



Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

409 Center Parkway

Yorkville, IL 60560

Phone: 630/553-7308

E-Mail: adminasst@yorkvilleucc.org

Web Page: www.yorkvilleucc.org

FB: @yorkvilleucc

Instagram: @yorkvilleucc

Office Hours: Monday - Friday

Hours vary weekly.

Staff

Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Hartung

Christian Edu. Director

Robin Campos

Administrative Assistant

Alex Houle

Chancel Choir Directors

Leslie Inukai

Children's Choir Director

Doug Trumble

Pianist

Sondra Shatters

Organist

Lori Runkle

Childcare Team

Andy Maya

Abby Goniwicha

Dakota Shatters

Hailey Shatters

Kim Jones

Louise DeFuss

Custodian

Sexton

Shepherds

Chairperson

Carrie DeFuss

Vice Chairperson

Sue Kimes

Recording Secretary

Aaron Shatters

Operations: Personnel

Bethany Harbour

Operations: Bldg. & Grds

Tony Houle

Operations: Finance

Tim Andrus

Christian Education: Adult

Aimee List

Christian Education: Youth

Rachel Rebsom

Worship: Serving

Deanna Bazan

Worship: Preparation

Louise DeFuss

Church Family: Caring

Salli Walden

Church Family: Fellowship

Laurie Houle

Service: Missions

June Davis

Outreach/Welcoming

Kathy Farren

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

The Happenings

July 2025





Pastor's Porch

Dear Church Family

This summer, I'm taking a class on Scripture and Justice, focusing on how the Bible addresses both ancient and modern questions about care, fairness, and community. One truth keeps rising to the surface:

We are never separated from God's love—and that changes how we live with one another.

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." —Romans 8:38–39

Because we are never separated from God's love, we are never truly alone. That love calls us beloved, and because we are beloved, we belong—to God and to each other.

Belovedness means you are loved by God just as you are—not because of what you've done, but because of who you are.

Belonging means you have a place. You are needed—in this church, in this world, and in God's family.

These two ideas are woven into the sermons I preach. Over time, I've identified six themes that consistently recur. They help shape how we understand faith and how we live it out in daily life:

Hope in Hardship – God meets us in struggles and walks with us through it.

Justice, Inclusion & Liberation – God's love lifts the lowly and makes room for everyone.

Belonging & Belovedness – We are created for connection with God and one another.

Spiritual Growth & Transformation – Faith is a journey, and God continues to shape us.

Empowered Action & Witness – Our lives are a testimony to what we believe.

The Spirit Still Moves – God is not finished. The Spirit is alive and active, here and now.

This July, we focus primarily on Belonging and Belovedness with our sermon series: What We're Saying: Sent Together.

Each week, we'll explore stories in the Gospel of Luke, where Jesus sends people out together, listens with care, and teaches us how to pray. These aren't just stories from the past—they are examples of how we live in genuine relationships today.

Jesus shows us what it looks like to be loved and to love others, to belong, and to make space for others to belong too.

That's the heart of our July worship series: What We're Saying: Sent Together.

Each week, we'll explore stories in the Gospel of Luke where Jesus models connection, care, listening, and prayer. These are not just lessons for long ago. They are guideposts for how we live now—in our families, our church, and the wider world.

What We're Saying: Sent Together

July 2025 Sermon Series – Yorkville Congregational UCC

July 6 – Sent Out

Scripture: Luke 10:1–11, 16–20

Focus Verse: "The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs." – Luke 10:1

Message: Jesus sends people out two by two. We are not meant to walk this life alone. We need each other.

July 13 – Guest Preacher: Rev. Jeffrey Phillips

Rev. Jeffrey Phillips will share a word of encouragement and hope while Pastor Elizabeth continues her studies.

July 20 – Jesus Listens. So Do We. (Hymn Sing)

Scripture: Luke 10:38–42

Focus Verse: "There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part." – Luke 10:42

Message: Jesus listens. Mary listens. Listening is one way we show love and create space for others to belong.

July 27 – Teach Us to Pray

Scripture: Luke 11:1–13

Focus Verse: “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.” – Luke 11:2

Message: Jesus teaches us to pray, not with perfect words but with honest hearts. Prayer helps us stay connected—to God and each other.

Join us each Sunday in July as we grow in faith, in friendship, and in our shared calling to be people of compassion and connection.

Because you are beloved.

Because you belong.

Because we are sent—together.

Peace in God’s Love,

Pastor Elizabeth



From the Desk of the Chair

Summer is upon us. Longer days and warmer weather. As you are enjoying the warmth of the summer sun with friends and family around you, I ask you to remember those less fortunate than you these summer days. Here at Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ, we have made some great strides to reach out to the community at large to let them know we are a church that serves; and church that cares; a church that gives back to this community.

Each month our Outreach group provides lunch to Daybreak Shelter on the third Friday of each month. You could help by providing food or going to help serve the meal. See Kathy Farren for more information on this rewarding service.

Outside the church there are two community outreach boxes. The Free Little Library and The Free Little Pantry. The Library give free books to both children and adults. The Pantry provides free non-perishable foods and toiletries to those in need. Consider donating an item or two (there are bins under the coat racks at the back of the narthex).

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).

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”-Mahatma Gandhi

Upcoming events to be aware of:

July 3: Bingo 1pm

July 4: Parade Walk 9AM; Fireworks watch party 7:30pm-10pm

July 6-10: VBS: 5pm-7:30pm---Dinner Served

July 18: Daybreak

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

We’ve been busy making some fantastic upgrades around the facility! Our team designed, painted, and installed a brand-new frame for the outreach banner—now proudly displayed on the garage for all to see. To keep our banners safe from the wind, we crafted and painted a sturdy backboard support, which has proven to be a game-changer! Plus, we’ve added fresh soil to the sidewalk edges and patched up the asphalt, making our grounds safer and more welcoming for everyone.

We are also doing lots of other little things to keep this place running well. Want to find out what? Come to our next meeting. B&G continues to meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00am.

Caregivers of the Care Team will strive to be:

Just as near as the phone
Eager to be helpful
Sympathetic of your pain
Understanding to your needs
Sensitive to your feelings

Caregivers will strive to show:

Compassion and confidentiality at all times
Helpfulness in allowing you to resolve your own situations
Sharing of our time and love by listening and caring
Trust in God to sustain and guide us through it all.

**Help provide lunch for the homeless July 18.**

It will be our church's turn to provide lunch at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet on Friday, July 18.

We will again be serving sloppy joe on buns, with coleslaw, applesauce, potato chips and dessert. The number of lunch guests at Daybreak has grown so more food is needed.

If you would be willing to help provide the July 18 meal by making 3 pounds of sloppy joe or a dessert for 18 to 24 people, let Kathy Farren (ednpub@earthlink.net) know. Not a cook or baker? You could donate buns or the applesauce or coleslaw. We have a standing donation of the needed potato chips.



Once again church members stepped up in May and provided the Daybreak meal. Many thanks to Tim Andrus, Ellie Gentile, Jean Anderson, Goldie Behrens, Diane Dillow, Lori Redmon, Jill Mickelson, Mary McCracken and Sandy Lindblom for generously donating the food. The serving crew was Salli and Duane Walden, Kathy Farren and Nancy Flowers from Cross Lutheran.

The YCUCC Worship Team works diligently every week to ensure a service that flows smoothly from beginning to end. From scheduling volunteer liturgists and preparing communion elements to planning the music and preparing worship slides, your team is always at work behind the scenes.

It was a joy to celebrate Lori Runkle on June 15 for her music ministry. Lori has been accompanying all choirs, and she has been playing for each worship service. Lucky for us, she will continue to play for the youth choirs in the fall. Thank you, Lori, for sharing your talents so beautifully.

We are delighted to welcome Andy Maya to the team (starting June 22) as our accompanist to play for worship services and work with the Chancel Choir. Andy plays both piano and organ. To that point, we have learned that our organ needs some minor repairs as well as a protective cover, so we are collecting funds for that unbudgeted expense. You might consider a gift using the tag on the Giving Tree.

You may not have seen Ruth Morello in person recently, but she attends worship every week as our Online Ambassador. She welcomes other online visitors and helps Diane by reporting on streaming issues. We are grateful for Ruth and the way she serves each week.

Finally, we have been upgrading our sound system in the sanctuary for the last year. After completing Phase I and II, we are ready to tackle our final Phase III. This includes two new handheld microphones, a new lapel microphone, and a unit to replace the antiquated frequency splitter which directs signals within the sanctuary (the old one is in violation of FCC rules). There have been a few donations to this project, and SLT recently voted to finance the rest from undesignated Memorial funds. Phase III will begin soon.

The Worship Team welcomes anyone who might be interested in serving. The team meets on the second Sunday of each month immediately after worship. Please consider joining us!



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!**



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!



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 22nd.

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.

YCUCC Solar Production Report

Bring on the sun! Our solar panels have been hard at work since installation of Phase I in 2022 and Phase II in 2024. Each month we receive a report on energy production, and each Com Ed bill shows our savings. Bob McGee has recently analyzed the data and offers the following insights:

- The solar panels produced 45% of the energy consumed for the month of May 2025.
 - For the 12-month period June 2024 - May 2025, the solar panels produced 17.1 megawatt hours of energy, which represents 24% of the energy consumed.
 - For that same latest 12-month period, the solar panels saved YCUCC about \$1,800.
- Additionally, the electricity we are using outside of what we produce comes from a solar farm (Clearway Energy) which means our energy use at YCUCC is completely renewable. In this way, we strive to be the best stewards possible of our resources.



Adult Education

As I write this, it has been three weeks since I had my knee replaced. It has been painful and frustrating to spend these weeks of summer sitting at home recovering, but it had to be done. I am thankful for everyone who prayed for my recovery. I am particularly thankful for my family supporting me, and especially my daughter, Morgan, who has spent every day at my side helping and encouraging me. I am looking forward to being back to full strength soon.

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!

July 16— Piano Lesson, 2024

"Set in 1936 Pittsburgh during the aftermath of the Great Depression, *The Piano Lesson* follows the lives of the Charles family in the Doaker Charles household and an heirloom, the family piano, which documents the family history through carvings made by their enslaved ancestor." (Rotten Tomatoes) *The Piano Lesson* is available to watch on Netflix.

August 6—The Seed of the Sacred Fig

Summer Classic Christian Text Study



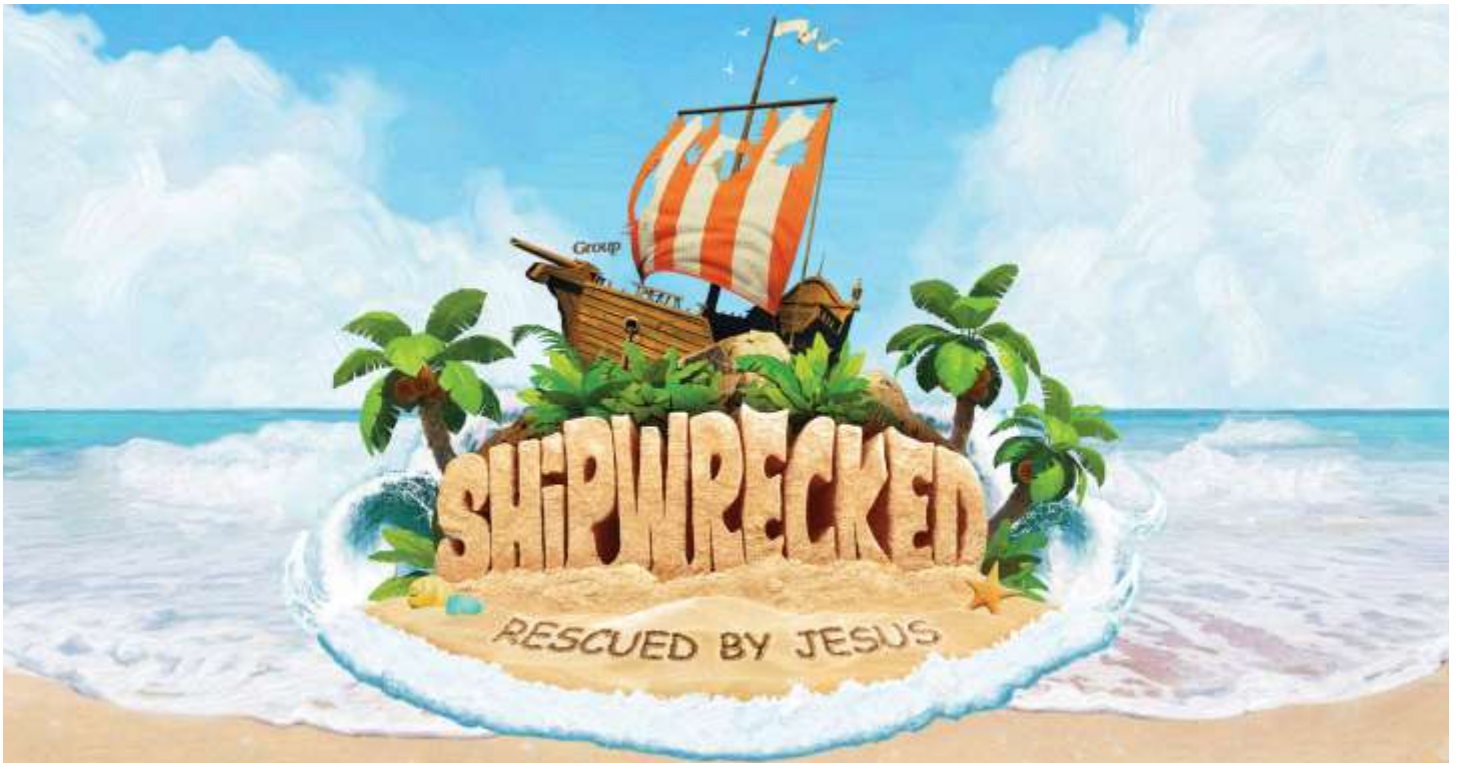
Earlier in the year, we watched the latest movie about the life of pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This summer is the perfect time to take a slow and careful read through his most famous book, *The Cost of Discipleship*. We will meet once a month to discuss the book.

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.

--
Aimee List



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

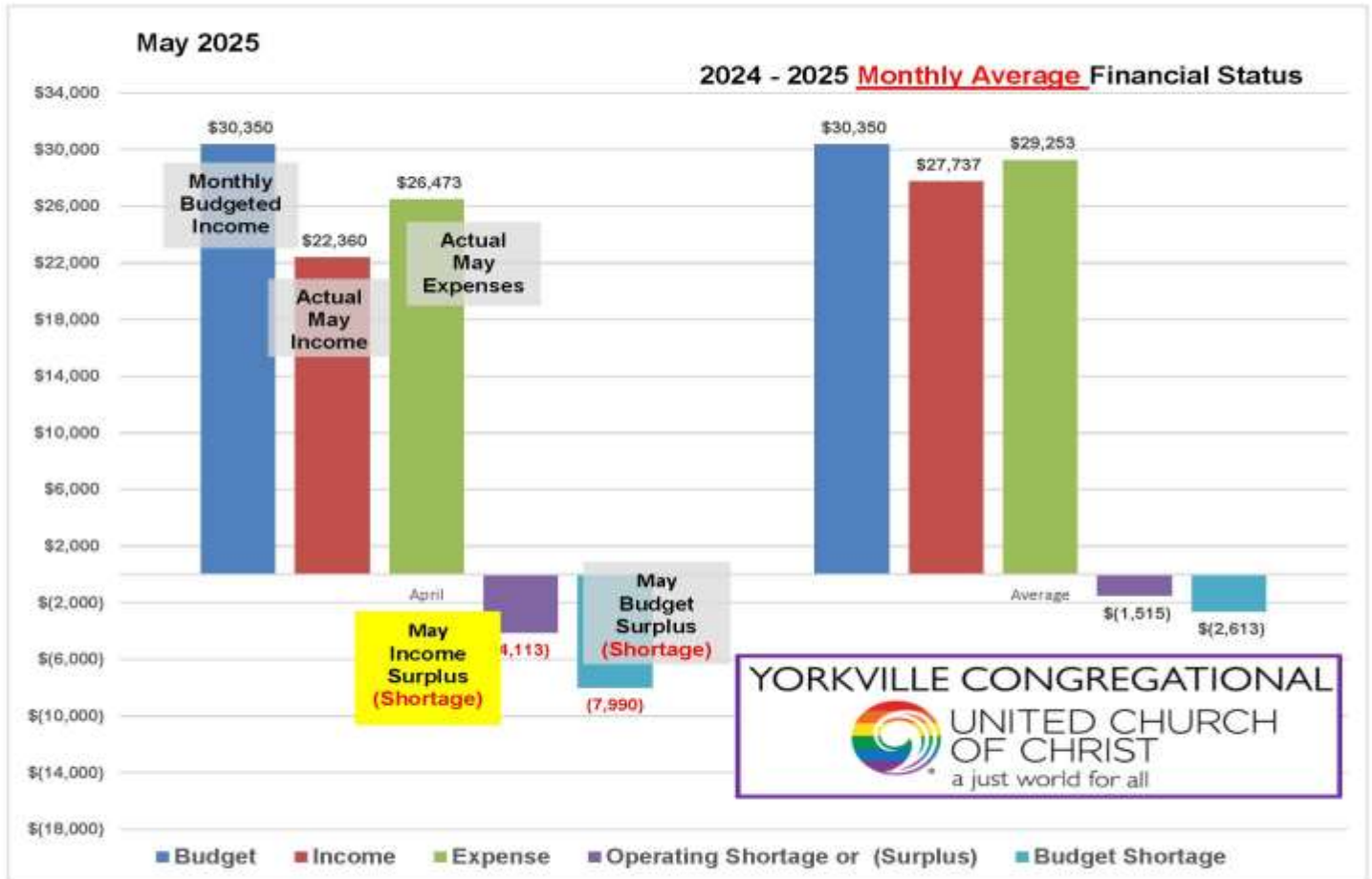
**July 6-10th
5:00-7:30 pm
NOW FREE!**

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

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

This past month 9 students and 4 leaders from the youth program traveled to Sawyer, Michigan where Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center is located. While on their trip these students worked hard painting the camps maintenance buildings (making them more presentable since they are seen from the road), they dug up bricks around the maintenance building (enough for more fire pits!), and clearing brush from walkways around the buildings. Also on the trip, these students participated in the camps challenge course. Students were challenged with team building, swinging on a rope (over “shark infested waters”) and lifting their peers through the rope spider web. Our students also learned what it is like to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7), learning to trust God when you are faced with the unknown. The group was able to spend time lounging and swimming at Lake Michigan, since the camp was located next to the Warren Dunes State Park.

This trip would not be possible without the congregations generous monetary donations and most importantly, food donations... these teens can EAT! So, thank you for your prayers and support throughout our fundraising periods and collections. All of the students are already asking when we can go back to Tower Hill. If you are able, please consider donating to Pilgrim Park or Tower Hill so more students can have the opportunity to attend their many summer camps.



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

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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and 11am - Staff Meeting		1pm - Bingo! 7pm - Parade Float Build	OFFICE CLOSED 9am - July Fourth Parade 7:30pm - Fireworks	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Vacation Bible School 5:00-7:30pm						
10am - Worship w/ 11am - Coffee Fellowship	5:30pm - AA Meeting-	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and 10am - Pastoral Care 11am - Staff Meeting	6pm - Pastoral Care			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Worship Team	5:30pm - AA Meeting-	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and	7pm - Summer Movie		9:15am - Daybreak	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship	5:30pm - AA Meeting- 7pm - Outreach	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and 11am - Staff Meeting	6pm - Youth Group	Newsletter Articles Due		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - LYN	5:30pm - AA Meeting-	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and 11am - Staff Meeting	6pm - Youth Group 7pm - Book Discussion			

July Birthdays

Paul Mulligan	01	Chris Andrus	29
Trevor List	05	Dawn Ginger	31
Brynn Martinez	06	Rachel Rebsom	31
Brenda Melhouse	07		
Natalie Schroder	07		
Nathan White	07		
Brenda Bazan	10		
Mack Skinner	10		
Hannah Pierce	11		
Annabelle Reeder	13		
Jillian Runkle	17		
Bob Fisher	19		
Jacob Kolowski	21		
JoAnne Matlock	22		
Rosey Clark	22		
Andrea Ciccolini	22		
Donna Gallo	23		
Ryan Strong	23		
Pat Ruzicka	24		
Monica Sartori	25		
Scott Myers	25		
Brecken Tsusaki	27		
Keith Frisk	28		
Abby Stevens	29		

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 10:25-37

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 10: 38-42

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 11:1-13

July Anniversaries

7/01 Mark Gregory & Michelle Prentice-Leslie	25 Years
7/02 Ryan & Rachel Rebsom	14 Years
7/09 Tom & Sandy Lindblom	59 Years
7/12 Brian & Deanna Bazan	28 Years
7/14 Bob & Gail Fisher	68 Years
7/14 Jon & Lori Runkle	41 Years
7/20 Randy & Amy Ems	44 Years
7/20 Paul & Dawn Mulligan	39 Years
7/21 Alex & Mia Skinner	7 Years
7/26 Alex & Jamie McLeod	17 Years



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
7/06	ON BREAK	Sandy deRidder	Sent Out
7/13	ON BREAK	Sandy deRidder	Guest Preacher Rev. Jeffery Phillips
7/20	ON BREAK	John Morello	Jesus Listens. So Do We.
7/27	ON BREAK	Jo Pierce	Teach Us to Pray

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

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

July 2025

