



## Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

409 Center Parkway  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
Phone: 630/553-7308  
E-Mail: [adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org](mailto:adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org)  
Web Page: [www.yorkvilleucc.org](http://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 at 10 a.m. in-person fully  
masked regardless of vaccination status.

Live streaming on  
Facebook & YouTube Sunday's at 10:00 a.m.

YorkvilleUCC.Org website after 12 p.m.

### 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  
Robin Campos  
Rhonda Ladson  
Dakota Shatters  
Tim & Laurie Strong  
Phillip Bethke

### 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  
Wendy Walker  
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

## January

## 2022



*God doesn't  
call the qualified,  
God qualifies the called.*



*New Year, new beginnings!*



## **TIM's TALES**

Among the guiding stars of my life is Howard Thurman. His writings are ever fresh and compelling. 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 blesses the New Year. It is published 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.



## **Join in Remembrance Sunday, January 9, 10 a.m. Worship**

In the embrace of God's eternal grace, Yorkville Congregational UCC will gather in person, on Facebook Live and You Tube to celebrate the lives of those who died in 2021. The members of YCUCC who died will be named and commemorated during the service. Also celebrated will be those who died from Covid 19 and the countless people who have touched our lives and passed on. The service will feature prayers, a homily, and uplifting music.

If you are participating remotely, please have a candle at home to light during the service to commemorate the life of people you loved who have died.



## ***From the Desk of the Chair***

Happy New Year!

The end of one year and the start of another tends to be a good time to reflect, recenter ourselves and look ahead in anticipation. It is a good time to dream, aspire and set new goals.

Many people make new year's resolutions. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, after any necessary recovery, I will start or stop this or that.

Often times our resolutions are vague, like "get in better shape" or "eat a healthier diet" or "spend more time with family" or "spend less time on my phone".

Other times they are just too lofty or unsustainable, like "go to the gym 5 days a week" or "stop eating refined sugar" or "delete all social media apps" or "be a competent parent and loving husband".

We optimistically trust that the new year commands a magical power that the previous year was not allowed access to. We plan for these resolutions to take effect upon the change of the calendar year. Things that were not important enough to make happen yesterday will become important enough to make happen tomorrow. With one fell swoop I am now, officially, better.

Well, things just don't happen like that. The new year will hold the same struggles, impediments, frustrations and temptations as the last, and we will likely be equipped with the same aptitudes, tendencies, strengths and weaknesses. These things don't change overnight.

What can change overnight is our awareness of what is truly important to us. To what should your compass be trained? It is the difference between setting a course and arriving at a destination. Choose your direction and keep walking, one step at a time. One decision at a time. One day at a time.

In 2005 I created a list of what was most important to me. I tried, with varying levels of success, to filter everything through the lens of that list. It was a different point in my life, so I had different things on my list than I do today. I was in the middle of remodeling my house. I wasn't married and didn't have any children. It was relatively early in my career and it was before I became involved here at YCUCC. In 2005, my list was: my family, my health, my house and my work.

Today, my list is a little different: my family, my health and my church. YCUCC is important to me because I care about the good work the church does and because I care about the people that do it.

What is most important to you? To what will you train your compass? Choose your direction and keep walking, one step at a time.

Peace and Happy New Year!

Aaron Shatters  
SLT Chairperson

## **STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY JANUARY 2021**

Our Pledge-Giving Campaign entitled "Rooted In Love" (Psalm 1:3a), dedicated on Sunday, November 14, 2021 is completed. Forty-three pledges were received totaling \$196,432.00. This number is really good. The highest we have had pledged in a long time. The Stewardship Ministry thanks everyone; including our testimonial speakers during the campaign.

Stewardship Thought – Malachi 3:10 Bring your tithes to the Temple... and I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things.

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2021

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

The Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ Children's Christmas Pageant was held on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at the 10:00 a.m. church service. The delightful pageant was directed by Sondra Shatters, assisted by Peg Trumble, and accompanied by Lori Runkle.

Several YCUCC students participated in the special annual production. The program, 'Sing a Song of Christmas,' with words and music by Ed Kee and Rhonda Frazier, created a beautiful celebration of Christmas in song. The performance was the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season. Thank you, students, for your hard work and commitment; it certainly paid off. Special thanks to Sondra, Peg and Lori for your dedication and leadership and to Aaron Shatters for assistance with sound and production.





## Building and Grounds

Mary Ellen Anderson  
630-553-7308  
[Bldmgr@yorkvilleucc.org](mailto:Bldmgr@yorkvilleucc.org)

We are always busy with many projects going on around the building!  
Join us Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon  
*No experience needed just a willing heart!*

Happy New Year to everyone as we move into 2022. We are excited and full of Hope for an exciting healthy year. If you come on Tuesday, January 11th at 9:00 a.m., you can help take down the Christmas decorations and put them back into storage. Pam Hamblin has labeled containers for everything to go into storage up in the north furnace room. The members of the Building and Grounds committee would appreciate your help with this huge project. If you can come for an hour, it would be appreciated.

The group added additional stone to level off the south parking lot. A special thank you to Fred, Marie and Joe Wayne for hauling gravel to assist in this much needed project. Gravel was used to level off the parking area and also added in front of the dumpster area to assist when the heavy garbage trucks drive for pickup.

Thank you to Jeff and Julie Kline for donating a snowblower to the church. This is greatly appreciated as we look toward the winter season.

The Building and Grounds men will be looking ahead to see what our spring and summer projects might be. We have two windows to install, garden preparation and clean up to do after the winter to welcome the beautiful spring flowers that will be popping up.

This committee meets weekly on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. and are always looking for additional members who like to work on general repairs and other projects as they come up.



**CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT 2021**



**On behalf of the Yorkville Junior Women's Club  
And the Kendall County Food Pantry,  
Thank You!**

**This was the best ever Christmas collection.  
Our hearts were  
overwhelmed with gratitude by your kindness.**



**A huge THANK YOU on behalf of AID to  
the many donors of this year's Christmas  
giving tree! Your generosity and giving spirit  
indeed blessed the lives of many AID  
residents this Christmas season.**

## **Outreach and Welcoming**

Greetings and Happy New Year!

There is always something special about going into a New Year.

Fresh starts, resolutions, new commitments, the list can go on.

For many of us, it is about reviewing the journey of the past 12 months. Seeing where we can increase our faith, ensure children continue their spiritual growth, pray more, be kinder, allow our lord to work in our lives as He intended. While there are many ways to accomplish this, I believe it all starts with purposeful intention. Wishing everyone in our Church family and their extended families a New Year complete with good health, much love, laughter, an abundance of joy and purposeful intentions.

Outreach and welcoming ministry are putting together a focus group of a few select individuals from our congregation to assist in the development of our ministry.

If you are interested in discussing this further, please do not hesitate to reach out to Gere' Ryerson for additional information.

Peace, Love and Joy to All!



# WELCOME 2022 – HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

Here we are, welcoming another new year! As we reflect on the past year, I hope we consider how we use our time. In that consideration, I hope you contemplate the blessing of service and fellowship by connecting with programs at Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ. We have a plethora of activities and programs that provide connectedness, fellowship and relationship building all while serving our Lord. You might consider one of the following ministries:

**Stephen's Ministry** – a ministry that serves those struggling and need a caring person during a challenging time.

**Adult and Children's' Choir**- fabulous ministries that provides the blessings of music to our church family and those that listen online from across the states.

**Sunday School** – volunteer to teach or sub in a Sunday School class, the blessings are far bigger than the commitment.

**Outreach and Evangelism**—this important ministry serves to welcome all newcomers and works to connect our church with our community.

**Confirmation** – mentors connect with students to help them walk through their confirmation and beyond.

**Altar Guild** – a wonderful ministry that helps prepare our beautiful sanctuary for the worship services each week.

**Building and Grounds** – this committed group of men gather weekly to address the physical needs of the church and its grounds.

**Missions and Stewardship** – the missions ministry is vital to the foundation of YCUCC and our service to those in and around our community and beyond.

**Worship** – a dedicated group of people that provide the background and prep work needed to provide a service each week for in person and online attendees.

**Nursery** – the valuable Nursery team provides childcare for little visitors under age 3 during each church service.

**Shepherd Leadership Team** – consider taking a leadership role to help our church progress and grow.

These amazing ministries are a few of the happenings at our church. As we welcome the new year of 2022, I hope you will connect with your church family and get involved.



# CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE SUCCESS

By Barb Thurlby, Christian Education Director

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ sponsored a successful Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 5, 2021. Several members of the church rallied to create our first drive-through Cookie Sale. Pre-orders of one or more dozen cookies were received prior to the sale and boxed, ready for pick up on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The sale was open to the community from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Diane Dillow led a large group of bakers from the congregation that offered up a fantastic variety of Christmas cookies and candies for the event. She gathered a group of workers to box cookies, label cookies and decorate on Friday before the sale.

Though the venue was different than in past years, it was well received, and the church earned approximately \$1800.00 in cookie sales before expenses. Thank you to Diane, the bakers and the workers that helped pull off the successful event.



**SPAGHETTI DINNERS  
ARE STILL ON HOLD.  
Watch for more  
information**

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 1 New Year's Day
2 Epiphany— <b>Mary's Baby</b> Shower 10:00 am Worship No Sunday School Communion Sunday Blanket Mission Continues	3 <div>Office closed</div>	4 9:00 am Building and Grounds—maintenance 7:00 pm Spiritual Dev Grp	5 11:00 am Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Sonshine Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	6	7	
9 Remembrance Sunday 9:00 am Adult SS-Conf Rm 10:00 am Worship Sunday School Soup Sunday—VBS 11:00 am WSG-Conf Rm Blanket Mission Ends	10 6:30 pm LYN Mtg via Zoom	11 9:00 am Building and Grounds—maintenance 10:00 am Pastoral Care 7:00 pm Book Discussion On Google Meets 7:00 pm SM Supervision	12 11:00 am Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Sonshine Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Pastoral Care 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	13 6:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm SLT Meeting	14 <div>Newsletter &amp; Calendar Items Due</div>	15 Richard Huston Funeral at 11:00 a.m.
16 10:00 am Worship Sunday School 11:00 am Green Group FH & Kitchen—2 hrs B & G Need whiteboard & markers setup on easel	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day <div>Office closed</div>	18 9:00 am Building and Grounds—maintenance Joy Circle @ noon 7:00 pm Book Discussion On Google Meets 7:00 pm Spiritual Dev Grp	19 11:00 am Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Sonshine Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Adult SS-Conf Rm 10:00 am Worship Sunday School	24	25 9:00 am Building and Grounds—maintenance 7 pm Book Discussion On Google Meets	26 11:00 am Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Sonshine Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship Sunday School 4:00 pm Chili Cookoff &	31					

# Adult Education

2020 and 2021 were difficult years and I am definitely looking forward to a fresh new year! COVID has had many of us reevaluating what is important and given us a chance to rethink how we used to do things. For many of us, our faith and our church are important. For this fresh new year, I challenge everyone at Yorkville Congregational Church to commit to a faith practice. In the words of United Church of Christ Minister Emily C. Health, in her excellent book, *Glorify, Reclaiming The Heart Of Progressive Christianity*:

"It's time for progressive Christians to claim discipleship. It's time to get radical, not about our politics or our policies, but about our faith. It's time to stop throwing the baby Jesus out with the bathwater, and start putting the horse before the cart. It's time to remember what, and whom, we worship, and to develop the language of faith.

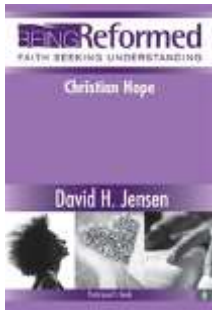
And it's time to see our social justice work as a natural product of our discipleship, not something that competes with it for the church's time."

So for 2022 consider joining one of our faith development groups: **Adult Sunday School** meets every other Sunday morning at 9:00 (see below for more information). **The Spiritual Development Group** led by Michael Obenauer has studied the Book of Acts and The First Christmas; it meets every other week usually on Tuesday evenings via Google Meets and will be starting a new study for the new year. And finally, Barb leads two multi-week **bible based studies** a year. The next will be Messy People beginning February 8th at 6:00 p.m.

## Sunday School

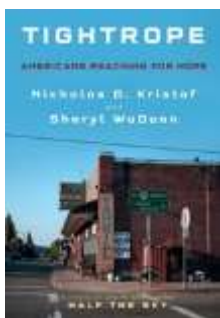
January 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m.--We will continue our study of The Spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Read Session 5, The Spiritual Life in a Religionless World.

January 23, 2022, 9:00 a.m.--Our final session of The Spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Read Session 6, Spirituality and Political Responsibility.



## Up Next:

Starting February 6th and going until May, we will start a new study on Christian Hope using the *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding* lesson series. To deepen your understanding of the material, there is a short passage to read before class. Contact Aimee List if you are interested in joining so we can order a book for you.



## Book Discussion Group

The focus of our next book discussion will be the crisis of working-class America as explored in the excellent book published in 2020 by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Tightrope: Americans Reaching For Hope*. There is a lot to unpack and discuss in this book, so I scheduled four discussion sessions:

January 11 (pages 1-72), January 18 (pages 73-140), January 25 (pages 141-202), and February 1 (pages 203-265). All sessions will be via video conference from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Aimee List  
Adult Education Shephard  
ajlsan1@hotmail.com



Celebrating Epiphany—Color the Wisemen



WE THANK THE MANY THAT  
HELP RECYCLE ALUMINUM  
CANS AND DONATE THEM  
TO THE CHURCH!



WE HAVE INSTALLED A  
GARBAGE CAN NEXT TO  
THE SIDE DOOR OF THE  
GARAGE FOR CONVENIENT  
DROP OFF ANYTIME!



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](https://smile.amazon.com).

*Thank  
you!*

## Reminder!

Starbucks gift cards available in  
\$5.00 and \$10.00 amounts!

See bar b



***Nursery is Open!***

***Vaccinated  
& Masked Caregivers***

***Air Purification Installed***

### January Birthdays

Annabella Goldman	01	Kevin Vaclavik	18
Megan Frisk	03	Molly Davis	19
Matt Strausberger	03	Pam Hamblin	19
Justin Heffernan	05	Joe Wayne	19
Tom Lindblom	05	Luke DeFuss	20
Jenna Yabsley	06	Peg Knell	20
Sandy deRidder	08	Nick Campos	21
Nancy Kolowski	10	Carter Mallon	28
Alex Mulligan	11	Kelly Fischer	29
Atticus Goloba	12		
Bryan Grube	12		
Tony Houle	12		
Sandy Lindblom	12		
Louise DeFuss	13		
Ruth Morello	14		
Mia Skinner	14		
Duane Walden	15		
Ron Bezroukoff	17		

### December Anniversaries

1/2	Jeff & Julie Kline	44 years
1/25	Scott & Leslie Hart	25 years

### Altar Guild

Andy & Pam Hamblin

### **Second Sunday after Christmas**

WHITE

*Jer 31:7-14*

*Ps 147:12-20*

*Eph 1:3-14*

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

*Another Road*

### **The Baptism of Christ**

First Sunday after Epiphany WHITE

*Isa 43:1-7*

*Ps 29*

*Acts 8:14-17*

*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

*Affirmed by Love*

### **Second Sunday after Epiphany**

GREEN

*Isa 62:1-5*

*Ps 36:5-10*

*I Cor 12:1-11*

*Jn 2:1-11*

*Extravagant Sign*

### **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

GREEN

*Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*

*Ps 19*

*I Cor 12:12-31a*

*Luke 4:14-21*

*Good News, Good Ways*

*Ecumenical Sunday*

### **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

GREEN

*Jer 1:4-10*

*Ps 71:1-6*

*I Cor 13:1-13*

*Luke 4:21-30*

*Prophet on the Edge*

*Health and Human Services Sunday*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>Liturgists</i>
<b>1/2/2022</b>	<b>Chris Andrus</b>	<b>June Davis</b>
<b>1/9/2022</b>	<b>Sadie Pottinger</b>	<b>Sandy deRidder</b>
<b>1/16/2022</b>	<b>Molly Davis</b>	<b>June Davis</b>
<b>1/23/2022</b>	<b>Luke DeFuss</b>	<b>June Davis</b>
<b>1/30/2022</b>	<b>Owen Shatters</b>	<b>June Davis</b>



### **Those Grieving:**

Huston Family, Jahp Family, Prochaska Family, and the Bushnell Family

### **Those in Cancer Treatment:**

Mary Ellen Anderson	Randy Ladson	Carol Schulz
Pat Dietz	Pat Rogers	Coulson Taylor
		Pearl Undesser

### **Health Concerns:**

Jean Anderson	Chris Brisbin	Rick Kolowski	Joanne O'Brien
Everett Andrus	Ann Byrd	Kim Leszczynski	Dale Prochaska
Myrah Baldwin	Dave Encinas	Nora Lewis	Finley Walker
Lynn Belcher	Mary Freeman	Tyler Mall	Lynne White
Deb Bezroukoff	Inukai Family	Mazie Marshall	
		Jean Martin	

### **General Concerns:**

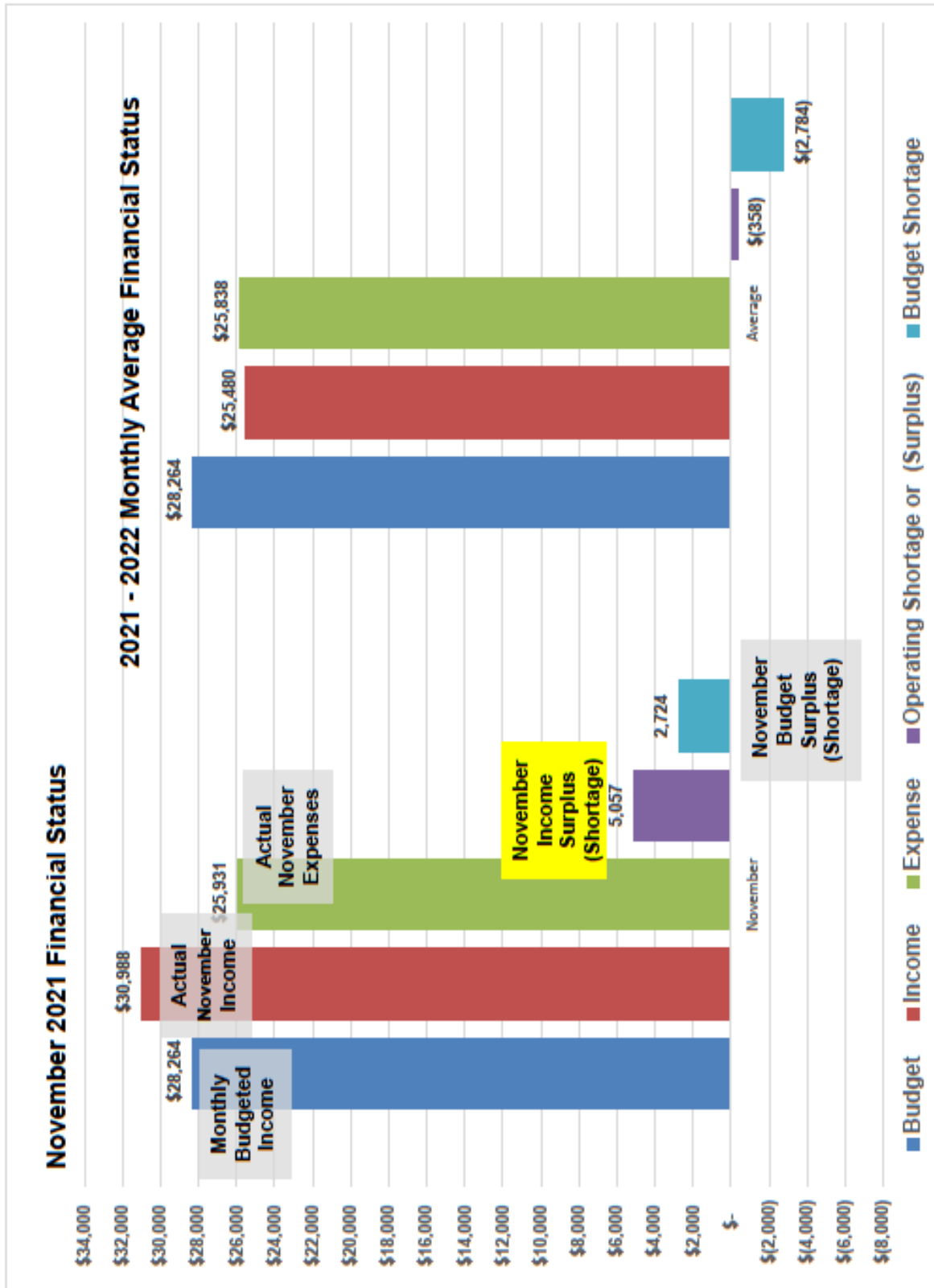
Brian Homerding	Michelle Terri	The people who work on the
Ruth Prince	Prochaska Family	front lines of the virus -
		doctors, nurses, healthcare
		workers, nursing home
		workers, first responders.

### **Homebound/Assisted Living:**

Earl Bushnell, Joan McEachern, Ruth Prince, Fred Wayne, Marie Wayne

### **GRIEFSHARE:**

If you or someone you know is struggling with grief, GRIEFSHARE program might provide support. Contact [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) for a list of programs in our area.



### **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, 2022**