



Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday
Hours vary weekly.

Staff

<u>Minister</u>	Rev. Elizabeth Hartung
<u>Christian Edu. Director</u>	Robin Campos
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Alex Houle
<u>Chancel Choir Directors</u>	Leslie Inukai
	Doug Trumble
<u>Children's Choir Director</u>	Sondra Shatters
<u>Pianist</u>	Lori Runkle
<u>Childcare Team</u>	Abby Goniwicha
	Dakota Shatters
	Hailey Shatters
<u>Custodian</u>	Kim Jones
<u>Sexton</u>	Louise DeFuss

Shepherds

<u>Chairperson</u>	Carrie DeFuss
<u>Vice Chairperson</u>	Sue Kimes
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	Aaron Shatters
<u>Operations: Personnel</u>	Pam Campos
<u>Operations: Bldg. & Grds</u>	Tony Houle
<u>Operations: Finance</u>	Tim Andrus
<u>Information Services</u>	Diane Stablein
<u>Christian Education: Adult</u>	Aimee List
<u>Christian Education: Youth</u>	Rachel Rebsom
<u>Worship: Serving</u>	Deanna Bazan
<u>Worship: Preparation</u>	Kathy Wickens
<u>Church Family: Caring</u>	Salli Walden
<u>Church Family: Fellowship</u>	Laurie Houle
<u>Service: Missions</u>	June Davis
<u>Outreach/Welcoming</u>	Kathy Farren

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

The Happenings

June

2025

"For we live by
faith, not by
sight"

-2 Corinthians 5:7





Pastor's Porch

Showing Up: Living as Resurrection People

"Let us not neglect meeting together... but encourage one another" – Hebrews 10:25

Showing up. It sounds so simple, and yet it's one of the most powerful things we can do as people of faith.

In the everydayness of our lives, there are moments when simply being present—with one another and for one another—becomes a sacred act. Ministry happens not just on Sunday mornings, but in the ways we show up for our neighbors, respond to needs, and celebrate community. This summer, we're committed to showing up in bold, joyful, and grace-filled ways.

Hebrews 10:25-26 reminds us that when we gather and build one another up, we are participating in the ongoing work of God. We don't do this to earn God's love—we do it to reflect the love we've already received. As resurrection people, we are called to nurture life, hope, and connection. And every time we show up, we create opportunities for new life to blossom in our community.

Here are just a few of the ways we are showing up this summer:

The Little Pantry & The Little Library

These small but mighty ministries by the Care Team continue to offer nourishment—both for the body and the mind. Stocked by generous hands, the Little Pantry provides essentials for anyone in need, while the Little Library sparks imagination and learning. These are 24/7 acts of hospitality and compassion, right outside our front door.

Hosting Juneteenth: A Celebration of Love and Education

Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates the news finally reaching African slaves in Texas - finally the end to the evils of chattel slavery. We are hosting Juneteenth of Kendall County. Join us for live music, food trucks, children's games, the YHS Step Team, and Double Dutch Over 40! This event celebrates freedom, resilience, and our commitment to justice and joy.

July 4th Parade & Fireworks Hospitality

We'll march in the parade with joy, waving and walking with pride for our church and our faith. Later that evening, we'll once again offer a warm welcome, cold treats, and a hospitable space in our parking lot for families gathering to enjoy the fireworks. Join us as we celebrate and welcome our neighbors to our Church property.

Free Vacation Bible School *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus* July 6th - 10th

***Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus* July 6th - 10th** This year's VBS is full of adventure and discovery! Kids will explore how Jesus rescues us through life's storms with games, music, crafts, and storytelling. It's a 100% **free** opportunity for families and a meaningful way we share God's love with the youngest among us.

Hometown Days: Touch-a-Truck

We'll be participating in Hometown Days, helping kids explore, climb, and discover the wonder of big vehicles up close! More than that, we'll share smiles, high-fives, and a message that everyone is welcome at our church.

In all of these things, we are reminded that **showing up matters**. When we show up for each other and our community, we are part of something holy. We are part of God's resurrection story, where new life is always possible, grace is always available, and love is always at the center. As we continue showing up for our community in powerful ways this summer, we're also showing up in worship—listening for what God is saying to us, and speaking boldly about who we are as people of faith. Our new sermon series, *What We're Saying*, will explore the heart of our message as a church: a message of liberation, connection, courage, and belonging. Each Sunday, we'll reflect on scripture, lift our voices in song, and share stories that help us live out our faith with honesty and hope.

What We're Saying

A Sermon Series on Faith, Action, and Belonging

June 1 – Freedom Breaks Through (Communion Sunday)

Scripture: Acts 16:16–34

Focus Verse: Acts 16:26 – “Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.”

Main Message: God can break through anything that holds us back—God shows up when we feel trapped or stuck.

Story/Image: Paul and Silas in prison—working hard, singing in the dark, and trusting God through it all, like working a hard job and still holding on to hope.

June 8 – God’s Spirit Speaks (Pentecost)

Scripture: Acts 2:1–21

Focus Verse: Acts 2:4 – “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

Main Message: God helps us speak and connect—even when we feel different or unsure.

Story/Image: Dandelions—everywhere, spreading life in unexpected places, just like the Spirit sends us out with purpose.

June 15 – Proclaiming Peace Today (Trinity Sunday)

Scripture: Romans 5:1–5

Focus Verse: Romans 5:1 – “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Main Message: Faith gives us peace to face the world, even when things are messy or unfair.

Story/Image: A calm heart during a challenging conversation—God’s peace can help us breathe, listen, and care even when life feels too big.

June 22 – We Live by Faith, Not by Sight (Youth Sunday) Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10, 14–17

Focus Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Main Message: We don’t have to see everything clearly to trust where God is leading.

Story/Image: Like walking in the dark with someone we trust—youth will share how they keep moving forward even when they don’t have all the answers.

June 29 – Pride and Proclamation (Pride Sunday)

Scripture: Luke 9:51–62

Focus Verse: Luke 9:51 – “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

Main Message: Jesus chose a path of courage and truth—and so can we.

Story/Image: Pauli Murray—someone who spoke up for justice even when it was hard, reminding us that being true to who we are is part of our faith.

This summer, let’s continue to show up with intention, joy, and the courage to be God’s people. Let’s show up because **love lives here** and in us.

Peace in God’s Love, Pastor Elizabeth



What’s happening in Building and Grounds?

By Alex Houle, Admin Assistant

Spring has arrived, and the Building and Grounds team has been hard at work preparing for a season of growth and fellowship. We've refreshed the landscaping by mulching around the church building and all the trees, giving our grounds a tidy and welcoming look. To improve safety and appearance, we also added soil and grass seed along the sidewalk edges, smoothing out the transition from pavement to lawn and helping prevent trips and falls. We also purchased a literal ton of soil for the children and youth to plant a new vegetable garden this season. We look forward to seeing their hands in the dirt and watching their excitement as seeds turn into food—an opportunity for learning, service, and connection with God’s creation. Let’s keep growing together!



From the Desk of the Chair

“...You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your mana from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. ” -Nehemiah 9:20

A BIG thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting on May 18. We needed 50% of our average attendance to make our quorum and pass the votes. We had plenty in attendance and made it through our meeting in record time.

Thank you to Diane Stablein for her service as the Information Shepherd. She will continue to monitor our presence on social media and report it back through Outreach. She will also continue to work with Lori Redmon to stream our services on Sunday morning. We are thankful for all her technical skills.

Thank you to Pam Campos for her service as Personnel shepherd. She has faithfully served through several turnovers and changes in staff. The last pending staff position still waiting to be filled she has been working on is the organist/pianist. Thanks to Pam, the position is still posted and just waiting to be filled.

The Personnel Shepherd position does remain open at this time. If you are someone that feels called to serve on the SLT Board, please consider this as your opportunity. Come speak with me, or any member of the SLT for more information.

Thank you to Kathy Wickens for her service as Preparation Shepherd. During her service, she has helped to freshen up many of our older banners while reorganizing the current rotation. She has also been a big advocate and organizer for our holiday flower program.

Thank you to Again to Sue Kimes and Rachel Rebsom for stepping into their roles as Vice Chair and Children and Youth Shepherd respectfully.

Finally, thank you to Louise DeFuss for stepping into the Preparation Shepherd position moving forward.

“Leaders are only as good as the people who follow them.”
-Wolfgang Jenewein

I am truly grateful for all the wonderful Shepherds I have the pleasure to work alongside each week, each month, for it truly takes a village. Even to make a church run.

Upcoming events to be aware of:

June 5: Bingo 1pm

June 15: Happy Father's Day—Donut's with Dad (Following Service)

June 16: Tower Hill Workshop 12pm-4pm

June 20: Day Break

June 22: Youth Sunday (during service)

June 25: Calendar meeting 6:30pm

June 29: Pride Sunday (during Sunday)

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

Blessings,

Carrie DeFuss

SLT Chairperson

Need a new church photo directory? Extra copies are available for purchase in the office for \$20.

Join us for BINGO the first Thursday of the month!

**1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall
No RSVP needed!**



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



MINISTRY

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)

**Summer Refugee Care Pack Collection
June 22nd to July 22nd**

It's that time again where we put into action to "love your neighbor." We will be collecting a Care Pack for Exodus World Services this summer. Look for our table for items you can donate starting on June 22rd.



Why Selah?

In coming up with a name, I prayed that God would take the focus entirely off of charity and sadness – That this name would speak to His miraculous, restorative work in the lives of everyone who enters here.

The biblical concept of “**Selah**” is a pause or disruption that God uses to bring us to a place of safety; a place where He speaks His promises over us and reminds us that we are His.

These children have come to a pause in their lives, not of their own doing or choosing.

In this consecrated home and space there will be God – enacted miracles in the lives of His children –

Powerful encounters with grace and love.
All for God’s great GLORY.

SELAH HOME

** Children will not simply be “housed” here – at **Selah**, they will find a HOME!

Amy Skogerboe, Board Member



J.O.Y. Circle Members with Shari Chapman, Selah Home’s Executive Director

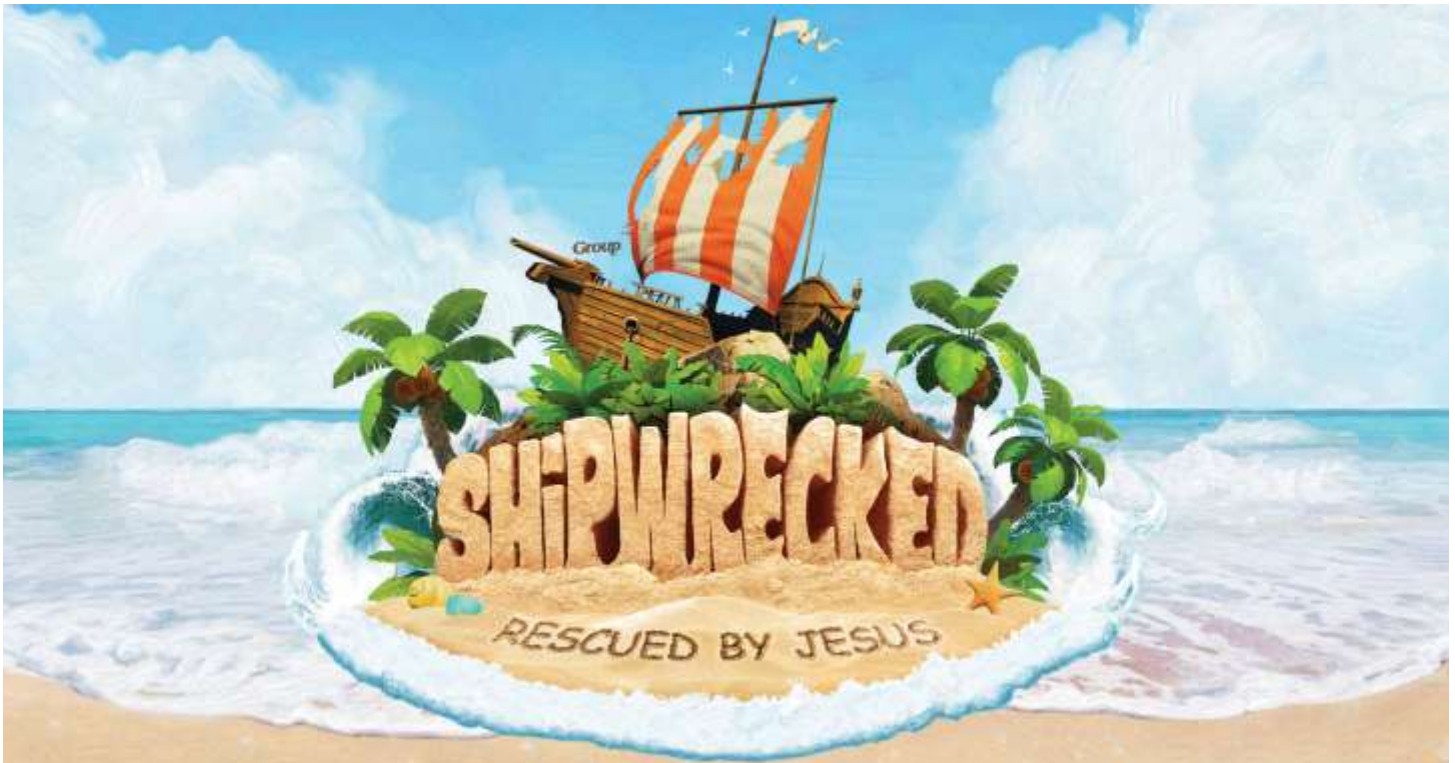
Following the May 20th J.O.Y. Circle Meeting, Pastor Elizabeth, Sue Kimes, Jill Mickelson, Jo Pierce, Mary Ann Doetschman, Mary McCracken, and Peg Trumble made a return visit to We Are Called To Care and the Selah Home in Yorkville. Shari Chapman, Selah Home’s Ex. Director, invited J.O.Y. Circle to ‘cover the home in prayer’ during May’s Foster Care Awareness Month for a successful June 1, 2025 Grand Opening!

Pastor Elizabeth invites Shari to share her weekly, YCUCC Facebook message.
~ PEACE ~



"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

1 JOHN 3:16,18



**Join us for Vacation Bible
School 2025!**

**July 6-10th
5:00-7:30 pm
NOW FREE!**

**Registration is now OPEN for
all students ages 3-12.**

**Visit www.yorkvilleucc.org/education
to register.**



meeting

J.O.Y. Circle Meeting

May 20, 2025

TUESDAY

Recipients of the 2025 Spring R&B Sale's Proceeds...

A.I.D. (Association for Individual Development), Chapel on the Green,
Shepherd's Table (Daybreak Shelter, Joliet), Feed My Starving Children,
Kendall County Community Food Pantry, Mutual Ground,
Open Door Rehabilitation Center, Suicide Prevention Services,
Wayside Cross Ministries, We Are Called To Care,
YCUCC 2025 Summer Mission Trip, YCUCC Capital Fund, Christian Education/VBS

Our next J.O.Y. Circle Meeting will be at noon on August 19, 2025!

We welcome new members, so please join us!



Join us for
Donuts with
Dads on Father's
Day after
Worship in the
Fellowship Hall!



On Thursday, June 19 from 4 to 8 p.m., Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ will host the local Juneteenth celebration. The holiday commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

The committee planning the event has asked our church to set up a crafts/coloring table for kids and some games for kids.

Additional help will be needed for set up and during the event. Signup sheets are in the Narthex.

Together in Worship

Kids stay. Families grow. Summer Sundays.

Kid's Packets are available for PreK-6th grade students near the entrance of the church. Childcare is available for children ages Birth-5 in the Preschool room. The coloring table is available for all students at any point during worship.



Check out the new CE Community Garden!

On May 21, several students filled four repurposed raised garden beds with soil and then planted lettuce, tomatoes, onions, carrots, peppers, strawberries, zucchini and one jalapeno plant. The produce was selected by the youth group students. Throughout the summer, all students PreK-12th grade are invited to help take care of the garden. Plans for the harvested produce are still a work in progress. All are welcome to check out the garden located in the back of the building near the Gaga Ball pit.

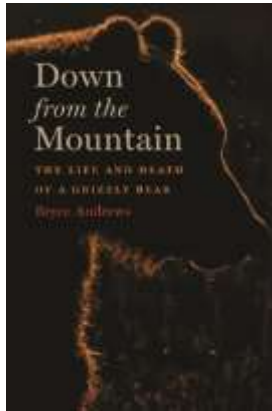


Where in the world is YCUCC?

Are you traveling this summer? Bring in a photo to add to the map on the office window! Can't print out a picture? Email a photo to adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org and we will print it for you.



Adult Education



Book Review-- *Down from the Mountain: The Life And Death Of A Grizzly Bear* by Bryce Andrews

I recently finished this amazing book! The book is the true story of the author, Bryce Andrews, as he journeys from being a Montana rancher to working for People and Carnivores, an organization that works to prevent human-carnivore conflicts. Along the way he encounters a Grizzly bear, Millie and her cubs. The book is a stunningly written page-turner about the intersection of the wilderness of Montana and the people living there.

Summer Movie Discussion Series

Just because it is summer doesn't mean we should take a break from stretching our knowledge and understanding. That is why I am launching the second annual Summer Movie Discussion Series! Again this year, I am featuring movies from Barack Obama's Favorite Movie list. The discussions will be on Wednesday nights at 7:00 in person at church. I hope to see many of you there!

“Sugarcane”

Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 p.m.

“A stunning tribute to the resilience of Native people and their way of life, SUGARCANE, the debut feature documentary.” (NationalGeographic.com)

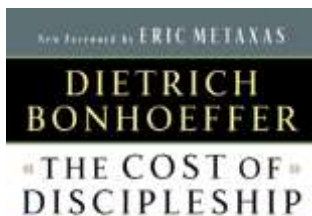
Watch on Hulu or rent on Amazon for \$3.99.

Other Dates:

July 16— **Piano Lesson, 2024**

August 6—**The Seed of the Sacred Fig**

Summer Classic Christian Text Study



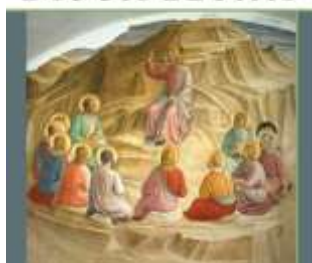
Earlier in the year, we watched the latest movie about the life of pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This summer is the perfect time to take a slow and careful read through his most famous book, *The Cost of Discipleship*. We will meet once a month to discuss the book.

June 25--Forward, Memoir, Introduction, and Part I: Grace and Discipleship

July 30--Part II: The Sermon on the Mount; Matthew 5, 6, and 7

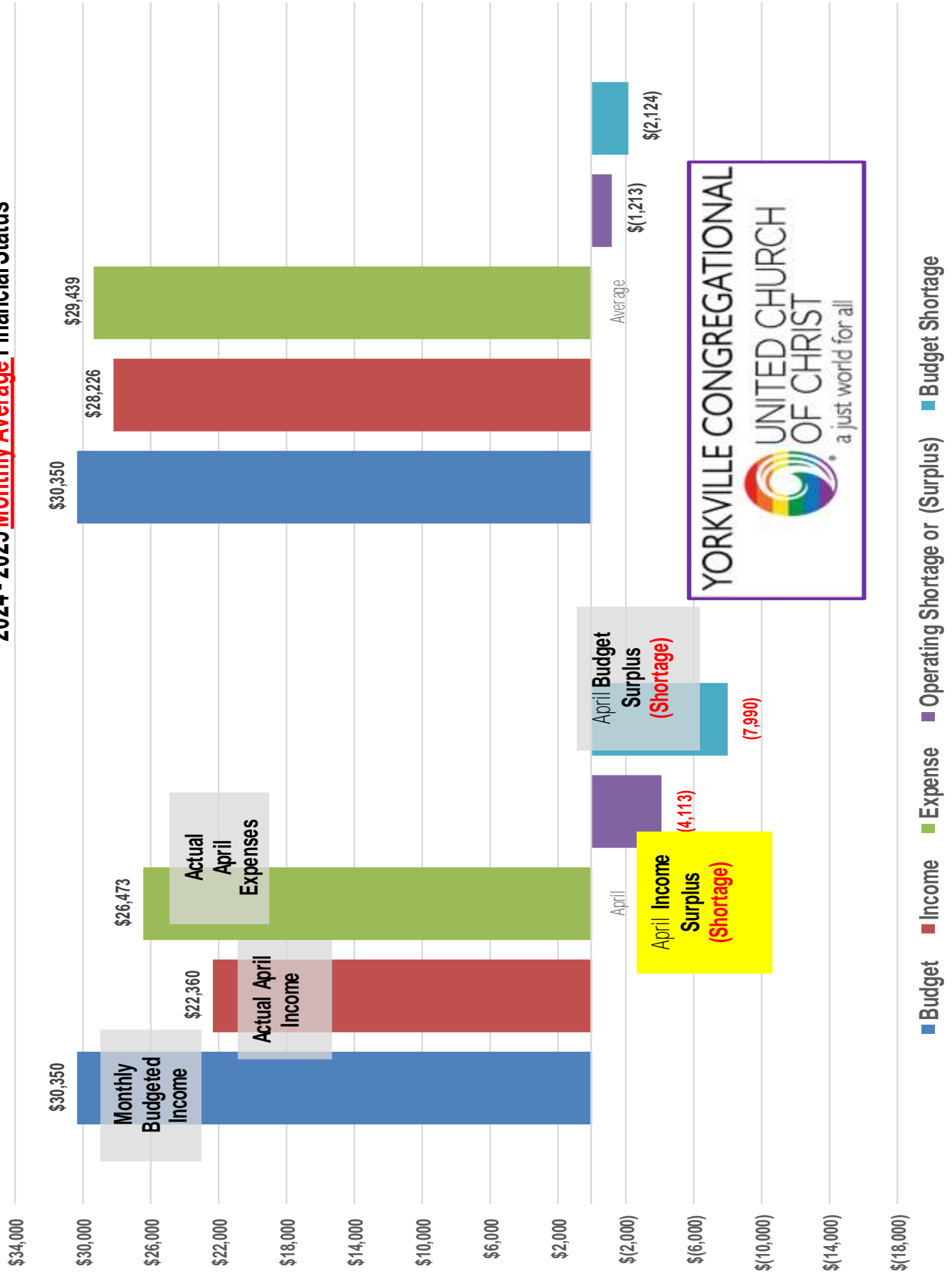
August 20--Part III: The Messengers and Part IV: The Church of Jesus Christ And The Life Of Discipleship

All discussions will be at 7:00 p.m., in person, at church.



April 2025

2024 - 2025 Monthly Average Financial Status



Those Grieving:

The Family of Larry Savage

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Pearl Undesser

**Health Concerns:**

Fred Anderson
Deb Bezroukoff
Rick Falato
Gayle Jacobs
Wyatt Jones
Jonathan Lamp
Finley Walker

General Concerns:

The Prochaska Family
The Mendell Family
The Hughes Family

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Fred Anderson, Myrah Baldwin, Delores Cruise, Pat Dietz, Dave Encinas, Gayle Jacobs, 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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1pm - Training at Tower Hill 10am - Worship w/ Communion 11am - Coffee Fellowship 2pm - Private Party	2 6:30pm - Green Team	3 8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 10:30am - Staff Meeting	4	5 1pm - Bingo!	6	7
8 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Care Team 11:15am - Worship Team Meeting	9	10 8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 10am - Pastoral Care 10:30am - Staff Meeting	11 6pm - Pastoral Care 7pm - Summer Movie Discussion	12 6pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - S.L.T. Meeting	13	14
15 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - Donuts with Dads	16 12pm - Tower Hill Workshop 7pm - Outreach	17 8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 10:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Tower Hill Van Packing	18 Youth Camp @ Tower Hill (6th-12th Grade)	19 Newsletter Articles Due OFFICE CLOSED-June/Seventh 4pm - Juneteenth Celebration	20 Tower Hill Rd, Sawyer, MI 49725, USA 9-15am - Day-break	21
22 Refugee Collection 10am - Worship (Youth Sunday) 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - LYN 12pm - Private Party	23 2pm - PRC Meeting	24 8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 10:30am - Staff Meeting	25 6:30pm - Calendar Meeting 7pm - Summer Book Discussion	26	27	28
29 10am - Worship (Pride Sunday) 11am - Coffee Fellowship 1pm - Private Party	30	1	2	3	4	5

June Birthdays

Ben Moe	03
Deb Steinbach	05
Erik Mallon	05
Rebecca Morello	05
Zack Gette	06
Matthew Olvera	06
Paige Sartori	07
David Strandell	12
Mary Ann Doetschman	13
June Davis	14
Shawn Corwin	14
Megghun Redmon	20
Amanda Matlock	21
Lincoln Parrilli-Trumble	21
Rick Matuna	22
Lisa Sheble	22
Alison Strandell	24
Richard Skogsberg	26
Pat Dietz	28
Deanna Bazan	28
Debbie Weaver	28
Makayla Duran	28
Pat Norr	29

Seventh Sunday of Easter

WHITE
Acts 16:16-34

Pentecost Sunday

RED
Acts 2:1-21

Trinity Sunday

WHITE
Rom 5:1-5

Second Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN
2 Cor. 5:7

Third Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN
Luke 9:51-62

June Anniversaries

6/05 Linda & Alan Haan	54 Years
6/10 Gere' & Cissy Ryerson	24 Years
6/12 Wayne & Pat Norr	54 Years
6/15 Fred & Gail Gaebler	55 Years
6/20 Alison & Robbie Strandell	10 Years
6/22 Deb Mendell & Dave Encinas	16 Years
6/29 Keenan & Samantha Trashavil	6 Years



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
6/01	ON BREAK	Carrie DeFuss	Freedom Breaks Through
6/08	ON BREAK	Carrie DeFuss	God's Spirit Speaks
6/15	ON BREAK	Sandy Lindblom	Proclaiming Peace Today
6/22	ON BREAK	Youth Group	We Live by Faith, Not by Sight (Youth Sunday)
6/29	ON BREAK	John Morello	Pride and Proclamation (Pride Sunday)

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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