

## Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Yorkville, IL 60560
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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

<u>Custodian</u> 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
Sue Kimes
Aaron Shatters
Pam Campos
Tony Houle
Tim Andrus
Diane Stablein
Aimee List
Rachel Rebsom
Deanna Bazan
Kathy Wickens
Salli Walden
Laurie Houle
June Davis
Kathy Farren

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

## The Happenings

# March





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

#### **Faith Moves Us Forward**

"Don't stop believin', hold on to that feelin'..." These familiar lyrics from Journey's classic anthem remind us that faith is not just about where we've been, it's about where we're going. Faith keeps us moving forward, even when the path ahead is uncertain. Whether through moments of clarity or seasons of

doubt, we are called to trust that God is leading us, step by step, into a future shaped by grace.

On **March 5**, we gather for Ash Wednesday, which invites us to acknowledge our mortality and embrace God's grace. The ashes remind us that we are dust, yet in Christ, we are also hope-filled, beloved dust—called to journey forward in faith. Whether we enter this Lenten season with certainty or hesitation, we trust that God walks with us, shaping our hearts for the road ahead. Lent is traditionally a time to give something up, but it can also be a time to take something on. Whether it's fasting from distraction, committing to a new spiritual practice, engaging in acts of service, or deepening your prayer life, these disciplines help us move forward in faith. What might you release or embrace this season to grow closer to God?

**This Lent, I am drinking more water.** It may seem small, but I see it as a reminder of God's provision and renewal. Just as our bodies need water to function, our spirits need the living water of Christ. Each time I reach for a glass of water, I take a moment to reflect on what refreshes my soul, what nourishes my faith, and how God is sustaining me in this season. What practice—small or large—might help you connect more deeply with God this Lent?

**Reflection Question:** How is faith moving you forward this Lent?

**Lenten Sermon Series: Faith Moves Us Forward** 

#### March 5 – Ash Wednesday: "Setting Your Heart"

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21, NRSVue)

#### March 9 - "Facing Trials"

Luke 4:1-13

"Jesus answered him, 'It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Luke 4:12, NRSVue)

#### March 16 - "A New Identity"

Philippians 3:17-4:1

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20, NRSVue)

#### March 23 - "Waiting with Purpose"

Luke 13:6-9

"If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down." (Luke 13:9, NRSVue)

#### March 30 - "Grace That Restores"

Luke 15:1-3. 11b-32

"So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him." (Luke 15:20, NRSVue)

As we walk through this Lenten season, may we "hold on to that feelin" of faith and trust in the One who calls us forward

Peace in God's Love, Pastor Elizabeth

#### From the Desk of the Chair

Teach them to do everything I have commanded you. "And remember that I am always with you until the end of time." Matthew 28:20

I am constantly in awe at all the ways I am taught of all the wonders God continues to give to us despite the turmoil that surrounds us. This week a very wise friend showed me how to walk on water and how a leaf makes a perfect imprint when cast in the snow. The generosity of the youth when collecting for the food pantry and organizing the blanket mission each year is a brightness that reminds me of the natural goodness in the hearts of the young.

As the season of Lent is upon us, we can choose joy, continue to give, and pray intentionally. One of my new mantras lately is to "Choose the good." This goes along with choosing joy. Each day, we can choose to focus on the chaos that surrounds us, or we can choose the good. God never promised anything would be easy, but He did promise to walk beside us for it. So, I will walk on the water rather than sliding on the ice.

Give your best give. Take the example from our youth. Give with your hearts. If that means giving the food pantry, donate some food. If that means donating a little extra with your monthly giving, send it in. Check out our giving tree and grab a tag. Give your best give.

Pray intentionally. Maybe this is something you will do with the Lent Devotional with the Spiritual Development Group. Maybe you will keep a gratitude journal. Maybe you will simply pray in a quiet space with your own thoughts. Pray intentionally.

Upcoming events to be aware of:

March 2: Pancake Breakfast 11am

March 5: Baked Potato Bar 5pm

March 5: Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

March 11: Reverent Worship 7pm

March 12: Easter Flower Orders Due

March 13: Bingo 11AM-1pm

March 16: Soup Sunday

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

Blessings, Carrie DeFuss



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

BUILDING & GROUNDS By Alex Houle, Admin Assistant

**B&G NEEDS YOUR HELP!** 

Over the next couple of years we need new carpets in Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. We also will need to get the parking lot repaved. In addition, we have 2 AC units and a boiler that are beyond their life expectancy. All that adds up to a lot of money.

In the past month we have installed 6 new toilets, rebuilt the urinals, and got rid of a bunch of hidden mold. I'd like to give a big shout out to Gerry Inukai, Louise DeFuss, and Deanna Bazan for their help repairing the drywall and B&G painting/replacing baseboard (\$17K savings). We are also doing lots of other little things to keep this place running well. Want to find out what?

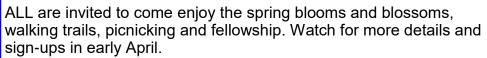
B&G continues to meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00am. All are welcome!



A call or visit from a YCUCC Care Team person may bring a smile to your life!
Contact Pastor Elizabeth, the church office,
Carrie DeFuss or Salli Walden.

## Save the Date:

Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. Field Trip to explore and picnic at Morton Arboretum



Organized by the Green Team.



## **BINGO!**

Join us on March 13th at 11:00 am for bingo, prizes, fellowship and fun! Coffee and water will be provided. Please bring your lunch or snack.





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.

#### Help provide lunch for the homeless March 21!

It will be our church's turn to provide lunch at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet on Friday, March 21.

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 help provide the March 21 meal by making 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 January and provided the Daybreak meal. Many thanks to Sandy DeRidder, Tim Andrus, Gail and Fred Gaebler, Sandy Lindblom, Mary McCracken, Jill Mickelson, Anne Engelhardt, Linda Melhouse,

Connie Pierrepont, Kathy Farren, Salli Walden, Goldie Behrens and Jean Anderson for generously donating the food. 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.



## **MISSIONS MINISTRY NEWS MARCH 2025**

Soup Sunday on February 16th, netted \$357.00, for Senior Services-Yorkville. <u>Thank you all</u> for making this happen. Along with \$300.00 allotted from the Missions Ministry Budgeted line item for Senior Services-Yorkville in February, a total of \$657.00 will be sent.

Coming Up – Soup Sunday on March 16th, will benefit our youth to attend Tower Hill Camp this summer. Sign-Up for soups etc. will be posted on March 02.

The following Soup Sunday in April will be after Easter on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> with proceeds going to Vacation Bible School.

The 5 for 5 offering "One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) will be collected on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Through this offering, OGHS, places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck, help is received through our giving.







## J.O.Y. Circle Meeting

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 in YCUCC's Fellowship Hall



Agenda



Finalize plans for the 2025 Spring Rummage & Bake Sale (Scheduled for April 11th & 12th)

We welcome new members, so please join us!

## **Spring Bake Sale!**



Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th

Look for the sign-up sheets coming soon!

Suggested items: Pies, Fudge, Brownies, Carrot Cake, Lemon Bars, or any of your favorites!

Items should be brought to the church for "plating" on Thursday, April 10th between 9 am and 6 pm.

Profits will go to Vacation Bible School.

Lets continue to make this a big event!







## YCUCC'S 2025 SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH & SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

## FROM JUNK >> TO TREASURES



Dig into your overflowing closets, cabinets, and clean out garages & basements!

#### \*\* ALL DONATIONS \*\*

Must be: clean, stain-free, no holes/rips
Basically - in GOOD condition

Please use safety pins to secure matching outfits

#### DONATING A LARGER ITEM FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE?

Call <u>Tony Houle</u> directly at **815-546-1061** to discuss specific item/s to donate and schedule an April 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Building & Grounds pickup from **9:00 a.m.** – **12:00 p.m.**, or text a picture of your donation for pre-approval!

B&G pickup service offered 'ONLY' for our YCUCC Church Family!

#### **Donation Acceptance Dates:**

Sunday, April 6th; 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Monday & Tuesday, April 7th & 8th; 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

#### **Furniture Donation Guidelines**

Furniture accepted: living room (no sofas/loveseats), bedroom, dining room, office, and outdoor furniture

#### **Electronics Accepted**

Speakers; 'Working' Flat Screen TVs up to 48" with plug & USB port (TV donations are ONLY accepted on Sunday, April 6th from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

#### Items we 'Cannot' Accepted as Donations

Sofas/loveseats; Oversized entertainment centers; Construction debris; Large appliances; Electronics: Tube TV and/or flat screen larger than 48", computers, monitors, printers, typewriters, land/cell phones, fax equipment; Infant/Child car and/or booster seats; All mattresses, box springs, cribs

#### J.O.Y. Circle requests 'your' help to ensure a successful 2025 Spring R&B Sale!

#### Volunteer Sign-up Sheets will post March 16th in the Narthex for the following:

- (1) Set-up: Sunday, April 6, 2025 immediately following the worship service
- (2) Extra help throughout the week of the sale from our YCUCC Church Family:
  - (a) Sorting/Organizing donated items (Volunteer to fit 'your' schedule)
  - (b) Bake items, provide treats and/or help Bake Sale Chair Sandy Lindblom
  - (c) Bake Sale Set-up & Preparations on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>
  - (d) Friday and/or Saturday Sale Days, April 11th & 12th
- (3) Tear-down: 12:00 p.m. @ 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 12th

Peg Trumble - J.O.Y. Circle/Rummage Sale Chair pjltrumble@comcast.net 630-768-5924 (C)

Sandy Lindblom - Bake Sale Chair slind55378@aol.com 630-553-6214 (H)

~~ SPONSORED BY J.O.Y. CIRCLE ~~



#### LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

#### SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES



In January, the President gave an executive order to halt all refugees from entering the US and to stop all funding for the ten not-for-profit settlement agencies, including World Relief.

In January, World Relied accepted 387 refugees for settlement in the Chicago area. These newly arrived people were promised assistance for housing and help with getting employed, with English learning, and community information, such as using Food Pantries and getting children enrolled in schools.

Because World Relief organization is basically shuttered, churches and individuals are stepping up to give much-needed assistance to newly arrived refugees.



## HOW CAN WE AT YOUCC HELP THE RECENTLY ARRIVED REFUGEES?



- Make-a-donation for a Refugee Voucher to be used at our 2025 Spring Rummage & Bake Sale, scheduled for April 11th & 12th. The voucher tags with instructions for giving are on the Giving Tree in the Narthex.
- Consider serving a local family as an English tutor. You do not have to have a background as a teacher. Anyone can do it!
- Consider signing up with World Relief to be a "friend" to a local refugee family. You, or a Friend Team of two or three, can work together to help refugees by checking on the family once a week, take them to the food pantry or to a medical appointment, or to help them navigate the school system for their children. It's easy and very rewarding.

~ Thank you for your time & considerations ~

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)

LYN would like to invite our church family to participate in the Celebration of Hope Fundraiser Dinner for Exodus World Service. LYN has partnered with Exodus to deliver our Welcome and Care Pack. Dinner is free and a great opportunity to see how we can help refugee's in the current environment. The dinner is April 3<sup>th</sup> at Drury Lane. Dinner starts at 6pm. If you are interested or have any questions, see anyone from LYN and we can get you registered. Please let us know by March 16<sup>th</sup> if you want to participate in the dinner.

## J.O.Y. Circle & Love Your Neighbor Ministry

are once again partnering with World Relief to offer newly, resettled refugee families the opportunity to attend the 2025 Spring Rummage & Bake Sale.



Thank you, YCUCC Church Family, for your continued partnership with

world relief\*

CHICAGOLAND



are available on the Giving Tree in the Narthex.

Donations are accepted through Sunday, March 9, 2025.



#### **Love Your Neighbor**

As the worldwide refugee crisis increases, the Love Your Neighbor ministry is offering you the opportunity to see life through the eyes of two sisters and their cousin as they leave their families and flee Syria. Base on their true story, the movie "The Swimmers" will reveal the immense trials and eventual triumphs of their refugee journey.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



The movie will be shown in the Fellowship Hall in conjunction with Soup Sunday on April 27th. Come enjoy a movie with your soup!



## **Tower Hill Pancake Breakfast!**

## March 2nd after Worship

All proceeds will go towards the youth's trip to Tower Hill this summer.



Thank you for your continued support for our children and youth!

## Save the Date!

Rain Garden Workshop Hosted by the Green Team May 1st at 6-7 pm



with guest, Alyce Olson, Resource Conservationist

## Confirmation Class Styrofoam Project

Submitted by the Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class, with the help of the Green Team, is hosting a Styrofoam collection project to help the environment, Styrofoam is one of the most widespread waste products, filling up 30% of landfills globally and it takes approximately 500 years to decompose! It releases harmful chemicals into the environment and it is unhealthy for animals and other wildlife.

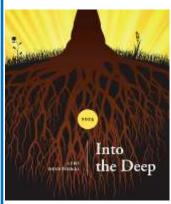
Styrofoam contains chemicals that can spread into food packaging. Styrofoam is also lightweight and can easily break into small pieces, chocking animals and birds.

After we collect the Styrofoam we will take it to a local plastic fabrication company where it is recycled into new products. When the collection starts, we will have two large labeled cardboard boxes at the entrance where can drop off Styrofoam to help with the projects.

After the project, we will publish an article with photos in *The Happenings* church newsletter, which will have the amount of Styrofoam collected, and thank the congregation for their support.



#### **Adult Education**



#### Lent

The Spiritual Development Group will discuss the United Church of Christ's Still Speaking Writers group's 2025 Lent Devotional, *Into the Deep.* The discussion will be held on Google Meets on March 18, April 1, and April 15. Anyone is welcome to join.

Aimee List ajlsan1@hotmail.com

## **Order your Easter flowers TODAY!**

This year we are once again offering three different options for Easter flowers. You can choose from Easter Lilies (\$15), Hyacinths (\$14), and/or Tulips (\$14). Order forms can be

found on the table near the front entrance of the church.

All orders must be turned in by March 12th.

See Kathy Wickens or Robin Campos with questions.

## YCUCC Children and Youth donate to Central DuPage and Lurie Children's Hospitals

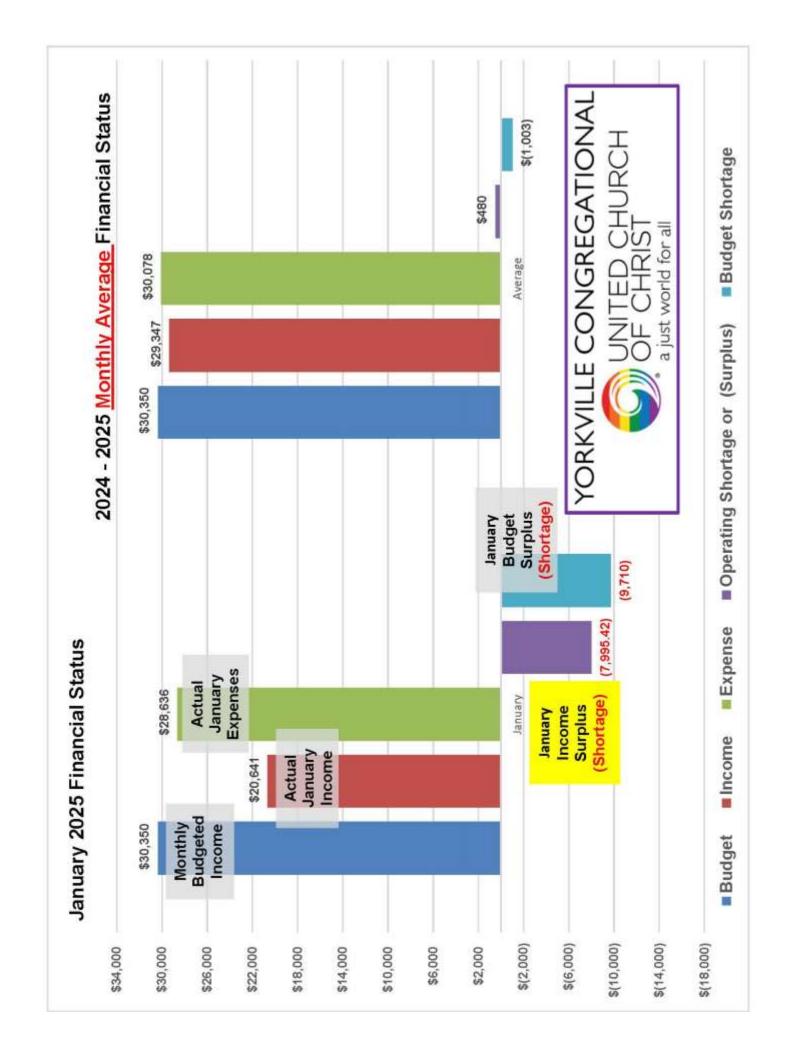
On February 17th, Luke DeFuss, Rhylen Rebsom and Renley Rebsom represented YCUCC along with CE Shepherd, Rachel Rebsom and CE Director, Robin Campos by delivering 13 children's blankets and a monetary donation of \$400 raised by the youth group.

While visiting Central DuPage Hospital, the group got the opportunity to meet and talk with the Child Life Director, Dora Castro-Ahillen. While talking, Dora mentioned that receiving a blanket is the highlight of many kids' hospital stay and often times our

blankets will travel with families when they return for various treatments, procedures and visits. We also talked about other way we could help out the Child Life unit at CDH. Dora was kind enough to send us their wish list. Stay tuned for a collection later in the spring.

We are grateful for your donations and help tying blankets this year! Thank you to Luke, Rhylen and Renley for representing YCUCC on their day off from school!





#### **Those Grieving:**



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

Pat Dietz Pearl Undesser

#### **Health Concerns:**

Fred Anderson
Deb Bezroukoff
Rick Falato
Andy Hamblin
Gayle Jacobs
Wyatt Jones
Jonathan Lamp

## General Concerns:

Prochaska Family Mendell Family The Hughes Family

#### Homebound/Assisted Living:

Fred Anderson, Myrah Baldwin, Delores Cruise, Pat Dietz, Dave Encinas, Rick Falato, Gayle Jacobs, Dale Perkins and Fred Wayne

Dale Perkins

Finley Walker

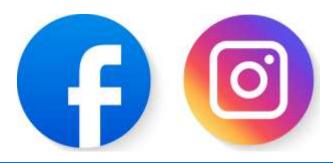
Do you have an event or a memory from a past church event that you would like to feature on the YCUCC Facebook and Instagram?

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.



March Birthdays					
03 04 06 06 07 10 10 12 12 12 14 14 14 14	Deb Mendell Benjamin DeFuss Jacob DeFuss Tim Sartori Sue Frahm Chuck Steinbach Rhylen Rebsom Dexter Stillmunkes Magda Emmert Greyson Tsusaki	24 25 25 26 27 27 27 28 29 30			
20 22 23 23 23 23 23 24					
	03 04 06 06 07 10 10 12 12 12 14 14 14 16 18 20 22 23 23 23 23	03 Deb Mendell 04 Benjamin DeFuss 06 Jacob DeFuss 06 Tim Sartori 07 Sue Frahm 10 Chuck Steinbach 10 Rhylen Rebsom 10 Dexter Stillmunkes 12 Magda Emmert 12 Greyson Tsusaki 12 14 14 14 16 18 20 22 23 23 23 23 23			

Transfiguration Sunday	y
WHITE	
Luke 9:28-36	

First Sunday in Lent VIOLET Luke 4:1-13

Second Sunday in Lent VIOLET

Phil 3:17-4:1

**Third Sunday in Lent VIOLET** 

Luke 13:1-9

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**VIOLET** 

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March Anniversaries	
03/14 Zachary & Amanda Seibel	5 Years
03/15 Stephen & Carole Guenzler	39 Years
03/31 Aaron & Sondra Shatters	18 Years



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
3/2	Benjamin DeFuss	Sandy deRidder	Embody: Listen, Believe and Live it Out
3/9	Chelsea Skinner	Sandy deRidder	Facing Trials
3/16	Evan Griffin	John Morello	A New Identity
3/23	Lincoln Skinner	TBD	Waiting with Purpose
3/30	Jacob DeFuss	TBD	Grace that Restores

#### **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.

## Yorkville Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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