

## Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### <u>Staff</u>

Minister
Christian Ed. Director
Administrative Assistant
Chancel Choir Director
Children's Choir Director
Pianist
Childcare Team

Robin Campos Alex Houle Doug Trumble Sondra Shatters Lori Runkle Abby Goniwicha Dakota Shatters Hailey Shatters Luke DeFuss Louise DeFuss

Rev. Elizabeth Hartung

Custodian Sexton

#### **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

Carrie DeFuss
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

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

# The Happenings

# January 202





#### **Pastor's Porch**

**Currents of Faith: Stirring the Pot of Hope and Gratitude** 

#### Dear Church Family,

As we approach the end of the year, I've been reflecting on how ministry is like making a hearty pot of soup—dynamic, intentional, and full of care. Each

ingredient represents our unique contributions as individuals, blending together to create something nourishing that sustains and strengthens our community. This image beautifully connects with the **Currents of Faith** sermon series beginning in January, where scripture reminds us of God's faithfulness and abundance and with Howard Thurman's words in *Blessings at Year's End*.

#### Thurman writes:

"I remember the awareness of the spirit of God that sought me out in my aloneness and gave to me a sense of assurance that undercut my despair and confirmed my life with new courage and abiding hope."

In "Through the Waters: Unshaken Faith" (Isaiah 43:1-7), we hear God's promise: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Like a pot of soup stirred through turbulent times, this passage assures us of God's steadfast presence, transforming our challenges into moments of strength and renewal. Thurman's reflection on God seeking us in our aloneness echoes this promise, reminding us that God's abiding hope carries us even through life's storms.

In "Pour It Out: Trusting Wisdom" (John 2:1-11), Mary's words to the servants—"Do whatever he tells you"—call us to trust in Jesus' wisdom and guidance. Thurman writes:
"I remember the fruits of the labors of others, which I have shared as a part of the normal experience of daily living."

Like water turned into wine, our faith invites us to pour out our gifts, trusting that God can transform them into blessings for others. This transformation reflects the shared labor of our church family, where each contribution becomes part of something more significant in God's hands.

In "Joy as Our Strength: Streams of Renewal" (Nehemiah 8:1-10), we are invited to "eat the fat and drink sweet wine, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared." Thurman recalls: "I remember the beautiful things that I have seen, heard, and felt—some as a result of seeking on my part, and many that came unheralded into my path, warming my heart and rejoicing my spirit." Sharing joy and nourishment with others brings renewal, not only to those we serve but to our own spirits as well. In these acts of generosity, we find the beauty of God's love at work in our community.

Thurman's words and the scriptures in this series remind us to reflect on God's presence in our lives. Ministry, like making soup, requires intention, care, and trust in the process. As we prepare to enter a new year, may we give thanks for the blessings we've received, the challenges that have shaped us, and the hope that continues to guide us forward. Together, we can stir the pot of faith, spreading love, joy, and renewal to all who hunger for connection.

"I remember the dreams that haunted me during the year, keeping me mindful of goals and hopes which I did not realize but from which I drew inspiration to sustain my life and keep steady my purposes."

May God bless us with courage, joy, and abiding hope in the year ahead. Peace in God's Love, Pastor Elizabeth

#### From the Desk of the Chair

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense he has become my salvation."-Isaiah 12:2

December was a month of celebration and anticipation. If you were able to attend the Children's Pageant not only would you have been impressed by the talent of our

youth, but you may also have noticed a clearer, crisper sound than in years past. This would be a result of phase one and phase two now being complete with the Sound System update.

Maybe you joined us for one of the Christmas services? If the Christmas season was not a joyous time for you, then the "Comfort in the Night" service may have been just what you were needing to reflect, remember and adore. Christmas Eve gave a traditional service of music and lights filled with the expected heartening joy. This was overflowing from the sound of the choir's voices nicely backlit until the end of the flickering candlelit "Silent Night."

We had a lovely reception in celebration of Laurie and Tim Strong's many years of dedication to the custodial duties. We wish them well in their next adventures. The position has been filled and Laurie has graciously agreed to train her successor.

The organist/choir accompanist position remains open. We are extremely grateful for the time and talent of Lori Runkle, but she would not be upset if the time for her and Jon to begin traveling came upon them sooner rather than later.

Moving into January we look forward to hope of change and new beginnings. Upcoming events to be aware of:

January 16: Movie Discussion- 7-8pm Bonhoeffer

January 19: Soup Sunday

January 23: Calendar Meeting 7-8pm (Let Robin know of any events you would like added to the

current calendar)

January 26: Chili Cook-off 5-8pm

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

Blessings, Carrie DeFuss

# Join us for Remembrance Sunday January 12th at 10:00am



BUILDING /

In the embrace of God's eternal grace, Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ will gather in person and online to celebrate the lives of those who died in 2024. The members of YCUCC who died will be named and commemorated during the service. 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.

#### What's happening in Building and Grounds?

GROUNDS By Alex Houle, Admin Assistant

During the month of December, Building & Grounds has been making the church so pretty and festive with all our beautiful Christmas decorations. We would also like to celebrate our newest member Dave Farren. Dave is retired from the world of HVAC and we are happy to have his expertise joining our B&G family.

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

#### **Essay Contest**

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ is holding an essay contest related to Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

One middle school and one high school student can each win \$50 for their essays on the topic of what Martin Luther King Jr. Day means to them. The essay contest will be open to all area middle school and high school students.



Essays should be no more than 700 words and should be emailed to <a href="mailto:adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org">adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org</a> by Monday, Jan. 13.

Three members of the Outreach Ministry will serve as judges for the contest.

#### **Stewardship Ministry**

The Annual Stewardship Pledge-Givings campaign for 2024 came to \$170,286.00 with 28 pledges.

Peace and Love, June Davis



Thank you to all the cookie bakers, candy makers and supporters who helped make the 2024 YCUCC Cookie and Candy Sale a success!

We had 26 Bakers and candymakers and 36 varieties of cookies and 10 varieties of candy that we sold for \$ 10 a pound and \$18 for 2 lbs.

Together we raised \$1,600! Distribution of the funds will be shared with the LaSalle Veterans Home which serves our local Veterans and the Yorkville School District Foundation in the form of gift cards to support the needs of displaced students, and families in their time of need. Past funds were used for families that lost their home and possessions due to fire, foster children who have emergency clothing and supply needs and student families who have emergency needs.

Thank you very much for your support of this YCUCC project that reaches out to the community.

Sue Kimes and Diane Dillow Co- Chairpersons 2024





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 <a href="https://vacdk.com/">https://vacdk.com/</a> <a href="https://vacdk.com/">transportation/kat-kendall-area-transit/</a>

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







### Please join J.O.Y. Circle in volunteering at

~ ~ Feed My Starving Children ~ ~ in Aurora on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

\*11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.\*

-- Lunch at a local restaurant will follow FMSC. --

Reserved spots are required and fill up quickly!

If you wish to volunteer, sign the form located at the Welcome Table by the Fellowship Hall entrance, or contact Peg Trumble at pjltrumble@comcast.net

by Sunday, January 5, 2025

#### **Mission Ministry**

Our AID Christmas Tree raised \$1,090.00. A check has been sent. Thank you to everyone who contributed to help make Christmas merrier for the individuals at AID. Please know that each of you are appreciated for your donations.

As of this printing, the results of the 5 for 5 offering, The Christmas Fund, is not available. Please check back in February.

Mark your calendars for our first Soup Sunday of 2025 on January 19, 2025. Proceeds will benefit the LaSalle Veterans Home in LaSalle, IL.

Peace and Love, June Davis Missions Ministries



#### 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 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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







#### **GREEN TEAM VISIONING 2025 - January 9, 6:30 pm**

Green Team will be setting goals for 2025 at their meeting in **January 9**, **6:30 p.m. at church in the Conference Room.** YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE TEAM'S BRAINSTORMING AND PLANNING.

You do not need to be a member of Green Team to bring your ideas, join the discussion, and help us plan for the coming year. Let's continue to find new ways for earth-friendly daily living and environmentally-sustaining practices at home and at church.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 6:30 P.M. AT CHURCH

# Thank you Tim and Laurie Strong for 30 years of Service!

On December 15th, we recognized Tim and Laurie Strong's retirement from their custodial duties for YCUCC. Tim and Laurie have been cleaning the building for 30 years and their work did not go unnoticed.

When you see Tim and Laurie in church on Sunday's, be sure to thank them for all their hard work.











2024 J.O.Y. Circle Christmas Luncheon



J.O.Y. Circle hosted the

2024 Christmas Luncheon at The Oaks Grille
in Bristol, IL on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024.

Thank you, Mary McCracken, for organizing
the luncheon, and Pam Hamblin for gifting
festive tissue box holders to all attendees!

























Peg Trumble I J.O.Y. Circle Chair

The Children and Youth delivered their "best pageant yet" on Sunday, December 15, 2024, under the direction of Sondra Shatters, accompanied by Lori Runkle.

This year the youth choir was given the task of writing the script for the pageant. This came with a unique twist of incorporating the 1950s with the beloved Christmas Story and the Birth of Christ. With guidance from Sondra Shatters, these students delivered a funny, cute and meaningful Christmas pageant.

Several students were approached about their experience participating in the pageant, check out some of their answers!

#### Q: What is your favorite part of doing the pageant?

A: Hudson M. said, "I like singing and wearing the costumes. Having lines and a solo part is cool." A: DJ M. said, "All the songs."

A: Brynn M. who played Mary said her favorite part was "being Mary, and singing on stage".

#### Q: What do you think the pageant means to the people in our congregation?

A: Brynn M. says the pageant is "a big thank you, and it means a lot to them".

A: Renley R. says, "Happiness and fun to watch".

### Q: If you were to tell someone not from our church about the pageant, what would you tell them?

A: "It's a learning experience for us and the congregation and a fun way to teach people how Jesus was born" says DJ M.

A: When asking Hudson M., he said, "our pageant tells the story of Jesus, and the real meaning of Christmas".

A: Rhylen and Renley R. both agreed that "It's about the story of how Jesus was born and everyone plays a part if the want to".

Christmas Pageant participants included Evan Griffin, DJ Melhouse, Owen Shatters, Luke DeFuss, Benjamin DeFuss, Isabelle Shatters, Charlotte Shatters, Rhylen Rebsom, Renley Rebsom, David Strandell, Vanessa Strandell, Brynn Martinez, and Hudson Martinez.



#### Help provide lunch for the homeless Jan. 17

It will be our church's turn to provide lunch at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet on Friday, Jan. 17.

Since the menu is so popular with Daybreak guests, we will again be serving sloppy joe on buns, with green beans, applesauce, potato chips and dessert.



Daybreak Shelter is now a warming shelter which has increased the number of people served at each meal.

If you would be willing to make 3 pounds of sloppy joe or a dessert for 18 to 24 people, let Kathy Farren (<a href="mailto:ednpub@earthlink.net">ednpub@earthlink.net</a>) know. Not a cook or baker? You could donate buns or the applesauce or green beans. We have a standing donation of the needed potato chips.

Once again church members stepped up in November and provided the Daybreak meal. Many thanks to Sandy Lindblom, Mary McCracken, Jill Mickelson, Lori Redmon, Connie Pierrepont, Jean Anderson, Goldie Behrens, Linda Melhouse, Tim Andrus, Kathy Farren and Gail and Fred Gaebler. Your food was greatly appreciated. The serving crew was Salli and Duane Walden, Kathy Farren and Nancy Flowers from Cross Lutheran.

Currently Cross Lutheran Church and YCUCC alternate months providing the food for one meal a month.

#### Blessings at Year's End

By Howard Thurman

I remember with gratitude the fruits of the labors of others, which I have shared as a part of the normal experience of daily living.

I remember the beautiful things that I have seen, heard, and felt - some as a result of seeking on my part, and many that came unheralded into my path, warming my heart and rejoicing my spirit.

I remember the moments of distress that proved to be groundless and those that taught me profoundly about the evilness of evil and the goodness of good.

I remember the new people I have met, from whom I have caught glimpses of the meaning of my own life and true character of human dignity.



I remember the dreams that haunted me during the year, keeping me mindful of goals and hopes which I did not realize but from which I drew inspiration to sustain my life and keep steady my purposes.

I remember the awareness of the spirit of God that sought me out in my aloneness and gave to me a sense of assurance that undercut my despair and confirmed my life with new courage and abiding hope.

#### **Adult Education**

As we begin this new year, many of us are feeling anxious about what is going on in the world or worried about our loved ones. Let's make a New Year's resolution to focus more on our faith and church family. Finding comfort in God and happiness in connecting to people can help.

#### **Movie Discussion**

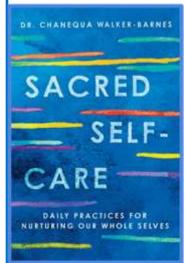


Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin.

"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.

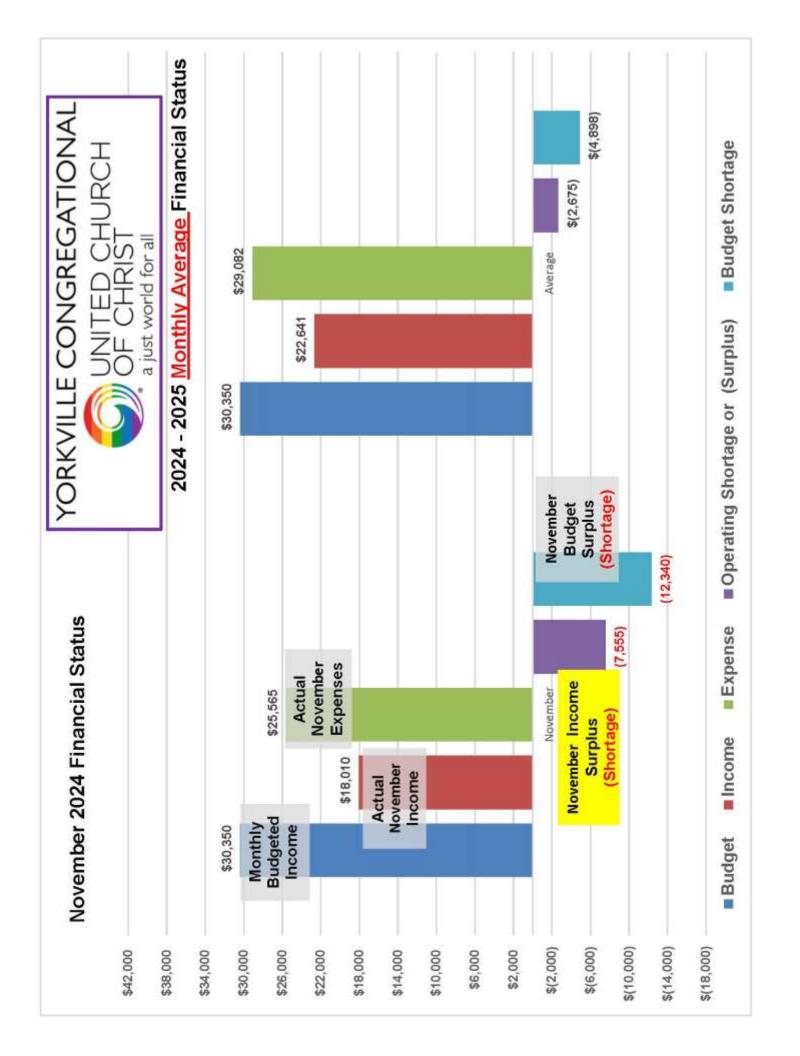
Email Aimee List (ajlsan1@hotmail.com) if interested.

Aimee List ajlsan1@hotmail.com



Join us for...
Faithful New Beginnings
Dec 29th at 10 am

Worship with Christmas Hymns and Soup and a New Year's Sparkling Cider Toast to Follow Worship.



#### **Those Grieving:**

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

Pat Dietz Michael Obenauer Pearl Undesser



#### **Health Concerns:**

Fred Anderson
Deb Bezroukoff
Rick Falato
Gayle Jacobs
Wyatt Jones
Jonathan Lamp
Michael Obenauer

#### 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

Finley Walker

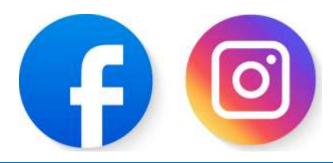
Do you have an event or a memory from a past church event that you would like to feature on the YCUCC Facebook and Instagram?

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.



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	2	-	6	9	23 eeting	30
			6pm - Finance 7pm - Shepherds	7pm - Movie	7pm - Calendar Meeting	
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Pew			NO Bible Study NO Youth Group Spm - Dinner 5ct0pm - Sonshine 6pm - Pastoral Care 6pm - Youth Choir	5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Dinner 5:30pm - Sonshine 6pm - Youth Choir 7pm - Youth Group	5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Dinner 5:30pm - Sonshine 6pm - Youth Chair 7pm - Youth Group	Spm - Bible Study Spm - Dinner S :30pm - Soushine Gpm - Youth Choir 7pm - Adult Choir
	31		C Life	Life Care rship	21 e Life	28 CLife
Tue			9am - Building and 9:30am - Breathe Life 10:30am - Staff 7pm - Spiritual	9am - Building and 9:30am - Breathe Life 10:30am - Statt 7pm - Reverent Worship	9:30am - Building and 9:30am - Breathe Life 10:30am - Staff 7pm - Spiritual	9:30am - Breathe Life 10:30am - Staff
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Mon	OFFICE CLOSED			6:30pm - Green Team	OFFICE CLOSED	8:30am - LifeLine
58	PIO 7-19 Vovadesurs	NO PreK-6th Sunday 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship	NO 7-12 Voyageurs No Prek-Eth Sunday 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship	9am - 7-12 Voyageurs Toam - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Care Team 11:15am - Worship Team	9am - 7-12 Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Soup Sunday	9am - 7-12 Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Felfowship 5pm - Chill Cook-off

January Birthdays					
Alan Haan	01				
Megan Frisk	03				
Tom Lindblom	05				
Justin Heffernan	05				
Jenna Yabsley	06				
Sandy deRidder	08				
Nancy Kolowski	10				
Alex Mulligan	11				
Sandy Lindblom	12				
Tony Houle	12				
Louise DeFuss	13				
Ruth Morello	14				
Mia Skinner	14				
Duane Walden	15				
Ron Bezroukoff	17				
Kevin Vaclavik	18				
Pam Hamblin	19				
Joe Wayne	19				
Molly Davis	19				
Peg Knell	20				
Luke DeFuss	20				
Nick Campos	21				
Roxie Houle	21				
Kelly Fischer	29				

# **Second Sunday after Christmas** WHITE

John 1:1-18

#### **Baptism of the Lord**

WHITE

Isaiah 43:1-7

# **Second Sunday after the Epiphany** GREEN

John 2:1-11

#### Third Sunday after Epiphany

GREEN

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

January Anniversaries	
1/02 Jeff & Julie Kline	47 Years
1/11 Craig & Magdalena Emmert	24 Years
1/25 Scott & Leslie Hart	28 Years



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
1/05	ON BREAK	TBD	Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Ashley Dowden
1/12	Isabelle Shatters	TBD	Through the Waters: Unshaken Faith
1/19	Lincoln Skinner	TBD	Pour It Out: Trusting Wisdom
1/26	Evan Griffin	TBD	Joy as Our Strength: Streams of Renewal

#### **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.
- 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.

## Yorkville Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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