



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 Stream-
ing on
Facebook & YouTube Sunday's at 10:00 a.m.
YorkvilleUCC.Org website after 12 p.m.

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



John 13:34

***I give you a new
commandment, that
you LOVE one another.
Just as I have LOVED
you, you also should
LOVE one another.***

What is Love?

1 Cor 13:4-7

***Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or
boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its
own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not
rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.***



TIM's TALES

"That was fun!" "I learned a lot." It is good to be with my church friends again." These are a few of the responses from people who participated in the Heritage Celebration sessions. During the sessions people remembered Sunday school teachers and picnics, community changes, the church moving to the current location, and food, food, food. Remembrances of kind and generous people poured forth; some from long ago and some recent. Pastors were recalled as well as baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. People lifted the mission projects of the church from starting senior housing, food pantries and PADS. The good times were celebrated, and the challenging times remembered. Everyone shared and each memory is vital to the mosaic that is YCUCC.

What has emerged is a faithful and welcoming congregation dedicated to living the ministry of Jesus by embracing people and having a positive impact on the community. Through the decades the congregation held to its Christian values and embraced opportunities to bring God's embrace to everyone.

The Heritage Celebrations have proven such a success that we are offering more opportunities for you to participate.

- You need only attend one 90-minute session.
- If you've been in the church one year or your whole life your perspective is vital.
- You will have fun!

Please contact the church office to sign up! All sessions are available via video and telephone.

Upcoming Heritage Celebrations

Wednesday	Feb. 3	7 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 4	7 p.m.
Sunday	Feb. 7	1 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 9	7 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 10	7 p.m.
Sunday	Feb. 14	1 p.m.

Contact the
church office
to sign up!

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

I usually try to focus optimistic and positive things for my newsletter article. I try to highlight things that can get people motivated and excited about being part of their church. There are certainly plenty of things to be positive about.

We got a new sign thanks to Jim and June Davis and our building and grounds crew! Our building and grounds crew is constantly working to keep our church in good repair and looking good too.

Thanks to Barb and our CE program leadership, our church is keeping kids engaged and maintaining their ties back to the church.

The Heritage Celebration sessions, essential to our churches journey through the time between settled pastors, have received excellent feedback from all that have participated.

I really do like to focus on these positive highlights, which is why I rarely, if ever, talk about COVID-19. We all hear about it enough, right? However, it is part of our reality and the church leadership is obviously not ignoring it. We are not offering any timeline or predictions regarding when we will do this or that, however, we are strictly following the Illinois Department of Public Health mitigation plan regarding "Meetings, social events and gatherings." We are not considering resuming in person services until 50 or more people can gather, which is Phase 4 of the Illinois mitigation plan without any resurgence mitigations triggered. At the time of writing this, our region is under phase 4 tier 1 resurgence mitigations.

Simply put, I feel that it is our duty to do what we are able to do to get COVID under control. I hope and pray that this policy is met with grace, understanding and possibly even agreement.

Peace,
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. Now 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

E-GIVING

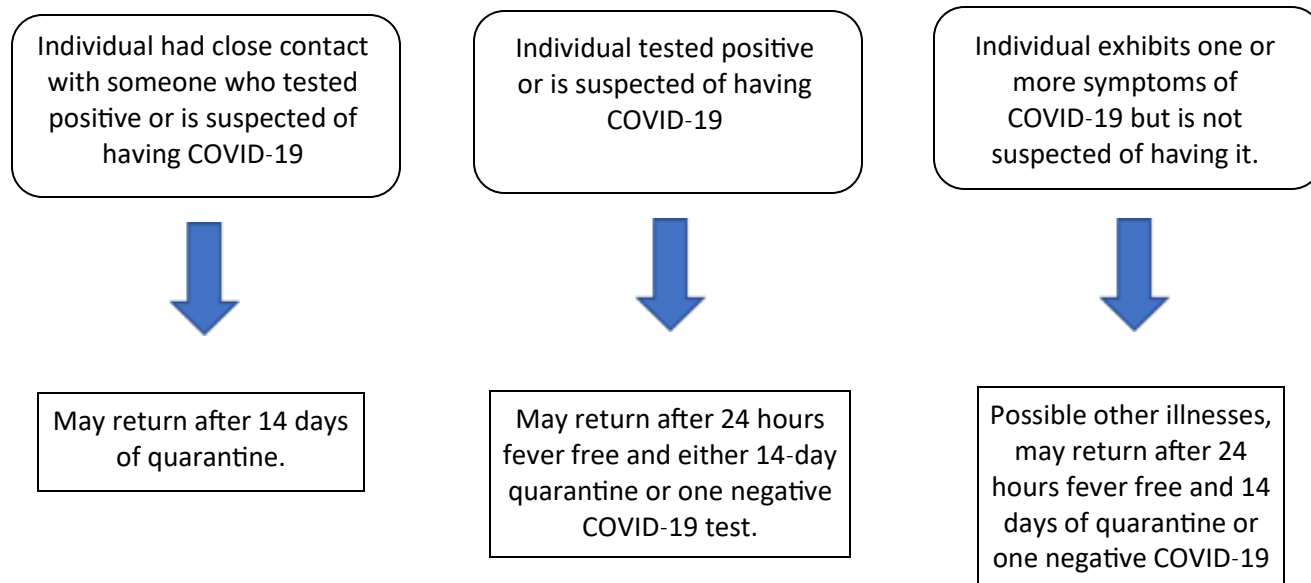
YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

We are moving forward! With Pam Hamblin's guidance and the help of Laurie Strong, the Building and Grounds men carefully put away the Christmas decorations for another year.

The committee is working to obtain bids for replacing the flat roof. We thought we could wait a few years, but we continue to have leaks in the building, and we are continuously chasing water leaks.



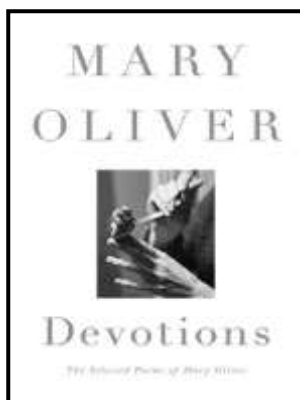
We did a sample area with the new flat roof material where we no longer need to have river rock as a ballast on the roof about 6 months ago. We agree with the finance and SLT committees that we need to do a one-time full flat roof replacement by late spring or early summer. A special group of leaders are looking to see how to finance this project and what maintenance needs to be done to keep the roofs in good repair to last their expected years of warranty coverage. Formal bids are being obtained by the Building and Grounds members and they are interviewing the contractors.

We received a letter from Steven Redmond resigning as a Sexton effective March first. We want to thank Steven for his years of service. He was thorough with his nightly checks and handled emergencies when they occurred well, and communicated what he discovered in a note or text message.

Phillip Bethke will continue as our only sexton for the next few months.

Church programs do continue during COVID-19 under restricted guidelines. If your committee is meeting by Zoom or conference calling, please let us share your group information on our church calendar so that church members know that programming is continuing.

Adult Education

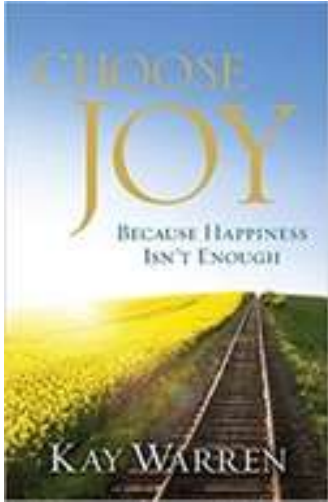


I have never enjoyed reading poetry. It was always something I wanted to enjoy, but just could not seem to get into. In January 2019, I heard the news that Mary Oliver had died. I remember hearing many emotional tributes to her and her writing. Right after that, I saw the "The Poetry of Lent: A Lenten Companion" on the SALT Project website and had to purchase the book and the Lenten devotional. I enjoyed both the poems and the devotional then put the book on my shelf where it sat until recently.

Starting at the end of 2020, I started reading just 1 or 2 of her poems every morning and it is such a wonderful way to start the day! Her poems celebrate nature, the simple things in life, taking time to notice, and finding the holy in nature and the small moments of life. She was an award-winning poet, but her poems are easy to read, clear, and easy to understand.

To Listen: For more information about Mary Oliver, listen to the On Being Project's YouTube channel 2015 interview of Mary Oliver—Listening to the world, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkJTcB27hHI>

The Lent Devotional: <https://www.saltproject.org/the-poetry-of-lent/the-poetry-of-lent-a-lenten-companion-to-mary-olivers-devotions-individual>



Choose Joy: Because Happiness Isn't Enough

Resumes Wednesday, February 3, 2021

6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in FH

Refresh of Sessions 1 & 2

View video 3 and discussion

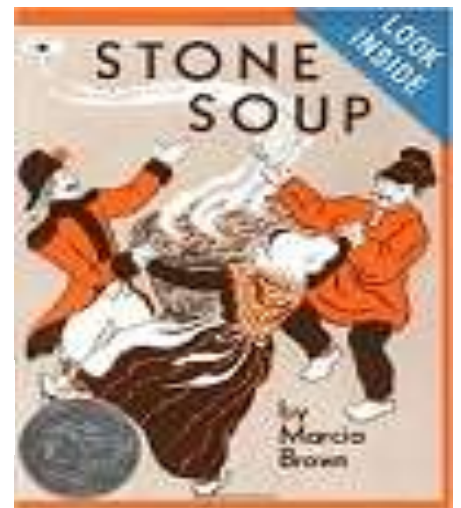
Wednesday, February 10, 2021

6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in FH

View video 4, discussion and recap of study

ALPHA 'STONE SOUP' EVENT

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director



On Saturday, February 6, 2021 there will be an Alpha gathering at the Hoover Forest Preserve. The event will run from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The theme for the event is 'Stone Soup'. The **Stone Soup** is an old European folk tale where hungry strangers convince the people of a town to each share a small amount of their food in order to make a meal that everyone enjoys. The story provides a moral lesson regarding the value of sharing.

Students will help in making the soup. While the soup cooks, students will take a mystery adventure around Hoover as they work together to 'escape' into the building. They will have to work together to discover the clues that will allow them access into the building.

This wintery social distanced teambuilding event should be a great time of bonding for our young people. Each student will be asked to bring a chopped vegetable to add to the vat of soup. Students should be at Hoover by 10:30 sharp so things can get started.

Contact Barb at ced@yorkvilleucc.org or at 630/330-4448 for more information.

Missions Ministry News

The 5 for 5 Offering "The Christmas Fund" taken up on December 20, 2020 has grown to \$2,815.00 plus. Another check came payable to Veterans of the Cross (a former name for the Christmas Fund) in the amount of \$2,500.00 (most generous donation ever), giving us a grand total of \$5,315.00. The Mission Ministry sends a BIG THANK YOU to all who gave to make this happen.

Budgeted Mission Ministry item sent in the month of January: \$300.00 to Hesed House in Aurora, Illinois.

'One Great Hour of Sharing' (OGHS), is our next 5 for 5 Offering to be collected on March 14th. Through One Great Hour of Sharing lives are transformed and we are investing in the future. More info next month.

Dates to Remember!

Date	Time	Event and Description
February 14	10 a.m. Online Worship	Love Sunday! (Photos Needed) YCUCC will celebrate God's gift of love in morning worship and your photos can help. Please send a digital copy of a photo of you with someone or something you love. Your photo will be shown in worship with other photos of loving. You may send a picture of you and your spouse or partner, a wedding photo, or a photo of you and your children, grandchildren, pet, car, favorite place, or anything or person you love. All photos must be emailed to the church office no later than Tuesday, February 9. You may also bring a photo to the church and we will scan it for you.
February 17	Online Worship	Ash Wednesday - Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time when we enhance our dedication to God through prayer and intentional living. Ash Wednesday is a 1,400-year-old ritual reminding us of our humanity and expressing our humility before God. A worship video will be posted sharing the stories and prayers of Ash Wednesday. Please look for the worship on Facebook, YouTube and Yorkvilleucc.org.
February 17	12 noon - 1 p.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Drive-Thru Ashes - We will offer "drive-thru" ash service. Come to the church parking lot, stay in your car and Rev. Rhodes will bring the ashes to you.
February 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24	Wednesday Evenings	Lenten Prayer Services - To bless you during Lent, YCUCC is offering weekly online prayer services posted Wednesday evenings. These brief services will offer music, prayers, scripture and a devotional to bless, sustain, and inspire you. Watch for them, Wednesdays on Facebook, YouTube, and Yorkvilleucc.org.

YCUCC TEACHERS ATTEND CONFERENCE

By Barb Thurlby

Several members of the Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ had the opportunity to attend the 2021 *'Living Evidence'* CPC (Children's pastor and ministry conference) in January. The conference was held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were three full days of worship, special speakers and breakout sessions. A special prayer experience was also available on the first day. A plethora of interesting and informative topics made it difficult to decide which ones to attend. Classes were broken into categories of: Children's Ministry Foundations, Beyond the Basics, Leadership, Volunteers, Culture & Community, Discipleship, Special Needs Ministry, Early Childhood, Grief & Trauma Competency, and Tough Topics. A COVID-19 Panel discussion was also available.

It was an incredible time to soak up ministry information and connect with new ideas for our church programming. I have had the opportunity, through the incredible support of the church and SLT board, to attend the conference for the past three years. I was thrilled that many of our CE team had the opportunity, and took it, to join in this amazing training event. It was definitely one of the highlights of this year in COVID-19.



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



Stewardship Thought...

LUKE 12:22-31

Don't worry about the food you need to stay alive
or about the clothes you need for your body..

God knows you need these things.

Instead, be concerned with obeying God
and God will provide you with what you need.

February Birthdays

Jean Anderson	01	Emily Frisk	18
Diana Lee	01	Steve Gawne	18
Ken Olvera	03	Alissa Prochaska-Jones	18
Mathew Patterson	03	Bob Anderson	19
Carol Schulz	04	Philip Gaebler	19
Carla Skinner	05	Lennox Strong	19
Fred Gaebler	06	Joanna Goss	20
Randy Ems	07	Hadley Vaclavik	20
Lori Melhouse	07	Sadie Pottinger	22
Lauren Rhodes	07	Kylie Brewick	23
Joe Stablein	09	Bob Thurlby	23
Leslie Inukai	10	Ken Vogus	23
Kara Yabsley	11	Connie Dickson	24
Amy Corwin	12	Myrah Baldwin	25
Alex Goldman	12	Alex McLeod	27
Kyle Mulligan	12	Cory Strong	27
Anthony Gelsomino	13	Joan McEachern	28
Andy Hamblin	13	DJ Melhouse	28
Liam Rhodes	13	Marcella Culberson	29
Megan Gelsomino	15		

February Anniversaries

2/10	Doug & Peg Trumble	48 years
2/10	Louise & Carrie DeFuss	9 years
2/12	Jim & Sue Shalek	44 years
2/15	Douglas & Coral Clevenger	29 years
2/21	Chris & Stacy Skinner	12 Years

Altar Guild

Andy & Pam Hamblin

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

GREEN

Isa 40:21-31

Ps 147:1-11, 20c

1 Cor 9:16-23

Mk 1:29-39

Source of Strength

Transfiguration

WHITE or GREEN

2 Kings 2:1-12

Ps 50:1-6

2 Cor 4:3-6

Mk 9:2-9

Compassionate Community

First Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Gen 9:8-17

Ps 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mk 1:9-15

God's Loving Paths

Second Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Gen 17:1-7, 15-16

Ps 22:23-31

Rom 4:13-25

Mk 8:31-38 or Mk 9:2-9

Always Close

Looking for a Spirit-Filled Practice for Lent?

Check out the UCC daily devotional. Authors from around the country share uplifting perspectives that comfort, inspire, and challenge us. If you wish, you may have it delivered to your email each day. www.ucc.org/daily-devotional

A Love Story from the Bible

Ruth and Boaz (Read the story in Ruth 1-4 now) From: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>

What happens?

Ruth, a widow and full-time care giver of her mother-in-law, Naomi, took up work with Naomi's relative, Boaz. Ruth providing for the mother of her deceased husband was seen as noble by Boaz, and he looked upon her favorably – despite the fact she was a "foreigner". Boaz cared for Ruth and sent her to work in a field full of young women to ensure that the young men did not assault her.

Ruth sleeps with Boaz (no hanky-panky) and is told that, should she not find a "redeemer" that Boaz himself will "redeem" her. A potential redeemer comes, but is put off when Boaz tells that Ruth is part of the deal; apparently he was only after the land and not a woman on the side. Therefore, Boaz takes Ruth as his wife and with it inherits her land – thus keeping it in the family.

What does this show us about love?

Boaz has Ruth's best interests at heart and does all he can to ensure that she remains safe. Indicating that true love is about protecting, caring, and supporting for the one that you love.



Those Grieving:

The Dirst Family, The Redden Family, The Scott Family, The Shatters Family

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Andrea Andres	Dale Perkins
Peg Knell	Pat Rogers
Sue Monahan	Pearl Undesser

Health Concerns:

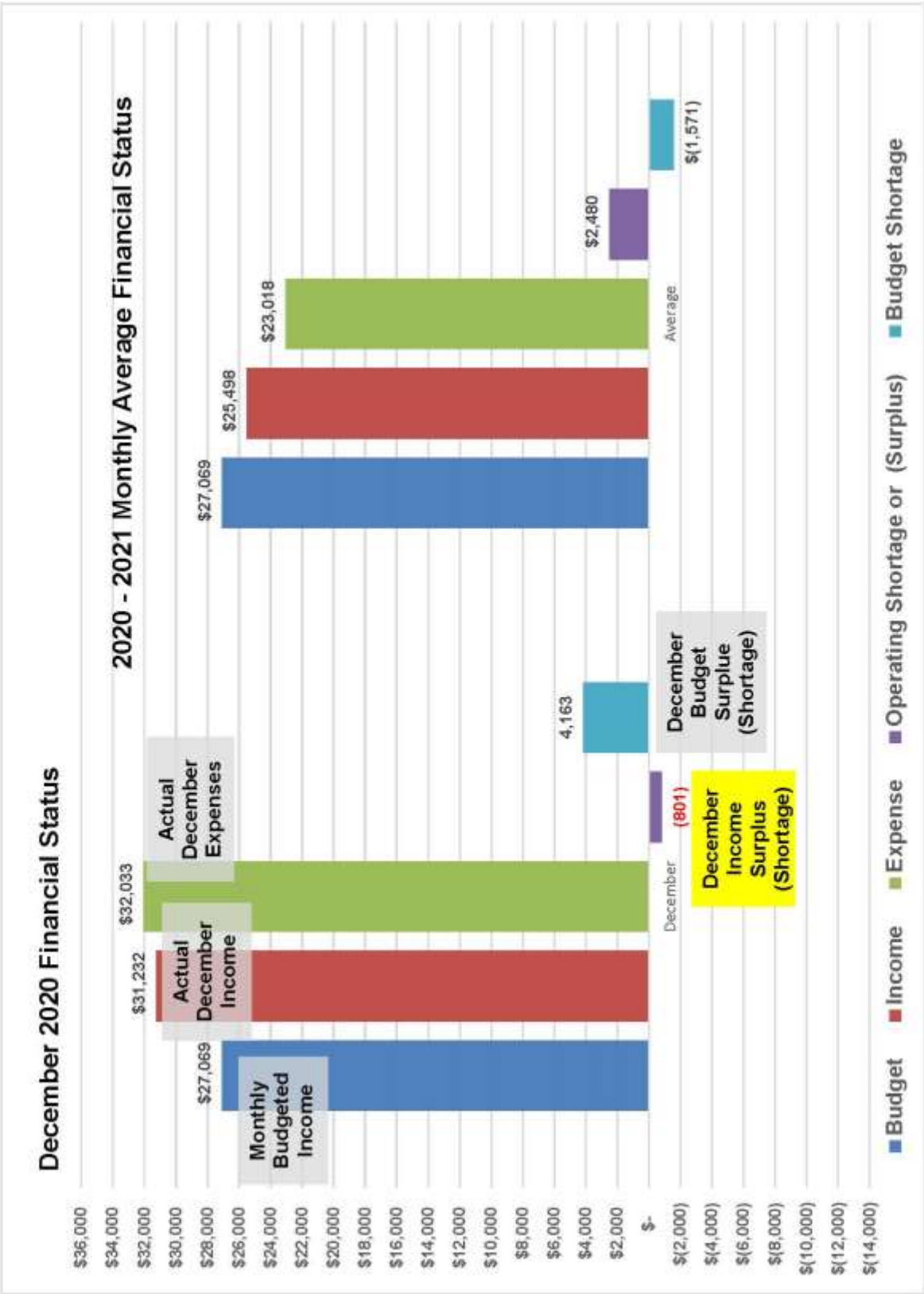
Bill Andersen	Joe Duran	Carlene Hudgins	Doug Pierce
Myrah Baldwin	Brenda Farren	Justine Jahp	Dale Prochaska
Jackie (Phil)	Gail Fisher	Nancy Kolowski	Larry Rezash
Goldie Behrens	Veronica Forney	Jonathon Lamp	Vaclavik Family
Lynn Belcher	Mary Freeman	Diana Lee	Fred Wayne
Earl Bushnell	Donna Fuss	Kim Leszczynski	Marie Wayne
Louise DeFuss	David Hembree	Mazie Marshall	Donna Whitfield
Pat Dietz	Karen Hess	Joanne O'Brien	

General Concerns:

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

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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February, 2021

**Happy
Valentine's
Day**