

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.

<u>Staff</u>

<u>Minister</u> <u>Christian Ed. Director</u> <u>Administrative Assistant</u> <u>Chancel Choir Director</u> <u>Children's Choir Director</u> <u>Pianist</u> <u>Childcare Team</u>

Custodians Sexton Rev. Elizabeth Hartung Robin Campos Alex Houle Doug Trumble Sondra Shatters Lori Runkle Abby Goniwicha Dakota Shatters Hailey Shatters Tim & Laurie Strong Louise DeFuss

Shepherds

<u>Chairperson</u> <u>Vice Chairperson</u> <u>Recording Secretary</u> <u>Operations: Personnel</u> <u>Operations: Bldg. & Grds</u> <u>Operations: Finance</u> <u>Information Services</u> <u>Christian Education: Adult</u> <u>Christian Education: Adult</u> <u>Christian Education: Youth</u> <u>Worship: Serving</u> <u>Worship: Preparation</u> <u>Church Family: Caring</u> <u>Church Family: Fellowship</u> <u>Service: Missions</u> <u>Outreach/Welcoming</u>

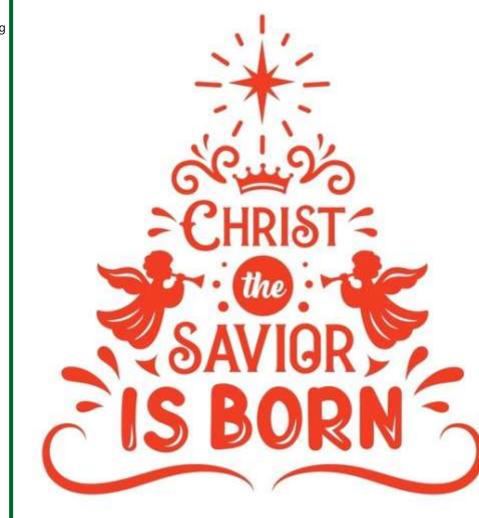
LeaAnn Skogsberg Aaron Shatters Pam Campos Tony Houle Tim Andrus Diane Stablein Aimee List Sue Kimes Deanna Bazan Kathy Wickens Salli Walden Laurie Houle June Davis Kathy Farren

Carrie DeFuss

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



2024





Pastor's Porch Shaky and Steady Ground for Advent

"Oh, well, a-bless my soul, but what's wrong with me? I'm itchin' like a man on a fuzzy tree My friends say I'm actin' wild as a bug—I'm in love. I'm all shook up!" – Elvis Presley

Sometimes, life leaves us feeling "all shook up." The pressures of the season, the chaos of our world, and the demands on our hearts can shake our foundations. But Advent reminds us that God's shaking is not for destruction but renewal.

"For I will command and shake the house of Israel among all the nations as one shakes with a sieve, but no pebble shall fall to the ground." (Amos 9:9)

The prophetic words of Amos remind us that God shakes away what is unstable so that we can stand firmly on what matters. This Advent, as we await the coming of Jesus—the Word made flesh—we ground ourselves in God's promises. As Kenneth L. Samuel puts it in the UCC Advent Devotional: "Let everything shaky be shaken away. Then those who build only upon the sure foundations of Christ will illustrate God's recipe for salvation and survival through unsteady times."

Through the chaos, God's wisdom centers us.

Advent calls us to pause, breathe, and reflect on the unshakable foundation that Christ provides. In a world where uncertainty and busyness often overwhelm us, God's wisdom offers clarity and

peace. This sacred season reminds us to hold onto hope, faith, joy, and peace as the steady anchors of our lives. Each week, we are invited to lean into these promises, leveling the paths of our hearts and embracing the transformative gift of God's love breaking into the world. Through worship and reflection, Advent becomes our time to center ourselves in the eternal truths of God's presence.



This Advent, let us find the steady ground of God's love amid the world's shaking.

Our **Grounded** sermon series invites us to explore how God's presence steadies us and empowers us to live faithfully in a chaotic world. Advent is not just about waiting; it is about preparing—allowing Christ's love to transform our hearts and inspire action. As we journey toward the birth of Christ, we are reminded that God's love is not passive; it calls us to embody hope, extend peace, and act with compassion. Together, let us root ourselves in the wisdom of faith, preparing to share the lifechanging power of God's love with a world yearning for renewal.

Join us this Advent season as we journey together on shaky and steady ground, finding our footing in Christ's hope, faith, joy, and peace.

Peace In God's Love, Pastor Elizabeth



BUILDING & GROUNDS By Alex Houle, Admin Assistant

During the month of November, Building & Grounds has been maintaining the church. Nothing too exciting; just keeping things in good working order, preparing for the colder months, and setting up for events.

Building and Grounds continues to meet every Tuesday at 9:00 am. All are welcome!

From the Desk of the Chair



"What is this? For we live by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5: Tis the season. Specifically, the season of Advent is upon us. This means the *"arrival" of something or someone. The sanctuary will be transformed with the twinkle of light, the beauty of greens and the advent wreath representing eternal life. This wit preparing for the arrival of Christ*

season is about preparing for the arrival of Christ.

Four main themes will surface throughout the season: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. These themes will carry through the hymns we sing, the scriptures read and the candles we light to help bring the message of Christ's love into our hearts this season. Through all of this, I will ask you to take notice of the evergreen surrounding the sanctuary and say an extra prayer for the symbolization it represents. This allows us to recognize that times of sadness exist in celebration and bring hope and faith for new beginnings.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out for any specific comments or concerns.

Blessings, Carrie DeFuss SLT Chairperson

Christian Education Corner by Robin Campos, Christian Education Director Happy December! Things have been busy for all things Christian Ed here at YCUCC. Over the last three months we have 22 students regularly between 5 classes. It has also been exciting to have 6-10 students every week for youth group.

As part of our PreK-4th grade curriculum, students have the fun opportunity to go on a scavenger hunt around their classrooms every week. These scavenger hunts will lead them to their bible verse of the week, including verses like 1 John 4:24-29 and Luke 17:11-19. In addition to their weekly verses, each unit has a verse, like Psalm 35:9 and Romans 3:23. Each week students also participate in hands on activities like crafts and games.

This year we removed weekly videos, as part of the curriculum and it has been going well. Our teachers have access to a TV and a Chromebook in their classrooms if they need supplemental materials.

Our 5th and 6th grade students have also started a new curriculum format, specifically designed with preteens in mind. This curriculum was designed to have these students in their bibles more often learning about stories and lessons that closely relate to their personal lives. Unit titles include Rooted, Overwhelmed, and Conquerors. Don't worry, these students still get to do crafts and play games. One week they made shield's and had a nerf battle as part of a lesson during "Conquerors".

Our 7th-12th grade students meet with Deanna Bazan before worship on Sundays. This class allows students to ask more in-depth questions about the bible, their faith, other religions and ways of worship. This class also includes several opportunities for team building and outdoor activities. A few weeks ago, Deanna had her class outside around a fire where students made breakfast over the fire.

The youth group has also been busy with a new devotional series called "Pop Culture Christian". This devotional series will take us through the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Star Wars, and Harry Potter, connecting these movies to lessons of the bible. We have had some pretty deep conversations about identity and behavior. One question asked was, "When someone asks you about yourself, what's the first thing that you tell them?".

Don't forget about the Kid's Library! Sue Kimes (mostly Sue) and I have been hard at work keeping this library updated with current events, the liturgical year, and books that the students want to read. Our book of the month is "The Promise and The Light" by Katy Morgan which tells an interesting first person point of view of the birth of Christ.

Looking to stay up to date with CE? Visit the "Information Station" bulletin board next to my office. This is where you will find our weekly newsletter, our student of the week, permission slips and any CE reminders and events.

Essay Contest

YCUCC will be holding an essay contest related to Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January. One middle school and one high school student will win \$50 prizes for their essays on the topic of the importance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The essay contest will be open to all area middle school and high school students. More details will be announced in December.

The Care Team wants you to know that we are here for you during the upcoming Christmas season. To share God's love with you. To listen and really hear you. To help you through your challenges. To pray with you.

We are here for you confidentially. Contact Pastor Elizabeth, or Carrie DeFuss.



Have your little ones grown out of their baby furniture? We are looking to updated and add a few items to the YCUCC nursery.

Items needed: -Crib Sheets -Changing Table -Infant toys (0-24 months) -Foam play mat -Disinfecting Wipes





Serving the community and fulfilling the public transportation needs of Kendall County.

Kendall Area Transit (KAT) Dial-A-Ride-Services

Phone: (630)822-6970 TTY: (800) 526-0844 or 711 Voice: (800) 526-0857 or 711 Do you need transportation to and from appointments? What about the grocery store? Maybe a ride to church on Wednesday or Sunday? The Kendall Area Transit provides affordable transportation for individuals around and in the Kendall County area.

For more information about their hours, rates, and how to reserve a spot, call 630-822-6970 or visit their website <u>https://vacdk.com/transportation/kat-kendall-area-transit/</u>

Information regarding the Kendall Area Transit can be found at the welcome center located in the Narthex.



MISSIONS MINISTRY DECEMBER 2024

Our Soup Sunday on November 10th raised \$623.00 for the Pastoral Care Emergency Fund. Sending a BIG THANK YOU to all who helped with this event. Especially the donation of \$250.00, thank you so much, greatly appreciated. The next Soup Sunday will not take place till next year on January 19, 2025, with proceeds benefitting the LaSalle Veterans Home in LaSalle, IL.

The A.I.D. (Association for Individual Development) Christmas Tree is set-up in the Narthex with tags for \$10, \$20 and \$25 dollar increments. Our goal is for \$1,000.00. Last year we collected \$1,275.00. Please take a tag or two and give generously, as God loves a cheerful giver. Possibly having a speaker from A.I.D. organization during worship service in December or January of 2025.

The next 5 for 5 giving will be "The Christmas Fund" in December with collection on Sunday, December 22nd. LeaAnn Skogsberg will have a mission moment during worship on Sunday, December 15th regarding The Christmas Fund for retired Pastors and lay people.

Any questions please let me know and thanks for your help.

Peace and Love, June Davis Missions Ministry



Attention all 6th to 12th graders (and parents)!

We are so excited to invite you to join us for **Summer Camp 2024**! This is your chance to experience an unforgettable four days filled with fun, friendship, and opportunities to grow in your faith. This camp will replace our annual mission trip for 2025.

Here's what you can look forward to:

- **Exciting Activities:** From outdoor adventures like swimming, hiking, and team games to creative workshops, there's something for everyone! Don't worry, there will be indoor activities like crafts and game nights.
- **Worship & Inspiration:** Uplifting worship sessions and meaningful discussions to help deepen your connection with God.
- **Friendship & Fun:** Create new friends and strengthen bonds with old ones in a positive, encouraging environment.
- **Memories to Last a Lifetime:** Campfires, late-night laughter, and moments that will stick with you forever.

Details:

- When: June 18-21, 2025
- Where: Tower Hill Camp (12173 Tower Hill Rd, Sawyer, MI 49125)
- Who: All students in grades 6–12 (invite your friends!)
- **Cost:** \$50 per student (scholarships available)

Students, this next part is for your parents...

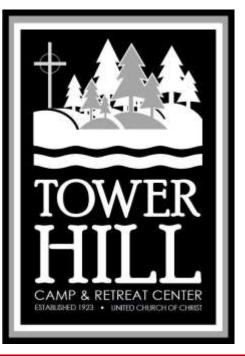
This retreat style camp will replace our annual mission trip for 2025. With the large amount of 6th-12th grade students in our congregation, it did not seem smart to take them out on a mission trip, for many of them it would be their first time.

If chaperoning seems like something you may be interested in, please let me know by January 5, 2025. Students may also invite their friends, but they will be required to attend future workshops and complete a commitment form and provide payment.

The commitment form and payment are due by January 5, 2025. If you have any questions or need help with the cost, feel free to reach out by email at ced@yorkvilleucc.org or you may call 630-553-7308

Blessings, Robin Campos Christian Education Director and Camp Director





Make it a **GREEN** Christmas

Give gifts with minimal environmental impact.

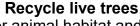
Giving the gift of an experience can bring fun, learning and memories that hold value for years and will have minimal impact on resources:

- tickets to a show or concert, sporting events
- season pass for horseback lessons, water parks, museums
- gift card to ice-rinks, indoor golf centers, horseback riding
- battery-free toys
- homemade edibles
- a homemade dinner

Use environmentally friendly wrapping:

- newspaper, especially bright-colored comics
- children's art. old wallpaper rolls, old paper maps or calendars
- choose re-usable packaging or wrapping paper, bows
- alternative to paper, such as a Christmas dish towel
- use tape sparingly, or none at all
- fabric gift bags
- scarves, aprons, stocking caps, socks (part of the gift)

Use 'natural' trimming on packages, such as pine cones, fir or cedar branch tips, dried oak or maple leaves; secure with twist ties

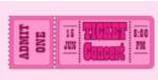


put out in yard for animal habitat and it will compost naturally
 check for local drop-offs; trees can be shredded

<u>https://www.yorkville.il.us/161/Yard-Waste-Collection</u> Christmas trees will be collected free of charge during the first 2 weeks of January. Trees do not require a sticker, but do need to be free of all ornamentation, tinsel, garland, and lights.

NEXT MEETING OF THE GREEN TEAM:

Green Team will be setting goals for 2025 at their meeting **January 13**, **at 6:30 p.m. at church in the Conference Room.** YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE TEAM'S BRAINSTORMING AND PLANNING. Bring your ideas for an earth-friendly lifestyle and environmentally-sustaining practices at home and at church!

















YCUCC's 'Record-Breaking' 2024 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale 'Final' Total: \$14,685.50

Thank you YCUCC Church Family, Robin Campos & Alex Houle, B&G, and J.O.Y. Circle for volunteering your time, energy, donations, and baked goods toward the 2024 Fall R&B Sale.

Proceed disbursements were determined at J.O.Y. Circle's Nov. 19th meeting: Bake Sale (\$1,863.00) benefits CE/VBS; Collectibles/Jewelry (\$1,673.80), Knit & Crochet (\$386.42), and Rummage Sale profits (\$9,868.53) benefit both YCUCC's Capital Fund and multiple, charitable organizations: A.I.D., Feed My Starving Children, Mutual Ground, Chapel on the Green, Kendall County Community Food Pantry, Open Door Rehabilitation Center, We Are Called to Care, Suicide Prevention Services, and Wayside Cross Ministries.

In cooperation with Erik Ostrem (World Relief), Love Your Neighbor Ministry, Refugee Voucher donations, Ron Anderson (driver), and J.O.Y Circle, transportation & vouchers provided 14 refugee families the opportunity to attend the 2024 Fall R&B Sale.

> Thank you, everyone, for helping to make the 2024 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale a HUGE Success!



































































C SUPP



Thank you! Peg Trumble J.O.Y. Circle & Rummage Sale Chair



2025 Spring R & B Sale April 11 & 12, 2025

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

Saturday, December 7rd 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: <u>ddillow1015@comcast.net</u> 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.

Adult Education

Pastor's Bible Study

"Voices of Change: Faith in Action with Corinthians and Isaiah" -- Wednesdays at 5 pm, Dec 4, 11, 18

Voices of Change: Faith in Action with Corinthians and Isaiah" invites participants to engage with the powerful teachings of these biblical books. This study is a journey of personal growth and transformation as we explore how Isaiah and Corinthians address justice, love, and leadership, guiding us to apply these principles daily. Discover how ancient wisdom can drive meaningful change and inspire action in today's world.

Spiritual Development Group (SDG)—December 3 and 17 at 7:00 p.m. on Google Meets.

We will continue studying the *Listen Up! Genesis* 37-47 bible study. In this part of Genesis, we will discuss the themes of love, faithfulness, rebellion, forgiveness, and redemption in the story of Joesph.



The United Church of Christ's Still Speaking Writer's Group 2024 Advent Devotional is *The Mess in The Messiah.*

Advent begins Sunday, December 1. The Spiritual Development Group will discuss the devotions during their December Google Meets virtual meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 17, and January 7. Contact Diane Stablein at infoshep@yorkville-ucc.org to be added to the joining email list.

Get your free *The Mess In The Messiah* Advent-to-Epiphany daily calendar here: <u>chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0291/5177/files/</u> <u>Mess_in_the_Messiah_Daily_Calendar.pdf</u>

Movie Discussion



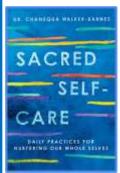
Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin.

"As the world teeters on the brink of annihilation, Dietrich Bonhoeffer joins a deadly plot to assassinate Hitler, risking his faith and fate to save millions of Jews from

genocide." (IMDb.com)

A new movie about Dietrich Bonhoeffer is out in theatres now. Let's watch the movie and then have a discussion on January 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Book Study

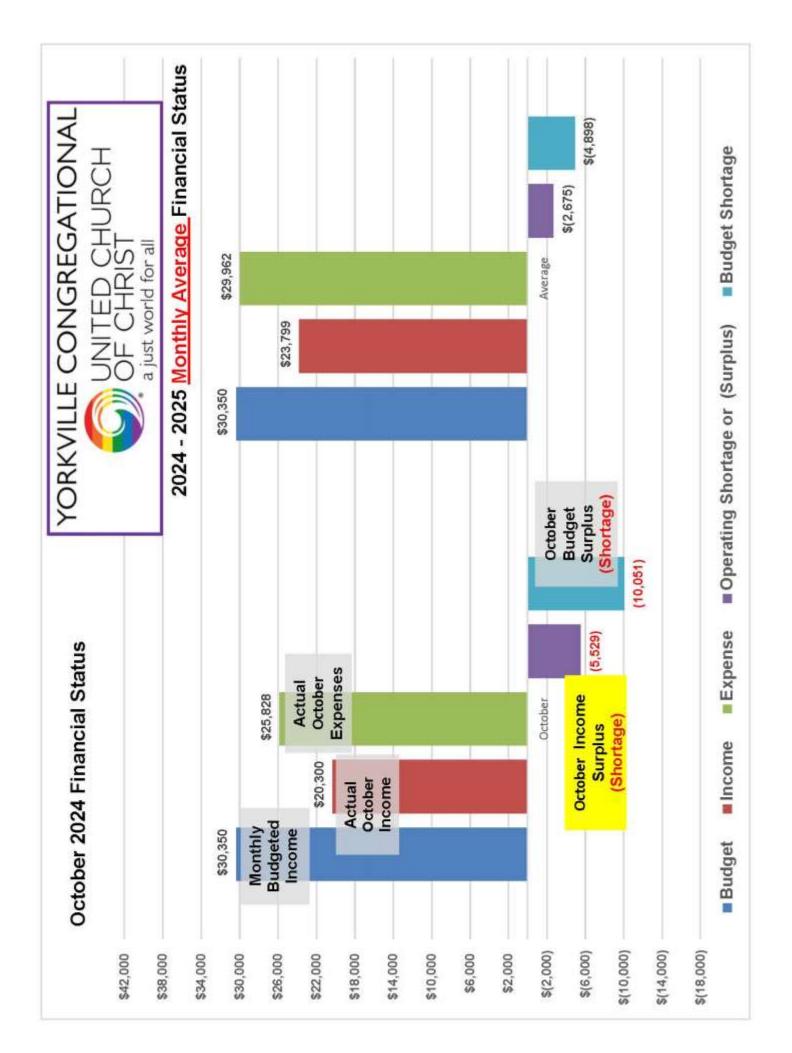


Sacred Self-Care, Daily Practices For Nurturing Our Whole Selves by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes

"A seven-week guide to help you shift your behaviors and create lifelong habits to care for your whole self— mind, body, and soul." " Each day includes a story alongside short and simple prompts and scripture passages that help us shift behaviors in the short term and create lifelong habits." (Goodreads)

We will begin reading and practicing on Monday, January 6. We will meet each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. using video conferencing for a short check-in and discussion. Check-in dates are: January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16, and 23.

Email Aimee List (<u>ailsan1@hotmail.com</u>) if interested. Aimee List ailsan1@hotmail.com



Those in Cancer Treatment:

Pat Dietz Pearl Undesser

Fred Anderson

Deb Bezroukoff

Rick Falato

Gayle Jacobs Wyatt Jones Jonathan Lamp Michael Obenauer

Health Concerns:

Finley Walker

THE AND THE PRAYER

General Concerns:

Prochaska Family Mendell Family The Hughes Family

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Fred, Anderson, Myrah Baldwin, Earl Bushnell, Delores Cruise, Pat Dietz, Dave Encinas, Rick Falato, Gayle Jacobs, Ruth Prince, and Fred Wayne

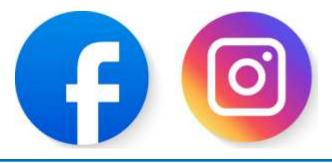
Do you have an event or a memory from a past church event that you would like to feature on the YCUCC Facebook and Instagram?

Let us know by completing the Google Form.

There is no deadline for requesting a social media post. However, we ask that you complete one form for each posting with at least one week's notice.

https://forms.gle/5tmLwfyAyosiXAGz9

If you have any questions, you may reach out to Pastor Elizabeth, Diane Stablein, Robin Campos, or you may call the office.



- Chicago)			2	31	28	•
Dec 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)	3	9am - Cookie Wal				
Dec 2024		•	2	30	8	n
	ĺ	3				<u> </u>
	æ			0am - Daybrask		
		ø	22	19	38	0
	₽		6pm - Finance 7pm - Shepherds			
	100	• Choir	- Choir	Choir Choir	R	-
	Med	 Spm - Bible Study Spm - Dinner S-30pm - Somithine Choir 0pm - Youth Choir 7pm - Youth Group 	 Spm - Bible Study Spm - Dinhor Spm - Sonshine Choir Gpm - Pastoral Care Gpm - Youth Choir Tpm - Youth Group 	 Yewskittler Articles Due Spm - Binner Spm - Dinner Spm - South Choir Tpm - Adult Choir Tpm - Youth Group 		
		e Lite Tal Grounds Meeting elopment	to e Life Tai Grounds Care Meeting as Service	17 e Lite Tail Grounds Meeting	24 Service	e Lie Tai
	Tue	 8:30sim - Ennothe Life Tail 9am - Building and Grounds 10:30am - Statt Meeting 7pm - Spirtual Development 	 a 30am - Breathe Life Tai. Barh - Building and Grounds 10am - Pastoral Care 10am - Pastoral Care 10am - Blue Christmas Service 	 B.30sm - Breathe Life Tail Bam - Building and Grounds T0.30sm - Statt Meeting 7pm - Spiritual 	DOPTCE CLOSED 7pm - Christmas Eve Service	OFFICE CLOSED B-30am - Breathe Life
		N	6 com	9	Mailing	30
	Mon		ni:30pm - Green Team		am - Nowslottor Mailing	
CLCC Overh Calendar	u 8	NO PreK-Bih Sunday Barn - 7-12 Voyageurs 10am - Worship(Hanging of 11am - Cottee Fellowship	Bam - 7-12 Voyageurs 10am - PréK-Sth Sunday 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship Team	15 NO 7-12 Voyageura NO Sunday School 10am - Worship (Christmas 11am - Cotte Fellowship 1pm - Continuation Classs 1pm - Private Party	22: 9am - 7-12 Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 5 tor 5 11am - Cottee Fellowship	29 NO 7-12 Voyageurs NO Prink Uhi Sundary 10am - Worship 11am - Cottee Fellowship

	December Birthdays	First Sunday of AdventVIOLET or BLUELuke 21:25-36Second Sunday of AdventVIOLET or BLUELuke 3:1-6Third Sunday of AdventVIOLET or BLUELuke 3:7-18Fourth Sunday of AdventVIOLET or BLUELuke 1:39-45, (46-55)Christmas EveWHITELuke 2:1-20First Sunday After ChristmasWHITECol 3:12-17		
Bob Clack Terri Frisk Ronan Hefferr Kim Elleby Wyatt Jones Craig Emmert Nancy Modery Josh Kolowsk Aidan Mendel Sue Kimes Amy Ems Suzie Pratt Gavin Redmo Anne Stout Barbara Davis James Anders Joey Jerabek Parker Trumb Gail Gaebler Jeff Kline	05 05 08 y 09 i 09 l 09 l 09 l 11 12 12 n 13 17 s 17 s 17 s 17 s 17 s 22			
	December Anniversaries			
12/15 Erik & N 12/18 Gerry &		Binday		
			Birthda	y.
Date	Acolytes	Liturgis		0*
Date 12/1	Acolytes Isabelle Shatters	Liturgis Pam Cam	sts Sermon Title	Ø ★ s
		_	npos Grounded: Signs o	f Hope

12/15	Benjamin DeFuss	Sandy deRidder	Children's Pageant
12/22	Gabe Keith	Sandy deRidder	Grounded: Revolutionary Peace
12/24	On Break	Worship Leaders	Lessons and Carols w/ The Chancel Choir
12/29	On Break	Sandy deRidder	Grounded Living

Our Mission Statement

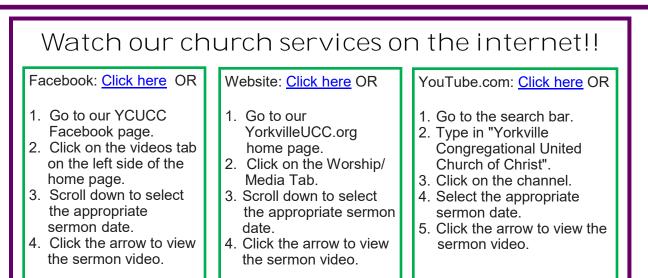
To live as Jesus lived: Love without Judgement, Welcome without Exception, Serve with Compassion, Teach by Example.

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.



Yorkville Congregational Church United Church of Christ

409 Center Parkway Yorkville, IL 60560 Phone: (630) 553-7308 E-Mail: adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org Web Page: www.yorkvilleucc.org **December 2024**





HAPPY NEW YEAR