



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

Instagram: @yorkvilleucc

Office Hours: Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Staff

Minister

Christian Ed. Director

Church Administrator

Chancel Choir Director

Children's Choir Director

Organist

Pianist

Childcare Attendants

Custodians

Sexton

Rev. Elizabeth Hartung

Robin Campos

Robin Campos

Doug Trumble

Sondra Shatters

Tina Andersen

Lori Runkle

Hannah Bazan

Abby Goniwicha

Dakota Shatters

Tim & Laurie Strong

Louise DeFuss

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

Deanna Bazan

Carrie DeFuss

Aaron Shatters

Pam Campos

Tony Houle

Tim Andrus

Diane Stablein

Aimee List

Sue Kimes

Lori Redmon

Kathy Wickens

Lou Ann Hoffman

Laurie Houle

June Davis

Kathy Farren

Worship & Sunday School: 10:00 am
Voyageurs: 9:00 am

The Happenings

November 2023





Pastor's Porch

Dear Church Family,

Illinois Conference Annual Celebration: Repentance, Rekindling & Renewal.

I am excited and grateful that YCUCC will be hosting the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration, the first in-person gathering after the shutdowns caused by the pandemic. This is a remarkable milestone and a testament to the resilience and determination of faith communities in the face of adversity.

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ is the third-largest conference in the UCC, and this celebration promises to be a momentous event. Lay leaders and clergy will come together to explore various critical topics, including the 5th stream of the UCC, the Afro-Christian Convention, mental health and the church, racial bias, and more. The event will feature distinguished speakers, including the General Minister and President of the UCC, conference staff, and talented guest presenters.

YCUCC's choir will graciously share its gift of music for the closing worship, reminding us of the power of communal worship and shared faith.

As we look forward to this significant event, let us remember that coming together as a faith community nurtures our spiritual journeys and fosters a collective strength that can bring about positive change in our world. I am proud to serve a congregation where hosting and serving the wider community is a priority.

November Worship

As we journey through November, a season of reflection and gratitude, I am inspired by the verses we will engage in during our worship services. This month, we'll delve into the wisdom of Micah, the powerful message of Amos, and the profound teachings of Matthew. So, let's embark on this spiritual journey and delve into these meaningful scriptures.

November 5: Leaning and Depending - Micah 3:5-12

In Micah 3:5-12, we are reminded that "Surely the Divine is with us." The message is clear: we need to lean on and depend on God rather than rejecting divine guidance and assuming we can navigate life on our own. Just as George Bailey learned in the classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life," sometimes we may not realize our impact on others and the world around us. Trust in the Spirit's wisdom and rely on God's guidance, for the Divine's presence is a source of strength and comfort.

November 12: Infecting Justice - Amos 5:18-24

The book of Amos, particularly Amos 5:24, calls for justice to "roll down like waters." This powerful message is echoed by the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and the powerful film "Just Mercy." We are reminded that justice is not a passive endeavor but requires active participation. In our pursuit of justice, we must let our actions create ripples of change, just as water flows and shapes the world around it. Let us be inspired by the words of MLK and the lessons of "Just Mercy" to work tirelessly for justice and equality.

November 19: Strangers Are Here - Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 25:45 tells us, "Then they will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.'" This passage reminds us of our duty to care for those in need, for in doing so, we are serving God. The art of kindness and compassion towards others expresses our faith and love. As we approach the season of giving, remember that even the most minor acts of kindness towards the less fortunate can have a profound impact.

This will be a full month of ministry as we host the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration, which signifies the resilience of faith communities after the pandemic. This event offers diverse discussions and inspiring speakers. As we anticipate it, let's remember the strength in unity and how hosting the community is a source of pride. Throughout November, we'll draw inspiration from the wisdom of Micah, the call for justice in Amos, and the compassion of Matthew in our spiritual journey.

Peace in God's Love,
Pastor Elizabeth



From the Desk of the Chair

This is a treasured picture of me with my Dad as we ran the combine through the field in late October last year. The harvest season is my favorite time of year. It is the time of reaping what has been sown and recognizing the bountiful goodness of life. That looks a little different for all of us. As a farm girl, that means harvesting soybeans and corn out of the field. It means working through my outdoor plants to pull inside what can be wintered over until next spring, or cutting back what is not needed over the winter. I suspect we are all going through the same motions in our own ways.



At our last Shepherd's Leadership Team meeting, we arrived at a discussion on reaping the harvest of COMMUNITY. This family of faith works hard together all year (sometimes harder than others... just ask the Rummage Sale crew or the Buildings and Ground team). We work on caring for one another and serving people both within and outside of our doors. We work hard to provide a community that gives everyone a safe place to be. The notion of community is central to Christianity. It is what brought Christians together in that first century, and it is what holds us together today. Our SLT is engaging in a review of what community looks like for us. Have our small groups opened themselves to include newer members? Are we providing an opportunity for our church family to become part of the ministries that might be of the most interest? Is there something we can be doing better or differently?

You are part of this very community, and you are welcomed with open arms. Let us help you find a place where you feel safe, comfortable, and where you can share your bountiful gifts in our continued harvest and replanting.

Yours in Service,
Deanna Bazan
Chairperson, SLT



As always, Building and Grounds remained busy this month. Throughout the month of October, the crew cleaned up the bushes and hedges in front of the church and out by our church sign. Unfortunately, Building and Grounds did have to cancel their "All Church Work Day" due to the classic rainy October weather.

Building and Grounds also had a big part in the work that goes on during the week of the Rummage Sale. The crew was available everyday to help bring in large and heavy donations. The crew also made sure that signs were posted around the city and that our large banner was hung up. Building and Grounds was also a huge help with the tear down of the Rummage Sale. Did you know that YCUCC owns over 100 tables? That's a lot of tables! Luckily the crew has lots of extra help this week.

Building and Grounds also started the installation of the new window in the Christian Education Office. After waiting for nice weather, the crew was finally able to get this project started, again with the help from Jim Davis.

If you are interested in helping Building and Ground complete their projects, join us every Tuesday at 9:00 am. All are welcome!



Countryside Pavilion Park is Open!

Countryside Pavilion Park has opened! Members of our church gathered with Mayor John Purcell for a photo opportunity to celebrate this new park into our community. This project is a joint effort between the City of Yorkville and YCUCC, and it was approved by our membership at our annual meeting in May. The name of the park was suggested by one of our members to reflect our location at Countryside and our history from the Pavilion Baptist Church. Still to come is the pavilion itself which is expected to be completed before the end of the year.



YCUCC has a Care Team to reach out to people to serve them in a spiritual, friendly, *confidential* manner. The Care Team will assist—*NOT replace* Pastor Elizabeth's pastoral visits. A call or visit can be a short term connection or develop into a longer relationship.

YCUCC's lay leaders are Carrie DeFuss and Lou Ann Hoffman. If you or someone you know would like a Care Team call or visit, contact Pastor Elizabeth, Carrie or Lou Ann, or call the church office asking for one of us to reach out to you.

Can you help provide lunch for Daybreak Shelter on Nov. 17?

It will be YCUCC's turn to provide lunch for Daybreak Homeless Shelter again on Friday, Nov. 17. The menu will be sloppy jo, coleslaw, chips and dessert.

We will need five 3-pound batches of sloppy jo, a total of 80 hamburger buns, three 2.75 pound tubs of coleslaw (Jewel's Signature brand is 2.75 pounds but any brand is OK), four big bags of barbecue potato chips, two big bags of regular potato chips, and three desserts.

The guests at Daybreak are always very appreciative of the good, homemade food and our crew is the only one that makes sloppy jo for them. They also enjoy being able to have a choice of dessert!



If you can help provide any of these items, call or email Kathy Farren, 630-803-0514, ednpub@earthlink.net.

Solar awning update and savings report (Submitted by Ron Anderson)

The 30 solar panels that were installed as an awning on the church's south wall have been fully operational since late June of 2022. Their combined electricity production up to the end of September 2023 was 22,277 kWh, which is about 24% of the church's electrical usage.

The solar production has reduced our ComEd bills by just over \$2,320 dollars since the panels were installed. About \$2,037 of that savings was directly due to eliminating the cost of buying 22,277 kWh of solar-produced electricity. The balance of the savings was due to lower state and municipal taxes as well as a net metering credit.

The first 12 months of operation, July 2022 through June 2023, produced 16,717 kWh which compares favorably to the 16,890 kWh projected for the first year's operation by IRE, the company that installed the panels.

The environmental impact of our solar panels is already starting to add up. The 22,277 kWh of solar power we have generated so far would require the burning of about 12.4 tons of coal which would put about 37 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The negative impact of all that greenhouse gas is not distributed equally around the planet, but tends to affect the disadvantaged to a much greater degree than it affects people like us. While we should feel good about the progress we have made, there is a lot more we can do to reduce the carbon footprint of both our church and ourselves.



The Green Team is actively looking at placing another awning system of panels along the west wall of the church, as well as panels on the garage roof.

Homework Club Has Begun!

Homework help is available for all Jr. High and High School students every Wednesday from 3:30-5:00pm.

If you are sending your student, please make sure they are prepared with homework or proper study materials.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" - 1 John 4:7 (NRSV)



Thank You



The Love Your Neighbor Ministry would like to thank the congregation for making the Welcome Pack collection a success!

Our next meeting is November 12th, after worship. Come and get to know us.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE PRE-ORDER FORM

Qty	Total		
1 pound box	\$10.00	_____	_____
2 pound box	\$18.00	_____	_____
Order Total		_____	

Name _____ Phone # _____

Cash or check only.

Stewardship Thought of the Month

“I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,”
1 Corinthians 1:4

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;”
Lamentations 3:22

Mission Ministry News

Soup Sunday on October 5th proceeds came to \$231.00 for the Special Olympics. Along with monies from the missions budget line item for the Special Olympics of \$200.00, a check for a total of \$431.00 has been sent.

Our A.I.D. (Association for Individual Development) Giving Christmas Tree is set up in the Narthex with tags showing \$\$ amounts. Taking one or more tags will helps us make a goal of \$1,000. Write a check to YCUCC for the dollar amount. Mark the check A.I.D. and place it in memo line and place in the offering plate. December 3rd is the deadline for this collection. All the recipients are appreciative of our church's generosity. A BIG THANK YOU to all for caring and helping to make this happen.

Lore Baker, CEO and President of the A.I.D. will be joining us for worship on
Sunday, November 19th.

The Neighbors in Need (N.I.N.) 5 for 5 offering total was collected during the month of October. A total will be available next month.

Stewardship Ministry News

Our annual pledge/giving campaign “Because of you, our church changes lives” (based on Micah 4:3-4) continues with testimonies on October 15th, 22nd, 29th and November 5th. In-gathering pledge/giving will be November 12th. Pledges are accepted at any time by placing them in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

A decorative border of various Christmas cookies surrounds the central text box. The cookies include star shapes, gingerbread men, and other festive designs in green, white, and brown icing.

YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
409 CENTER PARKWAY, YORKVILLE
(630) 553-7308

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Saturday, December 9th
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

What is a Cookie Walk?

You will receive a cookie box and plastic gloves on entry. Select the cookies of your choice by walking around several different tables, placing the cookies of your choice in your box. When you are ready to checkout, your cookies will be weighed, and you pay the cashier by the pound.

\$10.00 per pound
\$18.00 per two pounds

To make this work - we need lots of cookies from the wonderful bakers in our congregation. If possible, please bake at least 5 dozen of the same type of cookie.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or email: ddillow1015@comcast.net
or cookiegma@comcast.net

Please help us make this a great event again this year by being a baker, a buyer, a helper - or all 3!

We advertise our sale to the community, and it has been a loved event.
Proceeds will be given to a local charity.



~~ IT TAKES A VILLAGE ~~

Many hands helped prepare for the 2023 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale!



Thank you, everyone, for all of your help!

Peg Trumble | J.O.Y. Circle & Rummage Sale Chair



J.O.Y. CIRCLE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Christmas is coming and so is the J.O.Y. Circle Christmas Luncheon. We invite all the women of the Church to join us for this annual event. Lunch will be served at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club on **Tuesday, December 5, 2023** from **noon until 3:00 p.m.** Our lunch choices are listed below. The cost of the meal is **\$28.00 including tax and service charge**; individual checks will be issued. In order to be served in a timely manner, Whitetail asks that we submit a pre-order for our lunch by November 27, 2023. Your order should be returned to

**Mary McCracken by
Sunday, November 26, 2023.**

Name: _____

Selections:

- _____ **Bourbon Glazed Pork Loin, Seasonal Vegetables, Herb Roasted Redskin Potatoes**
- _____ **Meatloaf served with Green Beans and Mashed Potatoes**
- _____ **Baked Cod served with Green Beans and Wild Rice**

Served with your choice above will be:

Whitetail Salad, Bread & Butter, Cake | Iced Tea, Water, Lemonade, Coffee

Please contact Mary, 630-553-7051, 630-408-3724 (cell),
email marymac68@sbcglobal.net for questions.

As a service to our community, it has been our tradition to donate fast food gift cards (McDonalds, Wendy's, Pizza Hut, etc.) to the Kendall County Community Food Pantry for their teenage clients. If you wish to give, we recommend cards in \$10.00 increments, and give as many as you like to Regina Moe.





YCUCC's 'Record-Breaking' 2023 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale \$12,014.90

Thank you YCUCC Church Family, Building & Grounds, and J.O.Y. Circle, for volunteering your time, energy, donations, and baked goods toward YCUCC's successful 2023 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale.

A special thank you is extended to Tony Houle/Building & Grounds Team, Sandy Lindblom (Bake Sale Chair), and Rummage Sale Chairs Kathy Farren, Mary McCracken, Pam Hamblin, Regina Moe (Collectibles & Jewelry), Sue Kimes, Diane Dillow, and J.O.Y. Treasurer Nancy Modery. Thanks to Robin Campos, for creating the Facebook Boost and assisting Kathy Farren with Advertising/Publicity.

Proceeds from the Bake Sale (\$1,466.30) benefit the Christian Ed Program, while Collectibles/Jewelry (\$1999.50 + 50¢), Knit & Crochet (\$216), and Rummage Sale profits (\$8,332.60) benefit both YCUCC church programs and charitable organizations: A.I.D., Feed My Starving Children, Mutual Ground, Chapel on the Green, Kendall County Community Food Pantry, Open Door, We Are Called to Care, Suicide Prevention, YCUCC's Capital Fund & VBS, Kendall County Health Department, and Wayside Cross. Disbursements were determined at J.O.Y. Circle's October 24th meeting.

In cooperation with Erik Ostrem (World Relief/Aurora), Diane Stablein (LYN Chair), Refugee Voucher donations from the congregation, Ron Anderson (driver), and J.O.Y. Circle, transportation & shopping vouchers provided seven refugee families the opportunity to attend the 2023 Fall R&B Sale.

Photos were taken of volunteers throughout the week of the sale!
Great job, everyone!



Hear No Evil | See No Evil | Speak No Evil

Peg Trumble | J.O.Y. Circle & Rummage Sale Chair





Help the Youth Group with their School Year Mission!

The youth group has begun a new mission project that will last them the whole school year. As a group, the students decided that they want to collect loose change and cash for the Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders unit at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago.

The youth group collaborated with each other on their research about the program at Lurie Children's Hospital and are very excited to share their information with everyone. Stay tuned to hear their presentation during a kids message in November.

All loose change and cash will be collected until the school year is over in May. All monies will be counted and donated to Lurie Children's Hospital. Look for the water jug in the Narthex or in the CE Office.

Thanks for supporting our youth and their mission!



Adult Education

As the adult education coordinator, I aim to provide opportunities for adults to explore their faith, feed their souls, and reach out and seek understanding of others.

November is Native American Heritage Month. According to <https://native-land.ca/>, Yorkville is on traditional Kaskaskia land. The Kaskaskia were a tribe of indigenous people that were a part of the Illiniwek Confederation.

For more information about Native American Heritage Month go to: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/native-american-heritage-month.htm>

Movie Watch and Discussion

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann is a harrowing non-fiction book to read this month.

The movie *Killers of the Flower Moon* featuring a star-studded cast and directed by Martin Scorsese is now showing in theaters. See the movie and join the discussion on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. More information coming soon--watch the church announcements and Facebook page.

Pastor's Bible Study has begun a study of Deuteronomy at 5 p.m. All are welcome to join.

The **Spiritual Development Group** will finish their study of Genesis Part 1 this month. The group meets every other Tuesday on Google Meets at 7:00 p.m.

November 7--Lesson 5

November 21--Lesson 6

Advent - Glow Devotional



The **Spiritual Development Group** will begin reading and discussing the 2023 Pilgrim Press Advent Devotional. Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. Our first meeting to discuss the devotional will be Tuesday, December 5.

Devotionals are \$5.00 each. If you wish to order a copy of the Devotional email Aimee List at ajlsan1@hotmail.com. Orders are due by Sunday, November 5.

If you wish to join the discussion, contact Diane Stablein at "infoshep@yorkville-ucc.org." to be sent the Google Meets video link.

"The 'O!' of Wonder

The glow of Advent is a watchfire's embers as a new day begins to dawn.

The glow of Advent is the flush of a pregnant body coursing with 50% more blood than usual.

The glow of Advent is the beauty of dusty shepherd faces reflecting the splendor of a swaddled child.

The glow of Advent is the peace of candlelit faces singing, "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

The glow of Advent is spelled with the "O!" of yearning and, then, with the "O!" of realization as we grasp the season's meaning: everything has changed.

Once again for 2023, the Stillspeaking Writers Group and contributors offer a daily devotional to guide us through the days of Advent and Christmastide, to the celebration of Epiphany.

Glow includes:

- candle-lighting liturgies for home use,
- daily readings with scripture and prayer."

Quoted from <https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/collections/advent-resources/products/glow-2023-advent-christmastide-devotional>





Those Grieving:

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Pat Dietz	Coulson Taylor
Tom Lindblom	Pearl Undesser

Health Concerns:

Lynn Belcher	Gayle Jacobs
Deb Bezroukoff	Wyatt Jones
Earl Bushnell	Lee Kinkade
Anne Byrd	Jonathan Lamp
Rosey Clark	Aidan Mendell
Dave Encinas	Maureen Tully
Virginia Goss	Finley Walker

General Concerns:

Deb Mendell	Fur Babies:
Prochaska Family	Kelly Fischer - Maggie & Riley

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Myrah Baldwin, Earl Bushnell, Delores Cruise, Pat Dietz, Dave Encinas, Gayle Jacobs, Ruth Prince, Fred Wayne, Virginia Goss, Lee Kinkade

GRIEFSHARE:

If you or someone you know is struggling with grief, the GRIEFSHARE program might provide support. Contact griefshare.org for a list of programs in our area.

November Birthdays			
Krista Wilson	03	Evan Griffin	19
Nick Skinner	05	Christopher Johnson	19
Joann Morr	06	Terry Keith	19
Julia Runkle	06	Lynne White	19
Ilana Grube	07	Tess Tsusaki	21
Trent Hufstetler	07	Donna Davidson	23
Jennifer Keith	07	Ron Anderson	24
John Pratt	08	Deb Bezroukoff	27
Amanda Seibel	08	Grant Guenzler	28
Audrey Fitzgerald	10	Jim Davis	29
Jonathan Lamp	12	Wayne Norr	29
Laurie Houle	14	Keri Phillipp	29
Linda Melhouse	15		
Gabe Keith	16		
Courtney Skinner	16		

November Anniversaries	
11/04 Bethany & Matt Harbour	6 Years
11/10 Jake & Kylie Brewick	5 Years
11/11 Steve & Julie Gawne	28 Years
11/19 Rev. Elizabeth Hartung & Bob McGee	7 Years
11/19 Dave & Lisa Sheble	4 Years

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
GREEN
Mic 3:5-12

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
GREEN
Amos 5:18-24

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
GREEN
Matt 25:31-46

Reign of Christ
BLUE
Hanging of the Greens



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
11/05/2023	Evan Griffin	Pam Campos	Leaning and Depending
11/12/2023	Cayla Pottinger	June Davis	Infecting Justice
11/19/2023	Ronan Heffernan	Pam Campos	Strangers are here.
11/26/2023	Isabelle Shatters	Pam Campos	Hanging of the Greens

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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