhodes.

January Birthdays

Annabella Goldman	01	Joe Wayne	19
Megan Frisk	03	Luke DeFuss	20
Douglas Clack	05	Peg Knell	20
Tom Lindblom	05	Nick Campos	21
Jenna Yabsley	06	Carter Mallon	28
Sandy deRidder	08	Kelly Fischer	29
Nancy Kolowski	10		
Alex Mulligan	11		
Atticus Golubla	12		
Bryan Grube	12		
Tony Houle	12		
Sandy Lindblom	12		
Louise DeFuss	13		
Ruth Morello	14		
Daune Walden	15		
Nellie Ng	16		
Kevin Vaclavik	18		
Brodie Zenz	18		
Pam Hamblin	19		

January Anniversaries

1/2	Jeff & Julie Kline	43 years
1/25	Scott & Leslie Hart	24 years

Altar Guild

Andy & Pam Hamblin



Exciting news! YCUCC is now participating in Amazon Smile. 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.

Peace! - Aaron



Second Sunday after Christmas

WHITE

Jer 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12

Ps 147:12-20 or Wisd of Sol 10:15-21

Eph 1:3-14

Jn 1:(1-9), 10-18

Another Road

The Baptism of Christ

WHITE

Gen 1:1-5

Ps 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mk 1:4-11

Defining Moments

Second Sunday after Epiphany

GREEN

1 Sam 3:1-10, (11-20)

Ps 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Cor 6:12-20

Jn 1:43-51

Known and Loved

Third Sunday after Epiphany

GREEN

Jon 3:1-5, 10

Ps 62:5-12

1 Cor 7:29-31

Mk 1:14-20

Follow Me

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

GREEN

Deut 18:15-20

Ps 111

1 Cor 8:1-13

Mk 1:21-28

Power to Do

Welcoming & Outreach Ministry

A Year of Reflection, Gratitude and Thanks

While this year brought almost every emotion to life – good and bad.

It is always important to let the good outshine the bad.

Simply as that may sound without a solid Spiritual Foundation life can seem twice as challenging.

Throughout this year we have all witnessed through media and otherwise a staggering loss of life, jobs, business', while watching a federal government lost on their roles and the needs of our nation.

LORD Please usher in some Peace and Hope for Our people!

In HIS own unique way, Our Lord has ushered in much this year for us to grasp on to.

Family, family, family, like it or not we are all spending more time around the dinner table, talking, connecting, and naturally praying and staying together like never before.

Our Church continues to make great strides to bring us live services each and every Sunday.

Pastor Tim – Grateful for his leadership and guidance.

Christian Education –reaching out to our little ones so they can continue to grow in faith.

Stephen Ministry – reaching out to our congregation, talking to old friends and making new ones.

SLT – Shepherds Leadership Team – discussing ways to keep things fresh for our congregation while expanding our reach deeper into the outside community

Our various missions and ministries that continue to work in the background serving our community

Last but certainly not least I am Grateful for you – Our Congregation
Each and every last one of you.

Together we achieve the immeasurable.

Thank you to everyone for the success of our Virtual **AID** Christmas Tree,
the giving was literally overwhelming this year.

Who says a pandemic cannot bring out the best in our Christian Faith -
as far as my eyes can see – It has.

May we continue to always let the good shine through

Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy, Spirit-filled 2021!



A Word of Thanks!

We would like to thank the congregation for the wonderful gift baskets. We were both very surprised and overwhelmed! We love all our church family and you have been so supportive of our efforts in bringing services to you.

We cannot say thank you enough and look so forward to a time when we can be together again, face to face.

Very sincerely,

Diane and Lori



Those Grieving:

The Clayton Family, The Ruzicka Family, The Johnston Family, The Scott Family, The Schneider Family, The Knell Family, The Follmer Family, The Shatters Family

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Andrea Andres	Sue Monahan	Kylie Brewick's sister-in-law's mom - leukemia
Jim Davis	Pat Rogers	
Peg Knell	Pearl Undesser	

Health Concerns:

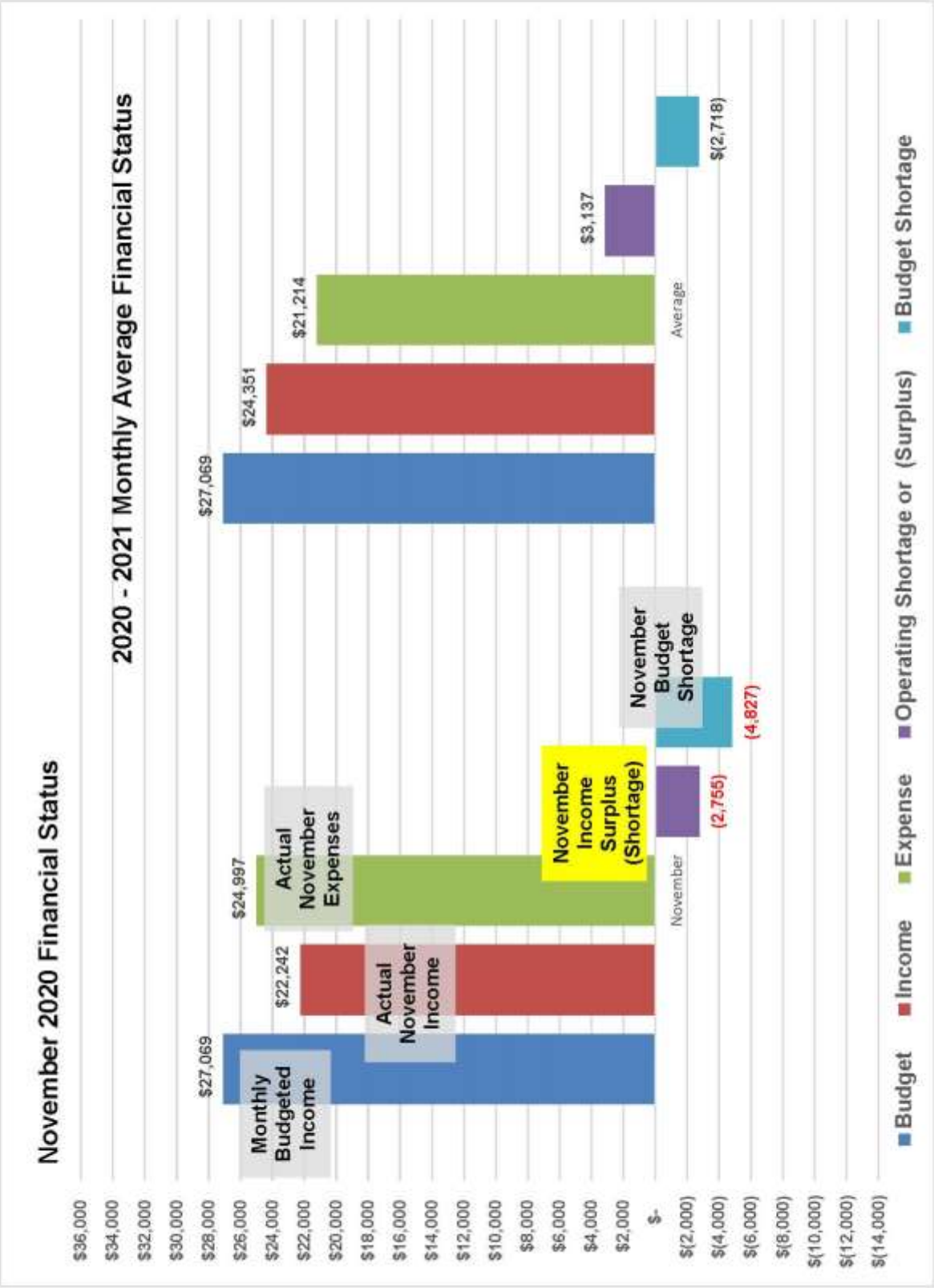
Bill Andersen	Gail Fisher	Diana Lee	Dale Prochaska
Myrah Baldwin	Mary Freeman	Kim Leszczynski	Larry Rezash
Goldie Behrens	Donna Fuss	Mazie Marshall	Tsusaki Family
Lynn Belcher	David Hembree	McKenna Middlestaedt	Marie Wayne
Earl Bushnell	Karen Hess	Joanne O'Brien	Kathy Wickens
Pat Dietz	Justine Jahp	Doug Pierce	Tina Winefordner
Jim Dirst	Nancy Kolowski	Debbie Potempa	Vaclavik Family
Joe Duran			

General Concerns:

Brian Homerding	Ruth Prince	The people who work on the front lines of the virus - doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, nursing home workers, first responders.
Justine Jahp	Michelle Terri	
Lee Kinkade	Fred Wayne	

Homebound/Assisted Living:

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.
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.

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January, 2021

