



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.

By reservation only:

Worship Services: Sunday's @ 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Live Streaming on Facebook & YouTube at 10:00 a.m.

Posted on YorkvilleUCC.org website after 12:00 p.m.

Sunday School Classes: 10:00 a.m.

Our Staff

Minister

Building Manager

Christian Education Director

Administrative Assistant

Chancel Choir Director

Children's Choir Director

Organist

Pianist

Childcare Attendants

Custodians

Sexton

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

Phillip Bethke

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

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

March
2021

Knock and
the Door
will be Opened...

Jesus

In-person Worship begins
March 7, 2021
by reservation



TIM's TALES

Prayer makes us healthier—relieves stress, increases focus, and helps us live a longer, happier life. Dr. Herbert Benson, at Harvard Medical School found that prayer decreases metabolism, slows the heart rate, reduces blood pressure and we become calmer. Prayer boosts the immune system and can help us recover from illness quicker according to a University of Cincinnati study. University of Pennsylvania found that prayer increases our sense of well-being and joy.

Prayer seems a splendid antidote in the grip of a pandemic winter of snows and cold. Prayer can soothe the strains that hold us back from joy, ease the isolation of loneliness and connect us to the divine presence in our lives.

Prayer need not be difficult. Find a moment to be quiet. Breathe deeply a few times. Then talk with God as if you're talking with a genial friend. *"God, this is what is on my heart today"* is a good place to begin. You might include a few items that you are thankful for. And ask God's blessing on the ways you wish for life to grow. When you're done talking—listen. Listen to the silence or the thrum of God's presence speaking in your soul.

Between now and Easter we will be sharing Wednesday evening praise and prayer services online. These simple services will engage you in song and prayer. Join us on Facebook, YouTube or through Yorkvilleucc.org and you might be healthier and filled with joy.

In this long winter of Covidtime I find myself ever in need of persistent prayer. I find relief from anxiety, focus for my day, and refreshment for my soul. I hope you'll join me in prayer.

Church Office Covid-19 Protocol

Due to 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 50 people, masked, and appropriately distanced.



Missions Ministry News

Another donation was received for the 5 for 5 offering "The Christmas Fund" giving a new total of \$5,340.00. Again, thanks to everyone who made this happen.

Our next 5 for 5 offering "One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)", will be collected on Sunday, March 14, 2021. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck, help is received through our giving. Last year we gave \$199.00 total. Let the Love Flow and let us give freely and increase our number this year. You can mail a check to the church marked for 5 for 5 OGHS Offering; give to our church on-line at www.yorkvilleucc.org; bring your offering marked "5 for 5 OGHS" to the church office; deposit it in the black mail box outside the front doors; or place it in the offering plate March 14th during the worship service.

Budgeted Mission Ministry item sent in the month of February for \$350.00 was sent to the Senior Services of Kendall County.



From the Desk of the Chair

Don't let the winter drag you down. Spring is near! The dragging on of winter and the anticipation of spring represents an almost perfect parallel to how life, in general, feels for some right now. Whether the seasons are cause or coincidental to our mood, the timing is nevertheless remarkable. So too is the timing of Lent. In the midst of everything we are reminded to be patient, stay disciplined, remain focused, and keep our eyes on what is important to us.

Where our experiences tell us that warmth and new growth will come with spring, our faith should tell us that there will be similar resurgence in our lives, the lives of others, and our church. Luckily, as opposed to the change of the seasons, to which we are powerless observers, we have a role to play in this resurgence.

I feel like this is a call to action and participation, which it is, but at the same time our church is so full of action already. I feel like I'm giving a pep talk to an empty locker room and the team has already stormed the field. Let's all get involved.

- We are moving back to two in-person church services on March 7th (reservation only).
- Wednesday Lenten prayer services are being streamed online.
- Opportunities for our children just keep coming thanks to Barb and the CE team.
- Our caring ministries are doing an excellent job of reaching out and supporting people.
- A book discussion group is working on "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents".
- People are getting vaccinated!

There is so much going on at your church. Make sure you are part of it!

Peace,

Aaron Shatters
SLT Chairperson

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

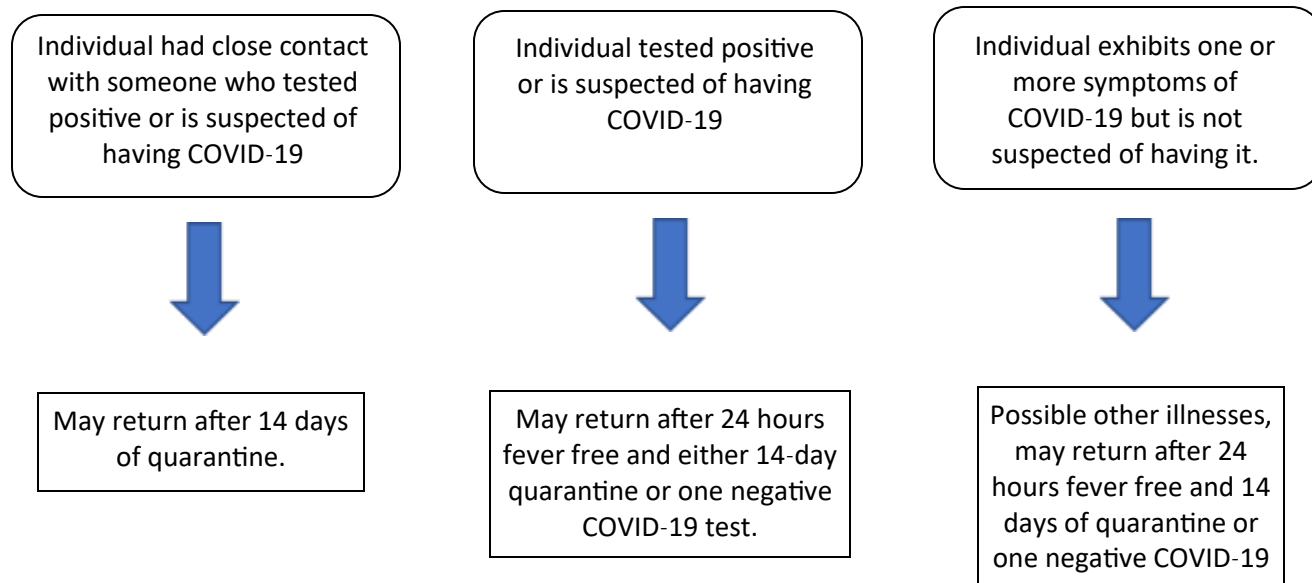
YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Building and Grounds committee are reviewing bids for replacing the flat roof. We have several areas now that are leaking. Our men are getting tired of chasing water to find where the leaks are originating. Below are photos showing you our current leaks in the northwest hallway near the children's library corner, classroom, and sound room. We are reviewing proposals and looking at a better way to improve the water flow off of the flat roof in hopes of correcting the areas that have been major leak areas in the past. Our goal is to have a recommendation to the SLT and the congregation so that the work can be done this summer.



Hallway by the children's library



Classroom



Sound room



This is the sample area we did to see how the new flat roof without a rock ballast would respond to our weather and water flow. We have been pleased.

We met weekly on Tuesdays and then do general maintenance and repairs. I want to thank Tony Houle, Jeff Kline, and Andy Hamblin for coming over and shoveling and salting our walkways.

Lenten Prayer Season Continues Online
Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.
through March 24, 2021

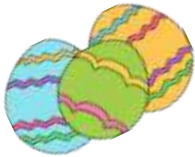
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ is a wonderful congregation! We are full of love, acceptance, generosity, goodwill and support. What more could we ask for? Well, we are asking for a few good folks to volunteer to be mentors to confirmation students. Young people are the future of our church and the support of adult church members can make the difference in their decisions to continue in the church long term.

We have a few confirmation students this year and others coming up next year. Won't you consider being a mentor to one of our youngsters? The rewards will far out way the work!

Contact Barb Thurlby for more information.



Candy Collection for Easter Egg Hunt

We are collecting candy for our Easter Egg Hunt. Please place candy in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

Thank You for Your Donation!

Help Us Keep In Touch!

Have you changed your cell phone number or email? Dropped your landline phone? Moved recently?

Please contact the church office and give us your updated Information.

Thank You!

Update on Pastors Mark & Michelle

We asked to include this in the newsletter, because we want to update everyone on our life, 7 months after retiring. We finally sold our home! YEAH! We close the sale in mid-March.

However, we were unable to find a home in Montrose, CO, where we want to live in retirement (BOO!) because there just weren't a lot of homes on the market (kind of like here in Yorkville). So, we have rented a small townhouse in the hopes that over the next year, a home we like and can afford will appear on the market.

We will be moving to Colorado in mid-March. New (and temporary) address will be 1834 Estates Dr, Unit A, Montrose, CO 81401. We would love to extend an invitation to come visit, but at this point we are not sure there will be enough room in the rental place for us, our dogs, and our stuff! So give us a chance to get settled in a permanent home, and then come visit! We will keep everyone apprised of our moving adventure and final location!!

God's blessings to you all. Thanks again for 12 wonderful years, working together, worshipping, and serving God together, eating together, and living life together!

We miss you all.

Love in Christ,

Pastors Mark & Michelle



CALLING ALL STITCHERS!

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director



Hey Knit and Crochet connoisseurs! We are looking for some people that like to knit or crochet. We have an opportunity to make baby blankets for a local hospital. Maybe you haven't pulled those needles out in a while, or maybe you are looking to begin a new hobby; either way, we can use your artistic abilities to keep some tiny ones warm. They do not need to be huge, maybe 24x24 or 24x30, just enough to snuggle a sweet one!

We will be collecting the blankets until March 31st. Contact Barb Thurlby with questions.



A New Exciting Mission

This is a new temporary mission group that started this past month. Our goal is to reach out to church members during this COVID 19 time to let them know that they are missed and that we are thinking about them. We hope to contact ALL our families. During this first month we baked and delivered cookies to 60 families. We box up a dozen assorted cookies and tie a tag onto the box with a short message. On the back side of the message are the names of the bakers and who delivered the cookies. I give the drivers a list of addresses and phone numbers, and off they go. We have been amazed at the response from this simple act of kindness from our church family. Emails, text messages, phone calls and personal notes have been coming in every week thanking us for this sweet act of caring. These little boxes of cookies have put smiles on those receiving and those delivering and baking.



I would like to thank those who have been bakers: Diane Dillow, Sue Kimes, Pam Hamblin, Goldie Behrens, Laurie Strong



Our drivers have been, Jeff and Julie Kline, Andy and Pam Hamblin, Jim Davis, Tony Houle, Art Prochaska, Diane Dillow and Pastor Tim Rhodes.

If you would like to join this mission either as a baker or delivery person, please let me know. We box up the cookies on Tuesdays between noon and 1:00 pm and then deliver them Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday.

Mary Ellen Anderson 630-674-4345



YCC Tag Team Mission

ALPHA GROUP ENJOYS 'STONE SOUP' EVENT

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

On Saturday, February 6, 2021 Alpha students from Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ tackled the cold wintery weather for our 'Stone Soup' event at Hoover Forest Preserve.

The preserve was snow covered and temperatures were at 6 degrees on the brisk Saturday morning; however, it did not hinder the students from enjoying their event and fellowship. Each student brought something to add to the 'stone' soup cooked outside by Outdoor Education teacher Deanna Bazan. The story of Stone Soup is an old European tale that encourages people to share so that all may enjoy. The students worked together on an outdoor escape event that led them to clues that would ultimately give them access to the warm building. It was an adventure they wholeheartedly embarked on together.

There were large amounts of laughter, giggling, teamwork, snowballs, snow diving and plenty of warm soup and hot chocolate. The event was so well received they asked to do it again! Nice job Alpha and thank you Ms. Bazan for your leadership.



Stewardship Thought...

God will give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause!

II Cor. 9:8

Worship Serving and Media

In person services are back!

With that, the media group needs help with worship services!
Know what a computer is? Can you follow directions? That's all you need!
You will shadow us until you are comfortable working on your own.

Contact Lori Redmon, Diane Stablein, Pastor Tim or
contact the church office and Liz will forward your message on to us.

Diane Stablein - Media Shepherd
Lori Redmon - Worship Serving Shepherd



Easter Lily Order Form

Each year we offer an opportunity for our members and friends to share in decorating our Sanctuary for Easter with Lilies!

The price for each Lily is \$10.00

If you would like to order, please complete the information below & mail the form to 409 Center Parkway, Yorkville, IL 60560 with your check payable to YCUCC or place it in the offering bin no later than

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Please indicate exactly how you would like each gift to be acknowledged.

In Memory Of _____

In Honor of _____

Love Gift _____

When would you like to pick up your Lily(s)?

After the Easter Service? _____ Yes _____ No

The following week? _____ Yes _____ No

Would you like to give it to a shut-in? _____ Yes _____ No

Would you like it to be planted at the church? _____ Yes _____ No

Number of Lilies ordered _____ @ \$10.00 each.

Total Amount Enclosed _____



Christ caring for people through people



One Year of Covid-19. We continue to struggle with frustration, loneliness, illness, loss of job, personal or family issues, loss of a loved one...the list goes on.

Stephen Ministers have reached out to YCUCC members through phone calls and cards. We have discovered some wrong contact information on the church directory. If you have not been contacted by a Stephen Minister, PLEASE give us a call. We are Available!

Contact Pastor Tim, Carrie DeFuss or Lou Ann Hoffman



YCUCC's 2021 Spring Rummage & Bake Sale scheduled for April 23rd & 24th has been canceled!

Although YCUCC will once again have in-person worship services beginning March 7, 2021, compliance with health guidelines limits the gathering of people to 50 at any given time; therefore, it will not be possible for J.O.Y. Circle to host the 2021 Spring Rummage & Bake Sale at Yorkville Congregation United Church of Christ.

It would be highly unlikely J.O.Y. Circle members could maintain CDC's social distancing guidelines of keeping patrons and workers six feet apart, enforce the wearing of masks at all times, plus maintain a limit of only 50 people to physically be in the building at any given time. We do not want to put any of our workers/volunteers/customers at risk due to COVID-19.

If you are willing to save items you planned to donate to the 2021 Spring Rummage Sale for the 2021 Fall R&B Sale, we thank you!!

2021 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale -- September 17th & 18th

YCUCC is not accepting donations at this time!
J.O.Y. Circle will be happy to receive your "Treasures" the week of the scheduled fall sale.

Reminder: Items 'NOT' Accepted for Donation:

Electronics (TVs, computers, printers, typewriters, land/cell phones, fax equipment),
infant/child car and/or booster seats, any size mattress, cribs

On behalf of J.O.Y. Circle, thank you very much for your continued support
of our church family and community!

Peg Trumble

J.O.Y. Circle Chair / R&B Sale Chair

Helping a Family in Need

A brain cancer has returned in a member of the YCUCC family and his recovery will be long. The church is helping him and his family by collecting gift cards to stores like Jewel, Target, and Walmart as well as gas cards and cash donations. All donations will go to help the family. You may mail or drop off your donation to the church office. Mary Ann Doetschman and Rev. Rhodes will shepherd the collections.

If you would like to be part of the meal chain, please contact Doug Trumble.

Omega

(HIGH SCHOOLERS)

'NACHOS & NERFS' NIGHT

Friday, march 5, 2021

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



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



**Candy donations needed!!

YCC EASTER EGG HUNT
SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021
11:00 A.M.



Candy donations collected at the church



SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS MARCH 7, 2021

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ will welcome Sunday School students back to Sunday School beginning Sunday, March 7, 2021. The church will follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing, which will include wearing masks, taking temperatures upon arrival and using hand sanitizer. Each of these requirements will happen prior to entering the classroom area. Students will be social distanced in learning areas also.

Once again, we will ask parents of younger students to drop students at Ms. Mary Ellen's classroom and pick them up at the Fellowship Hall Door located by the kitchen serving window.

Elementary students should enter and exit at the Fellowship Hall door located by the welcome station. All students will need to be picked up by parents after service. At this time, there will be no coffee fellowship.

Currently we are studying parables of the bible. The first Sunday back we will appropriately be studying the story of the prodigal son and there will be a great celebration as students return.

Contact Ms. Barb at ced@yorkvilleuucc.org or 630/330-4448 with questions.



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

Outreach & Welcoming



We are not always like our neighbors. They may have different backgrounds, faith journeys, or family structures, but God invites us to invest in the people and the places where we find ourselves.

Get to know your neighbors, wherever you are and whoever they are. Seek their peace and prosperity. Invest in them. They are your community.

Prayer: *Father help us to be bearers of peace and prosperity in the communities where you have placed us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

March Birthdays

Phyllis Yabsley	03	Avery Andersen	15
Matthew Bazan	06	Deborah Myers	18
Mary Freeman	06	Ray Wheaton	20
Chris Skinner	06	Matthew Gette	23
Fred Dickson	10	Jonah Hart	23
Darlene Niesen	10	Timothy Kolowski	23
Laurie Strong	10	Troy List	24
Katelyn Gette	12	Benjamin DeFuss	25
Harold McCracken	12	Jacob DeFuss	25
Dale Perkins	12	Tim Sartori	26
Gayle Jacobs	14	Sue Frahm	27
Christine Keith	14	Greyson Tsusaki	30
Caleb Vaclavik	14	Michael Obenauer	31
Harper Vaclavik	14		

March Anniversaries

3/14	Zachary & Amanda Seibel	1 year
3/15	Stephen & Carole Guenzler	35 years
3/25	Ken & Marilyn Vogus	43 years
3/31	Aaron & Sondra Shatters	14 years

Altar Guild

Andy & Pam Hamblin

Third Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Ex 20:1-17

Ps 19

1 Cor 1:18-25

Jn 2:13-22

Beautiful Law

Fourth Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Num 21:4-9

Ps 107:1-3, 17-22

Eph 2:1-10

Jn 3:14-21

No Matter What

Fifth Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Jer 31:31-34

Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16

Heb 5:5-10

Jn 12:20-33

Deep In Our Hearts

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday

VIOLET

Ps 118:1-2, 19-29

Mk 11:1-11 or Jn 12:12-16

Into Jerusalem

Passover begins



Yorkville Congregational UCC is registered for Rural King's "Church Week" taking place March 14, 2021 through March 27, 2021. Rural King, in Plano on Rt. 34, will donate 10% of each valid Rural King receipt's total after sales tax to the registered organization chosen by the customer. Receipts must be dated between March 14, 2021 and March 27, 2021 to qualify. All receipts must be uploaded to <http://www.ruralking.com/churchweek> by April 1, 2021.



Those Grieving:

The Dirst Family, The Redden Family

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Andrea Andres	Dale Perkins
Peg Knell	Dusty Rhodes
Sue Monahan	Pat Rogers
Dave Patterson	Pearl Undesser

Health Concerns:

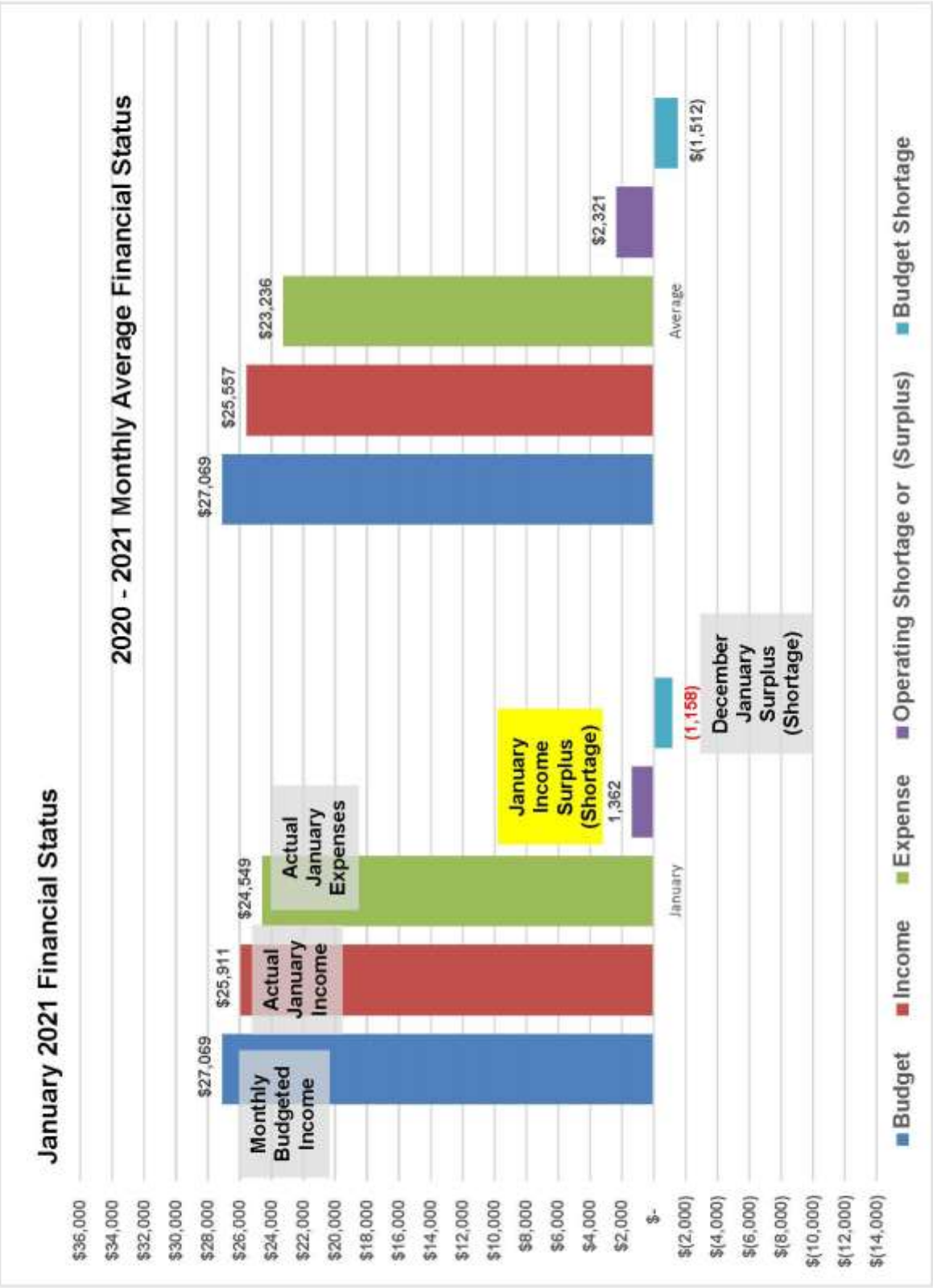
Bill Andersen	Pat Dietz	Karen Hess	Joanne O'Brien
Myrah Baldwin	Joe Duran	Carlene Hudgins	Doug Pierce
Jackie (Phil)	Brenda Farren	Justine Jahp	Dale Prochaska
Lynn Belcher	Gail Fisher	Nancy Kolowski	Larry Rezash
Chris Brisbin	Veronica Forney	Diana Lee	Vaclavik Family
Earl Bushnell	Mary Freeman	Kim Leszczynski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

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.
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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March, 2021

