



## Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Yorkville, IL 60560  
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Web Page: [www.yorkvilleucc.org](http://www.yorkvilleucc.org)  
FB: @yorkvilleucc  
Instagram: @yorkvilleucc  
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>Organist</u>	Andy Maya
<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>	Bethany Harbour
<u>Operations: Bldg. &amp; Grds</u>	Tony Houle
<u>Operations: Finance</u>	Tim Andrus
<u>Christian Education: Adult</u>	Aimee List
<u>Christian Education: Youth</u>	Rachel Rebsom
<u>Worship: Serving</u>	Deanna Bazan
<u>Worship: Preparation</u>	Louise DeFuss
<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**  
**Voyagers: 9:00 am**

# The Happenings

# August

## 2025



**"For nothing will be  
impossible with God."**

**-Luke 1:37**



## Pastor's Porch

### Draw the Circle Wide: Beloved, Welcomed, Included

Dear Church Family,

One thing I've learned again and again in ministry is this: God meets us right where we are—but doesn't leave us there. We're always being drawn—gently, persistently—wider in welcome, deeper in faith, closer to love. As we get ready for the start of the program year, I find myself holding onto that promise. The circle is widening, and we are being invited to step in with open hearts.

This September, we begin a new worship series, **"Draw the Circle Wide,"** rooted in the Gospel of Luke. If you've been part of worship this past year, you've heard us name again and again that the Spirit is still moving, calling us beyond comfort zones and into connection, stretching the borders of who's in and who matters. The series will begin on Sunday, September 14.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus continually widens the circle—lifting those who have been pushed aside, healing people who have been hurting for a long time, sharing meals with those others avoid, and telling parables that stretch our hearts. These stories aren't locked in the past. They reflect something true about who we're called to be right now.

As we begin the program year together, we're asking: What kind of church are we becoming? How do we live as if we authentically believe that everyone has a place?

To deepen this journey, our fall Bible study will focus on Paul's letters—bold, honest writings that still carry a heartbeat of hope. Paul reminds us, "You are the body of Christ." Church isn't just a place we attend—it's a way of living. It's where every part matters, and where love is practiced out loud.

Bible study begins on **Wednesday, September 8**, and will meet weekly at **5:00 p.m.**, except the **first Wednesday of each month**. Study books are available in the church office for **\$15**.

### Introducing The Pause: A Midweek Moment of Grace

Starting in September, we're creating space for something new: a midweek worship experience called **"The Pause."** This is for anyone whose soul needs a deep breath in the middle of the week. Grounded in Scripture and community, *The Pause* is a time to gather in a relaxed, reflective way. We'll share in communion. We'll pray together. We'll open up space for meaningful conversation. And we'll trust that when we make time to listen to each other, God's grace shows up. **This will begin September 1st at 6 pm.**

You've heard me say this before: Church is not about perfection—it's about presence. It's about showing up, again and again, to be shaped by love.

### August Worship: What We're Saying

As summer begins to wind down, we continue listening for the Spirit through our *"What We're Saying"* sermon series. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus doesn't just comfort—he challenges, provokes, heals, and invites us to live differently. These aren't easy words, but they're faithful ones. Each passage asks something of us: What does your life say about what you believe? What kind of gospel are we living and sharing with the world? Here's what's ahead in August worship:

#### August 3 – *True Treasure* | Luke 12:13–21

*"So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."*

We'll reflect on where our treasure lies—and what it means to be truly rich in God's eyes.

#### August 10 – *Be Ready, God Surprises* | Luke 12:32–40

*"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."*

In a world of schedules and plans, how do we stay open to the holy interruptions of grace?

#### August 17 – *Fiery Words* | Luke 12:49–56

*"Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!"*

Jesus' words stir us—how do we speak truth with love in a world already divided?

#### August 24 – *Set Free* | Luke 13:10–17

*"Woman, you are set free from your ailment."*

A story of healing and dignity reminds us that freedom is at the heart of the gospel.

### August 31 – Guest Preacher: Rev. Jeffrey Phillips

Come as you are—and bring your whole heart. God is still speaking, and together we're listening.  
Peace in God's Love,  
Pastor Elizabeth



### From the Desk of the Chair

***"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* –1 Peter 5:7**

Summer is wrapping up. School is beginning soon. New experiences for some of our kids as they meet new teachers and new friends. One constant they can always count on is the family they have here at YCUCC. Here at Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ, we take pride in being that welcoming community not only for the parents, but also for the kids. Children's bibles can be found within the pews for those kiddos wanting to stay in service, Children's packets are available every Sunday and a variety of other Children's activities can be found happening around the church as well.

In the upcoming months we will begin the process of becoming a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health. This will let those in the community living with mental health challenges, the neurodivergent community, and substance abuse challenges know we are a safe environment for worship. If this sounds like an area you are more interested in serving with, please contact me for more information (630-730-9377 call or text). There will be an informational meeting following worship on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to join this meeting.

***"Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams."***

**Jimmy Carter**

Upcoming events to be aware of:

*August 6: Youth Group: 6pm, Summer Movie Discussion: The Seed of the Sacred Fig; 7pm*

*August 7: Bingo: 1pm*

*August 15: Day Break lunch*

*August 17: WISE Committee discussion: 11:15AM*

*August 20: Book Discussion: The Cost of Discipleship, Part 3*

*August 27: Adult Choir Begins: 7pm*

*August 30: Touch a Truck: 12-4pm*

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

Blessings,

Carrie DeFuss

SLT Chairperson



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

By Alex Houle, Admin Assistant

The Building & Grounds team has been active this past month, focusing on essential improvements and ongoing maintenance to keep our church safe, functional, and welcoming.

Beyond the basics, Dave Farren has become a true hero of the church. He has begun inspecting all our HVAC systems. This cost us around \$6,000 last year. As if that weren't amazing enough, he has identified repairs and has the parts to fix them. Putting his 50 years of HVAC experience into work Dave Farren has proven himself an invaluable member of the team and we can't thank him enough for all his hard work.

In the coming years, we have several important projects on the horizon: replacing the carpets in Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary, repaving the parking lot, and upgrading our aging AC units. These essential improvements come with significant costs, and we can't do it without your help. Thank you for considering how you can contribute!

B&G continues to meet each Tuesday morning at 9:00am. Please join us. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



### Care Team can be a new pathway for you.

A new friend; A new start;  
A new idea or solution to something  
Help you with a difficult challenge  
Being there for you in your time of need.

### CARETEAM TRULY CARES ABOUT YOU.

See Pastor Elizabeth, Carrie DeFuss, or Salli Walden with any questions or interest.



Choose sidebar display

## 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 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale.

Thank you,  
YCUCC Church Family,  
for your continued  
partnership with  
world relief®  
CHICAGOLAND

**Refugee Vouchers**  
are available on the  
Giving Tree in the  
Narthex. Donations  
are accepted  
through Sunday,  
September 21, 2025.

**\$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$Other**  
**Refugee Voucher**

Thank you for supporting  
Refugee Families  
for the 2025 Fall  
R&B Sale

**Giving  
Tree**

**UNITED**  
in Christ's love,  
a **JUST** world for all.

Do you use the website? Did 2020 kill programs that you would like to see again? Do you want to see the church be more involved in "you name it"? Any ideas on how to make church be important to your life experience? Join the visioning team! All we ask is a few minutes of your time. No meetings, no public speaking...just be part of the puzzle. Pick up a puzzle piece and tell us what you like about YCUCC and what ideas you have for the future. On one side - tell us what you like. On the other side - ideas for the future. Later this summer we will form a team (you can be part of that too) to put the puzzle together!



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

## Sunday School teachers NEEDED!

This year we are in need of FIVE Sunday School teachers. If you are interested in learning more about how you can become a Sunday School teacher, please contact Robin Campos. The curriculum for the year and all weekly supplies will be provided.

All teachers will have a co-teacher which allows for flexible schedules. The common teaching schedule is one month teaching and the next month off, or the same rotation but every two weeks.

## Join us for BINGO the first Thursday of the month!

1:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall  
No RSVP needed!



## J.O.Y. Circle Meeting

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 in YCUCC's Fellowship Hall

meeting

Agenda

TUESDAY

Begin planning the 2025 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale

(Scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>)

We welcome new members, so please join us!



## 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.



♥ Your  
donation  
is greatly  
appreciated

### 2025 FALL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE



♥ Your  
donation  
is greatly  
appreciated

#### **This event is a \*CHURCH-WIDE \* Rummage & Bake Sale!**

Proceeds from the R&B Sale benefit: Christian Ed | YCUCC Capital Fund | Charitable Organizations

##### 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

##### 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

**All donations must be clean and in good, working condition.**

##### Donation Acceptance Dates:

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Monday & Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>: 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

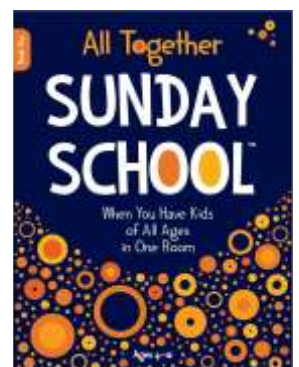
**\*\* More information will appear in September's *The Happenings* 2025 Newsletter. \*\***

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

## Register for Sunday School!

Please register your PreK-12th Grade students before the first day of class of September 14th. Please see Robin Campos with any questions about Sunday School. Visit the link below or [www.yorkvilleucc.org/education](http://www.yorkvilleucc.org/education) to register.

<https://forms.gle/8Ew1r5vAT3WhNAgu6>



## Calling all YCUCC Singers!

We are excited to announce that the Chancel Choir will be starting up for the Fall very soon! The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will resume singing on Sunday mornings, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Maybe you sang in High School, but it's been years since you've been in a choir. We want YOU! Maybe you sing along with the radio or the dog thinks you sound great in the shower. We want YOU! Or, maybe you love music but have never been in a choir. Now is your time to give it a try! All are welcome! In the world of choral music, the richness of sound comes not just from the notes themselves but from the diverse voices that bring them to life. Come join in the fun, fellowship and family of the Chancel Choir as we strive to enhance our worship experience with God's wonderful gift of music.

Got questions?? Contact Leslie Inukai at [Leslie.inukai@gmail.com](mailto:Leslie.inukai@gmail.com) or talk to any current Chancel Choir Member.

Hope to see you on August 27<sup>th</sup>!



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.

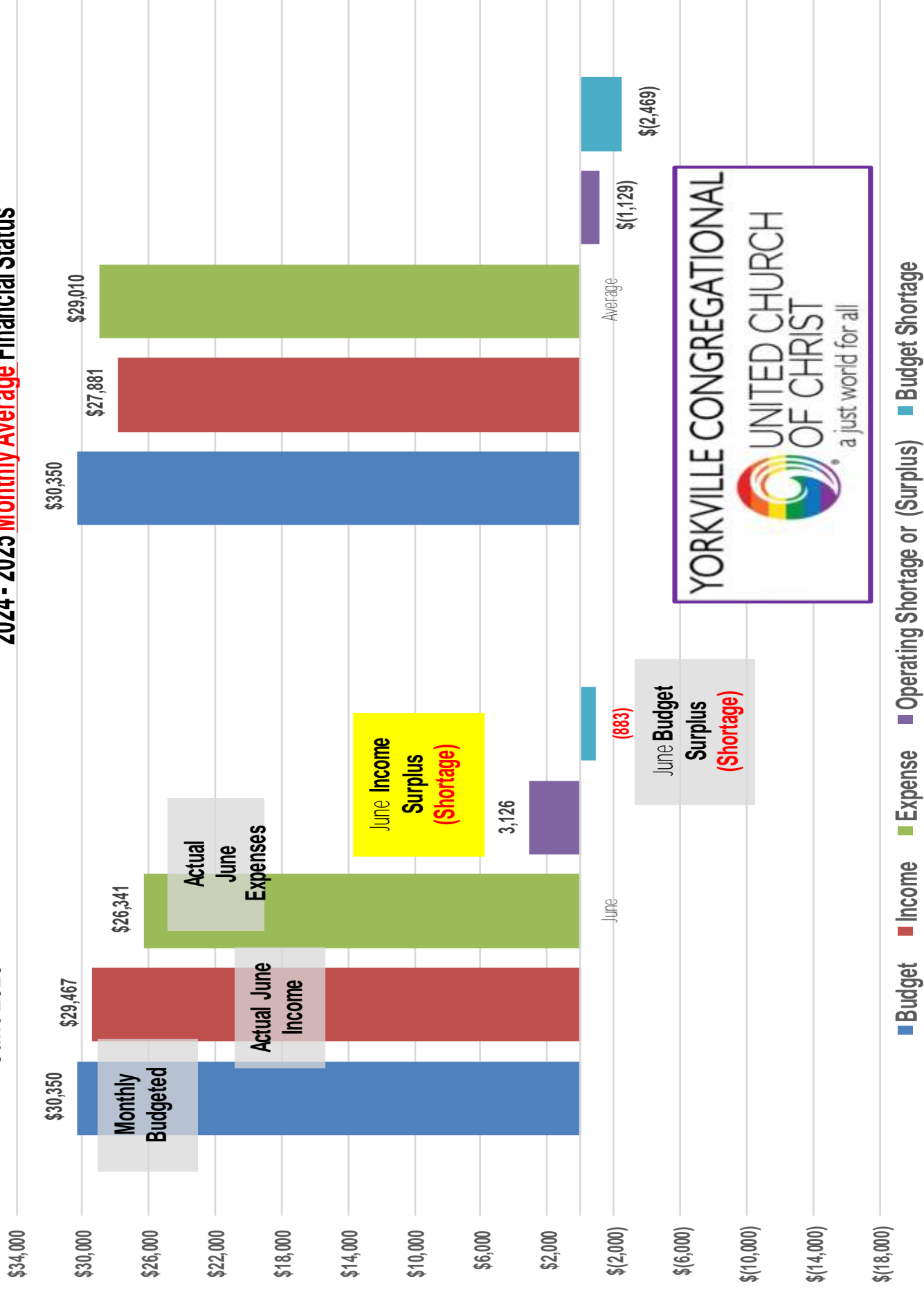
<https://forms.gle/5tmLwfyAyosiXAGz9>

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



## June 2025

## 2024 - 2025 Monthly Average Financial Status





## Those Grieving:

## 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



## 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](mailto:adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org) and we will print it for you.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
						9am - Private Party-FH
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am - Worship w/ 11am - Coffee Fellowship	5:30pm - AA Meeting-	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 11am - Staff Meeting	6pm - Youth Group 7pm - Summer Movie	1pm - Bingo!		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Care Team 11:15am - Worship Team	5:30pm - AA Meeting-	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 10am - Pastoral Care 11am - Staff Meeting	6pm - Pastoral Care	6pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - SLT Meeting	9:15am - Daybreak	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - WISE Meeting	5:30pm - AA Meeting- 7pm - Outreach	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - J.O.Y. Circle Meeting	7pm - Book Discussion	Newsletter Articles Due		Green Team Progressive
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10am - Worship (w/ 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - LYH	5:30pm - AA Meeting-	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 11am - Staff Meeting	7pm - Adult Choir			12pm - Touch a Truck
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship						

### August Birthdays

Ethan Strong	02	Regina Moe	17
Goldie Behrens	05	Ryan Rebsom	17
John Schultz	06	Alex Skinner	18
Chelsea Skinner	06	Morgan List	18
Lincoln Skinner	06	Bethany Harbour	19
Penelope Skinner	06	Sarah Mickelson	19
Jeff Farren	07	Melissa Matlock	19
Gerry Inukai	07	Aaron Shatters	21
Becky Wright	07	Eric Emmert	23
Scott Corwin	07	Tommy Hughes	23
Abby Rhodes	07	Dan Passero	24
Shawn Martinez	07	Rusty Corneils	27
Jan Essex	08	Pam Campos	28
Mary Anne Bolin	08	Diane Stablein	28
Brad Andrus	09	Lily Salyer	29
Peg Trumble	10	Doug Matlock	31
Charlotte Shatters	10		
Lou Ann Hoffman	12		
Bill Anderson	12		
Art Prochaska	14		
Hannah Keister	14		
Cayla Pottinger	15		
Isla Pansera	16		
Kathy Farren	17		

### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 12:13-21

### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 12:32-40

### Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 12:49-56

### Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 13:10-17

### Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 14:1, 7-14

### August Anniversaries

8/08 Jerry & Anne Engelhardt	55 Years
8/08 Andy & Pam Hamblin	34 Years
8/08 Tim & Monica Sartori	28 Years
8/09 Craig & Sarah Pottinger	22 Years
8/12 Tony & Laurie Houle	47 Years
8/20 Mike & Sandy Ramirez	20 Years
8/25 Dan & Lori Melhouse	18 Years
8/26 Harold & Mary McCracken	68 Years



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
8/03	ON BREAK	Jo Pierce	True Treasure
8/10	ON BREAK	Anne Engelhardt	Be Ready, God Surprises
8/17	ON BREAK	John Morello	Fiery Words
8/24	ON BREAK	Kathy Farren	Set Free
8/31	ON BREAK	Kathy Farren	Guest Preacher Rev. Jeffery Phillips



### **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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