



## Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Yorkville, IL 60560  
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FB: @yorkvilleucc  
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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 Director</u>	Leslie Inukai
<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
	Kim Jones
	Louise DeFuss
<u>Custodian</u>	
<u>Sexton</u>	

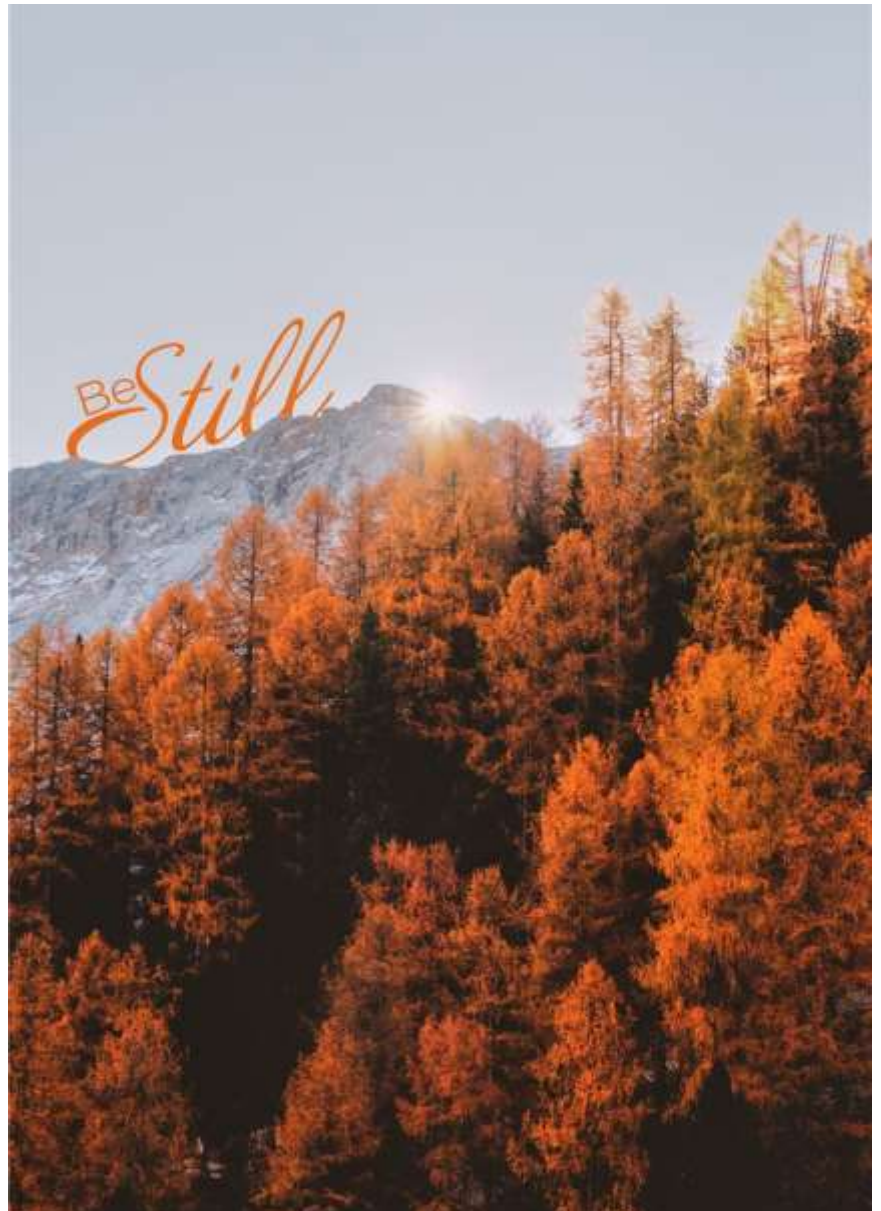
### Shepherds

<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**  
**Voyageurs: 9:00 am**

# The Happenings

# October 2025





## **Pastor's Porch**

### **Money, God, and the Circle Wide**

In Luke 16, Jesus gives us two powerful stories about money. First, he recounts a story about a manager who rewrites the accounts to protect his own future. Then he speaks of a rich man who feasted every day while Lazarus, poor and sick, lay at his gate. When the two die, their situations are reversed.

Lazarus finds comfort in God's embrace while the rich man is left alone. It is a stark reminder that wealth without compassion creates a great chasm between people.

John Wesley once said that Christians should gain all they can, save all they can, and give all they can. By this, he meant that money itself is not the problem. Money is neutral. It is the way we use it and discuss it that tells the story of our lives. Used selfishly, it narrows our world and closes us off from others. Used faithfully, it becomes a tool for love, compassion, and justice.

As a church, we live in that truth every day. We need to care for the space God has given us. That means maintaining our building, replacing carpet, and tending to our grounds so that they remain safe, welcoming, and ready for ministry. But our stewardship does not end there. A church that loves also shows up in the community. We show care in worship, in education, in fellowship, and in the ways we extend kindness and compassion beyond our walls.

The parable of Lazarus asks us to notice who is at our gate and how we respond. It asks us what story our money tells. Does it serve only our comfort, or does it widen the circle so that all may know the love of God?

As we continue our Draw the Circle Wide series, we remember that money is not the goal. It is simply the tool. The true goal is God's kingdom, where the circle of love is wide enough for every child of God.

### **October Sermons – Draw the Circle Wide**

#### **October 5 – Faith the Size of a Seed**

Scripture: Luke 17:5–10

Focus Verse: "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed..." (v.6)

**October 12** – Guest Preacher: Rev. Jeffrey Phillips

#### **October 19 – Persistent Hope, Relentless Justice**

Scripture: Luke 18:1–8

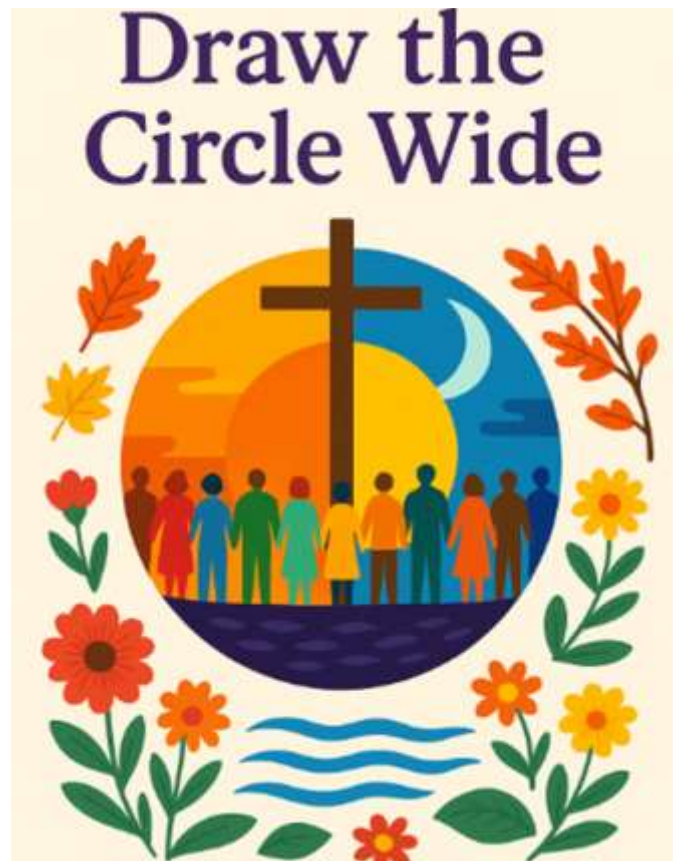
Focus Verse: "Will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night?" (v.7)

#### **October 26 – Humbled and Lifted Up**

Scripture: Luke 18:9–14

Focus Verse: "All who exalt themselves will be humbled..." (v.14)

Peace in God's Love,  
Pastor Elizabeth





### From the Desk of the Chair...

*"I am purposed..."* –Psalm 17:3

The church needs a face lift, or shall I say a ground lift? Our carpets are over 30 years old, and they are showing their years in spades. It is now becoming a safety issue with buckling and waffling driving the trip meter high. Over the past several months, B&G has been busy obtaining several quotes for the most economical carpeting in hopes of something as durable and eye-pleasing as the one we currently have. We need YOUR help to make this happen. The plan is to fundraise half the cost (~\$10K) and use out Capital Fund for the remaining amount. Look for donation envelopes to help keep our church home safe, functional and beautiful.

Your church family wants to be able to help you in times of need. Would you be willing to update your emergency contact person with us so we could contact someone in case we could not reach you in a time of need? There is a form [attached](#) and more available at the welcome center.

The Care Team is a group of caring people from the congregation trained to listen, care and remain confidential with you for any of life's struggles. Whether you are lonely from a child leaving for college, experiencing financial struggles, or grieving the loss of a loved one, this group is here to listen and help you as you walk your journey. Contact Carrie DeFuss 630-730-9377 or Pastor Elizabeth for more information.

The process of becoming a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health is underway. 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. The next step will be developing an inclusive statement of intent for our Congregation and sending this to the UCC Mental Health Network.

The Little Pantry and Little Library are both still serving our community quite well. Items are rotated weekly. Donations are welcomed and appreciated (bins are at the back of the sanctuary).

*"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."* –Psalm 37:4

### Upcoming events to be aware of:

Oct 1: Bible Study 5pm, Sonshine Choir 5pm, Wednesday dinner 5pm, The Pause (Worship) 6pm; Adult Choir 7pm

Oct 2: Bingo 1pm

Oct 5: International tasting

Oct 12: Soup Sunday/Information Sunday

Oct 17: Daybreak meal

Oct 19-23: Rummage Sale Set-up

Oct 22-25: RUMMAGE SALE

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 working hard to keep this place safe, but we need your help. B&G is calling on you to help us gather the necessary funding to get new carpets in the narthex and sanctuary. They will cost about \$20,000 and we need to fundraise \$10,000. If you've noticed all the misplaced carpet runners, this is no accident. They have been moved because the carpet is bubbling up, creating multiple trip hazards. We are not going to repair the carpet because the problem (30-year-old adhesive) will continue to increase even if we repair it. The carpet needs to be replaced. Please help if you can.



B&G continues to meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00am.

**Save the Date!!**

**We need your help for our annual fall clean up day! Join us on October 11th!**



### **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.



## **MISSIONS MINISTRY NEWS** **OCTOBER 2025**

Our first fall Soup Sunday was held on September 28, 2025. Proceeds supported the Kendall County Community Food Pantry. No totals at the time of this printing.

Mark your calendars for Soup Sundays coming up on October 12th, and November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Special Olympics will be sent \$300.00 in October as a line item of the Missions Ministry Budget.

Our 5 for 5 Offering "Neighbors In Need" (NIN) will be collected the first Sunday in October on the 5<sup>th</sup>. NIN offering support the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. A Just World for All Possible.



### **Phase Three is Complete!**

Your YCUCC Worship Serving team is pleased to report that Phase III of our sound system updates has been completed. For those of you attending virtually, we are aware that our online sound is still not quite up to par, and we continue to work on that. If you are attending in person, you can appreciate the new microphones, hearing assistance units, and the mixing board. We are grateful to Rick Matuna who keeps everything running smoothly.

We would like to thank Teena Archer for her generosity in covering the cost of our recent organ repairs. While you may not hear a difference sitting in the pews, our organist, Andy, is appreciative of the work having been done. Our last need for the organ is a cover to help protect it. Generous donors have given well over half of the anticipated \$500 needed for the purchase. This cover will help keep our organ clean and running well.

Thanks again, Teena, for keeping our beautiful organ in top shape!



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

1:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall  
No RSVP needed!



## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



We understand that grief doesn't have a timeline. We've added a grief support group on the first Sunday of the month after worship. All are available to attend. Speak with Pastor Elizabeth for more information.

### **Feeling cranky and unfriendly? Please don't sign up to greet**

But if you're feeling your usual smiling, friendly self, then PLEASE DO sign up to greet people arriving for worship. You can sign up for one or more Sundays on the bulletin board in the Narthex. It's an easy job. All you have to do is smile, maybe open the door, shake hands, and say hello to those arriving. You're going to know almost all of the people and find they are also very friendly. That makes the job really easy!

If someone you don't know comes in, there will be a member of the Outreach Ministry nearby to help you out. They will make sure the visitor gets a welcome packet, a bulletin, a tour of the building if they want one, and even someone to sit with them.

You just have to keep being your pleasant, smiling, friendly self.  
It's really easy. Please give it a try and sign up soon.



## Preparing for Your Future - decisions about taxes and health care

On **Sunday, November 2, 11:15 - 12:15**, Green Team will host professional speakers— one who will present some options for our long-term investments, and another will talk to us about estate planning and end-of-life directives.

Jonathan Hilton, CFP, Wealth Advisor from Clear Perspectives, Aurora, will share options about managing our tax-deferred investments including Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). In addition, we will have a local expert to speak to us about decisions regarding our legal “end-of-life directives” for health and finances.

Is it possible to take out your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your investments and NOT be taxed on that amount? YES. Find out how to do this.

Have you made legal plans for your personal Advanced Directives — a living will? Health care power or attorney? Mental health treatment preference declaration? Are your documents up to date? Bring your questions.

On **Sunday November 2**, right after church service, pick up a tray with a light lunch, and head back into the sanctuary to listen and learn. “The More You Know... “ will make you smarter as you plan for your future.

The special program is sponsored by Green Team of YCUCC. See Anne Engelhardt or Bob McGee if you have questions.




For those of you wondering why there is a hole in the ground surrounded with yellow caution tape at the south east corner of the church near the little library, the answer is that it is a Rain Garden. The Green Team has embraced this endeavor to demonstrate to our church members and to the community the benefits of a Rain Garden.

### **RAIN GARDEN**

A Rain Garden is a shallow depression that collects rain water that has run off hard surfaces like rooftops and parking lots. It allows the water to slowly sink in, instead of running off to a storm sewer. The garden's flowering perennials and grasses, filter the runoff, collect pollutants, sequester carbon, provide habitat and food for pollinators, improve the water quality of streams and rivers and reduce the storm sewer needs of your community.

The plan at this time is to continue to plant native plants this fall and spring, and to purchase and install an informative sign explaining the benefits of the Rain Garden. The next step is to wait for the plants to grow. As the gardeners in the congregation know, the first year they sleep, the next year they creep and the third year they leap. It's not the instant gratification most Americans want, but it's a good long term investment.

The YCUCC has a long history of working to be a positive force in our community and the world. Hopefully this demonstration project of good stewardship will inspire some to make a small step to improve the environment.



# THE PAUSE

## MIDWEEK WORSHIP

**First Wednesday of the Month  
Starting October 1st  
6:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

**Have you ever see FROG on the calendar and were wondering what that is?**



Do you:  
Knit  
Crochet  
Needle point  
Cross stitch  
Embroider  
Sew  
Hook rugs  
Color  
Paint  
Or

**Bring your own craft!**



Would you like to:

Learn a new skill or learn new tricks and techniques in a skill you already have?

Connect with new friends from our church family?

Share your particular crafting skill with others?

Join with others in fellowship from our church?

Gain self confidence and receive encouragement?

Take some time just for yourself?

Perhaps use your skill to make items for the rummage sale? (optional).

Expand your imagination muscle to imagine God in your world?

Join FROG on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for fun,  
laughter, sharing, and enriching our friendships in our church family.

Contact Jill Mickelson with any questions.





# 2025 FALL RUMMAGE SALE

## DONATIONS

### **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

### **Donations Accepted**

#### **Sunday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### **Monday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>**

8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**A Donation Form is  
Available  
for Tax Purposes**

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

Call **Tony Houle** directly at **815-546-1061**

to discuss specific item/s to donate  
and schedule a pickup time on October 21<sup>st</sup>

~ Building & Grounds pickup ~

**12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

or text a picture of your donation for pre-approval

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





# Adult Education

Oct 5 -11 is Banned Books Week!



"In a time of intense political polarization, we are facing an unprecedented number of attempts to ban books. Books by authors of color, by LGBTQ+ authors, by women and books about racism, sexuality, gender, history are the ones most often targeted by bans. When some seek to police access to some experiences, some histories, some understandings, some ideas, the image of God is dimmed. Without these books, our encounters with the amazing diversity of creation are incomplete, and our capacity for compassion across difference is stymied. Our love of God is limited because we do not have the chance to recognize all the ways the divine image is manifest in our world.

We believe that banned books have a special vocation, a particular calling in our faith communities: to help expand and enliven the image of God and empower us to reckon with truths that demand our loving accountability. So the Love is Louder Campaign and Join the Movement toward Racial Justice join together to invite us to bless banned books, so that they might live out their calling and empower us to continue becoming God's kingdom of justice and love, on earth as it is in heaven." (<https://jointhemovementucc.org/jtm-resources/banned-books-blessing/>)

I would like to create a banned books shelf in our adult library. See the YCUCC banned books wish list at the Book Shop website. The link to the wish list is below:

[BookShop.org](#)

**Bible Study** continues on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room. Join Pastor Elizabeth in the study of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. The class uses the *Immersion Bible Studies* Series. Books are \$15.00 and are available in the church office.

Meetings will be:

October 8, 15, and 29



**The Spiritual Development group** continues its discussions on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. online.

We are reading and discussing *The False White Gospel* by Jim Wallis.

October 7--Chapter 4

October 21--Chapter 5

November 4--Chapters 6 and 7

November 18--Chapter 8 and What's Next

Aimee List

[ajlsan1@hotmail.com](mailto:ajlsan1@hotmail.com)



## Fall Bake Sale Friday and Saturday October 24th & 25th

Look for the sign-ups sheets in the Narthex.

Suggested items:

Pies

Brownies

Carrot Cake

Lemon Bars

Gluten Free Items

Or any of your favorites!



Items should be brought to the church for "plating" on Thursday, October 23rd between 9am-6pm.

Profits will go to Christian Education and Vacation Bible School  
LET'S CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS A BIG EVENT!

# Church Picnic Fun!

We were blessed with wonderful weather, great food and fellowship at our annual church picnic on September 21st. Thank you to everyone that donated, purchased, baked, and grilled all of the food. While the adults had a great time catching up in conversation, the students made good use of the water slide and bounce house.



Due to age restrictions, the majority of our youth group is currently unable to volunteer in person at the Daybreak Center in Joliet. So, they made almost 5 pounds of sloppy joes to send with our team of volunteers that visit monthly. Way to support the community, youth group!



# What's for Dinner?

Join us for dinner every Wednesday  
from 5:00-6:30 pm!

October 1st– Soup and Sandwiches

October 8th– Tacos

October 15th– Sloppy Joes

October 22nd– NO DINNER

October 29th– Spaghetti and Meatballs





# TRICK OR TREAT

IN THE CHURCH

**NOVEMBER 2**  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

## Those Grieving:

The Baldwin Family

## Those in Cancer Treatment:

Pearl Undesser

## Health Concerns:

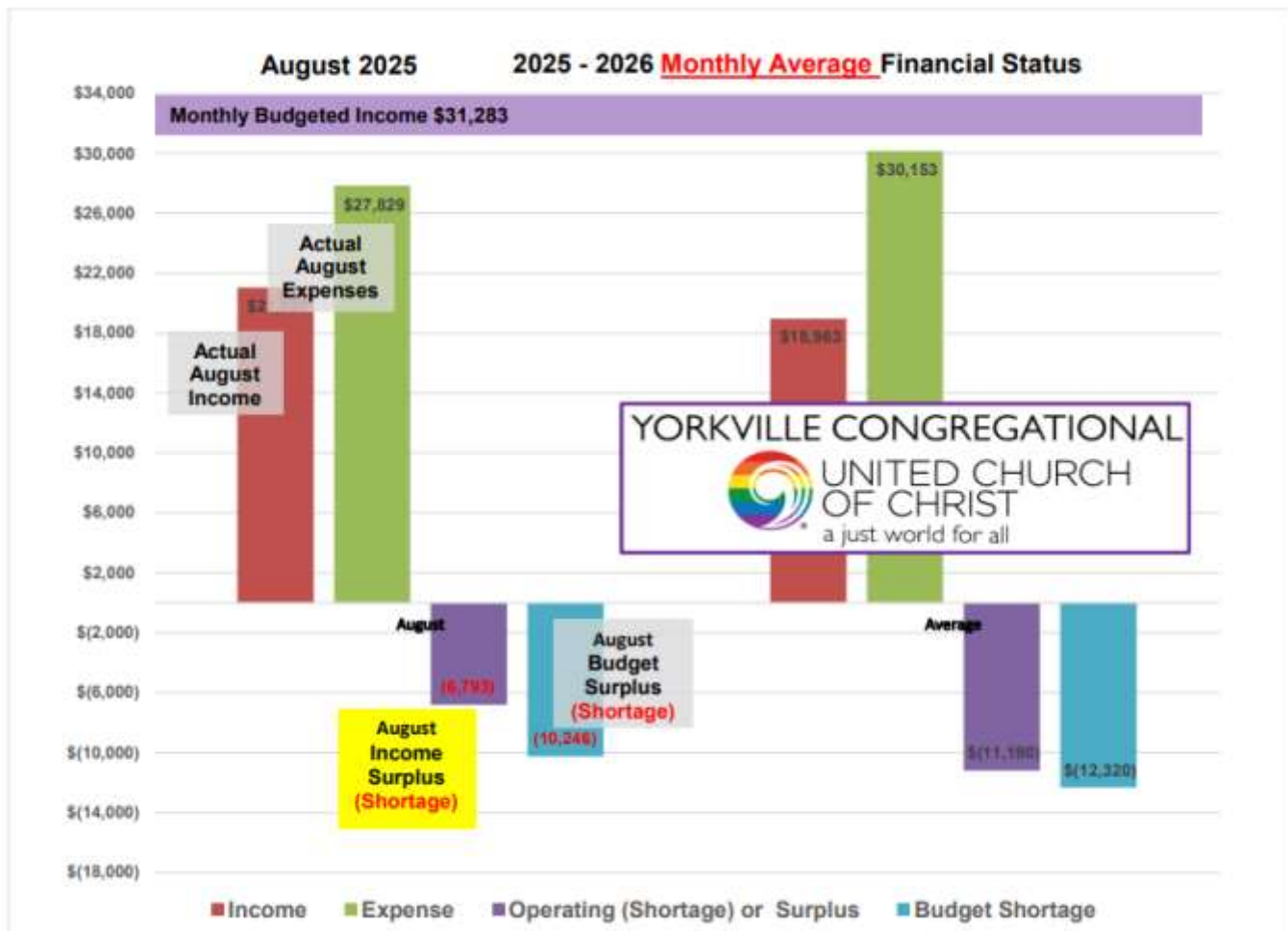
Fred Anderson  
Deb Bezroukoff  
Rick Falato  
Gayle Jacobs  
Wyatt Jones  
Jonathan Lamp  
Finley Walker

## General Concerns:

The Prochaska Family  
The Mendell Family  
The Hughes Family

## Homebound/Assisted Living:

Fred Anderson, Delores Cruise, Pat Dietz, Dave Encinas, Gayle Jacobs, and Fred Wayne



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Sonshine Choir 5pm - Wednesday Night 6pm - The Pause 7pm - Adult Choir	1pm - Bingo!		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>NIN-5 for 5 Offering</b> 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship w/ 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - International Tasting	5:30pm - AA Meeting- 6:30pm - Green Team	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Spiritual Development	3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Sonshine Choir 5pm - Wednesday Night 6pm - Pastoral Care 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Youth Group	6pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - SLT Meeting		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - Soup Sunday / 11:15am - Worship Team 11:15am - Youth Choir	5:30pm - AA Meeting-	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 10am - Pastoral Care 11am - Staff Meeting	3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Sonshine Choir 5pm - Wednesday Night 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Youth Group	9:15am - Daybreak		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>Rummage Sale and Set-up</b> 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Youth Choir	5:30pm - AA Meeting- 7pm - Outreach	9am - Building and Grounds 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Spiritual Development				
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 10am - One Room Sunday 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - LYN 11:15am - Youth Choir	5:30pm - AA Meeting-	8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 11am - Staff Meeting	3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Sonshine Choir 5pm - Wednesday Night 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Youth Group			
<b>Rummage Sale and Set-up</b> 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Youth Choir				<b>Newsletter Articles DUE</b>	<b>Rummage Sale</b>	



### October Birthdays

Marina Olvera	02	Alex Houle	18
Brooke Keith	03	Julie Gette	19
Tim Andrus	04	Frank Yabsley	20
Ashley Brown	04	Emelia Ciccolini	23
Isabelle Shatters	04	Bradley Brown	26
Melissa Myers	06	Dee Cruise	26
Steven Redmon	06	Rhonda Matlock	28
Joanne Vitek	06	Mary McCracken	28
Wendy Walker	06	Sondra Shatters	28
John Reeder	07	Lori Redmon	29
John Morello	08		
Kyle Pratt	08		
Tony Campos	09		
Gail Fisher	12		
Bob Kolowski	12		
Avery Ramirez	12		
Mike Ramirez	12		
Lane Elleby	13		
Dakota Kolowski	13		
Eric Redmon	13		
Diane Dillow	15		
Jeffrey Pratt	15		
Aimee List	16		
Colton Pranga	16		

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
GREEN

Luke 17:5-10

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
GREEN

Luke 17:11-19

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
GREEN

Luke 18:1-8

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**  
GREEN

Luke 18:9-14

### October Anniversaries

10/12 John & Kathy Reeder	20 Years
10/13 Tim & Tracy Andrus	24 Years
10/25 Carol & John Schulz	50 Years
10/26 Gavin & Lori Redmon	40 Years
10/26 Brad & Natalie Schroder	12 Years
10/28 Megan & Sara Gelsomino	8 Years
10/30 Jeff & Kathy Farren	54 Years



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
10/5	Rhylen Rebsom	Sandy deRidder	<b>Faith the Size of a Seed</b>
10/12	Jacob DeFuss	Sandy deRidder	<b>The Ministry of Healing</b>
10/19	Benjamin DeFuss	John Morello	<b>Persistent Hope, Relentless Justice</b>
10/26	Rhylen Rebsom	TBD	<b>Humbled and Lifted Up</b>

### **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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**October 2025**

