

### **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** Christian Edu. Director Administrative Assistant **Chancel Choir Director** Children's Choir Director **Pianist Organist** 

Lori Runkle Andy Maya **Childcare Team** Abby Goniwicha Dakota Shatters **Hailey Shatters** Kim Jones Louise DeFuss

**Custodian** Sexton

#### **Shepherds**

**Chairperson** Vice Chairperson Recording Secretary
Operations: Personnel Operations: Bldg. & Grds Operations: Finance 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 Bethany Harbour Tony Houle Tim Andrus Aimee List Rachel Rebsom Deanna Bazan Louise DeFuss Salli Walden Laurie Houle June Davis Kathy Farren

Rev. Elizabeth Hartung

**Robin Campos** 

Sondra Shatters

Alex Houle

Leslie Inukai

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

May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace! -Psalm 29:11



## Pastor's Porch Building Homes, Living Faith

On Sunday afternoon, I spent time with Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." It reminds us that home is more than walls and possessions. Home is God's presence — steady, safe, and near — especially with those who have no home of their own.

Our faith always points us outward. In Matthew 25, Jesus says that when we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and offer shelter to those in need, we are serving him. That is civic responsibility in its clearest form — not just words about faith, but actions that bring God's love into daily life.

This has been part of the Yorkville Congregational UCC story for a long time. Some of you remember when our building became a PADS site, where neighbors without housing found a meal, a safe place to sleep, and a reminder that they were not forgotten. Years before that, members of this congregation worked to make senior housing possible in Yorkville, so that older adults could live with dignity and care. These are signs of faith turned into practice, and they still shape who we are today.

When we gather for worship, it's not about who is in and who is out. It's about remembering that we are God's beloved community. And when we scatter back into our homes, schools, and neighborhoods, we carry that calling with us. To say, "God is our home," also means working so that others might experience home — safety, welcome, and love — here in our community. As we move into the fall season, we will continue to deepen this calling through our new sermon series, **Draw the Circle Wide**. Luke's Gospel will guide us in seeing how discipleship shapes everyday life — inviting us to follow faithfully, welcome joyfully, and embody God's justice with courage.

#### Fall Sermon Series: Draw the Circle Wide Guiding Vision:

Draw the Circle Wide invites us to follow Jesus' call faithfully, to welcome joyfully, and to embody God's justice and compassion. In this season, Luke's Gospel shows us how discipleship shapes our everyday lives.

Each Sunday in September, we'll gather around a story from Luke that challenges and encourages us. Together, we'll explore how God's love widens our circles of faith, belonging, and responsibility.

#### **September 7 – Owning Your Faith** (Luke 14:25–33)

Focus Verse: "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." (v.27)

Following Jesus means taking responsibility for our faith and committing ourselves to God's way.

#### September 14 – Lost and Found: God Never Gives Up (Luke 15:1–10)

Focus Verse: "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." (v.6)

God never stops seeking us. Even when we feel unseen, God's love finds and restores us.

#### **September 21 – Who's the Boss: God or Money?** (Luke 16:1–13)

Focus Verse: "You cannot serve God and wealth." (v.13)

Jesus calls us to examine our choices and align our lives with God's priorities.

#### September 28 – Closing the Gap: Seeing the People in Front of Us (Luke 16:19–31)

Focus Verse: "Between you and us a great chasm has been fixed." (v.26)

This parable reminds us that God calls us to notice, care for, and bridge the gaps between us and our neighbors.

This fall, may we draw the circle wide — opening ourselves to God's call, rejoicing in God's love, and living as disciples who bring compassion and justice into the world.

Peace in God's Love, Pastor Elizabeth

#### From the Desk of the Chair

"My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you—I whom you have delivered" -Psalm 71:23

School is in session which means Sunday school is back, choir has begun, bible study, homework club, Wednesday night dinners, and youth group is all regularly meeting once again. Newly starting is The Pause, a meditative service on the first Wednesday of each month.

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).

#### "Be a Rainbow in Someone Else's Cloud." Maya Angelou

Upcoming events to be aware of:

Sept 1: Office CLOSED—Labor Day

Sept 4: Bingo 1pm

Sept 7: Grief Support Group 11:30AM Sept 9: SDG Book Discussion 7pm

Sept 10: Youth activities, Wednesday night dinners begins, Youth and Adult Choirs, Bible Study begin

Sept 14: Sunday School begins

Sept 19: Daybreak meal Sept 21: Church Picnic

Sept 23: SDG Book discussion

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?

BUILDING & GROUNDS By Alex Houle, Admin Assistant

Building and Grounds has been keeping this place running smooth and looking good. Building and Grounds has also been working on gathering quotes

for replacing the carpet versus cleaning the carpet and stretching and repairing the carpet. A decision on how we will be proceeding has not been made at this time. All quotes are being brought to the SLT.

#### Save the Date!!

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

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.





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 TWO 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 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.

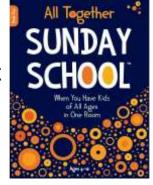
# Join us for BINGO the first Thursday of the month!

1:00 pm Fellowship Hall No RSVP needed!



## **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 to register.



https://forms.gle/8Ew1r5vAT3WhNAgu6



# Feeling cranky and unfriendly? <u>Please</u> 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.









## J.O.Y. Circle Meeting



12:00 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 in YCUCC's Fellowship Hall

## Agenda

- ~ ~ Finalize plans for the 2025 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale ~ ~
- ~ We welcome new members & new ideas, so please join us! ~



### "Walking the coastal route of the Camino Portugués a different sort of pilgrimage."

Join Lori Runkle on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the YCUCC Sanctuary immediately following the J.O.Y. Circle Meeting.

Learn about the Portugués culture, ancient cities, religious history, legends, and appreciate the beauty of Lori's 300 plus mile, Coastal Route hike along the Atlantic.



## Help provide lunch for the homeless Sept. 19

It will be our church's turn to provide lunch at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet on Friday, Sept. 19.

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.



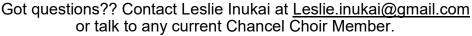
If you would be willing to help provide the Sept. 19 meal by making 3 pounds of sloppy joe or a dessert for 18 to 24 people, let Kathy Farren (<a href="mailto:ednpub@earthlink.net">ednpub@earthlink.net</a>) know. Not a cook or baker? You could donate buns or the applesauce or coleslaw. We have a standing donation of the needed potato chips.

Once again church members stepped up in June and provided the Daybreak meal. Many thanks to Tim Andrus, Jean Anderson, Goldie Behrens, Fred and Gail Gaebler, Diane Dillow, Jill Mickelson, Sue Kimes, Mary McCracken, Connie Pierrepoint, and Sandy Lindblom for generously donating the food. The serving crew was Salli and Duane Walden, Kathy Farren and Brian Bazan.

## **Calling all YCUCC Singers!**

We are excited to announce that the Chancel Choir will be starting up for the Fall! The Chancel

Choir began 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.





## Have you ever see FROG on the calendar and were wondering what that is? Do you:

Knit



Crochet Needle point

Cross stitch

Embroider

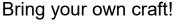
Sew

Hook rugs

Color

Paint

Or





## 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 followship from our shursh

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.







## YCUCC'S 2025 FALL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24™ & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25™

## 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 October 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</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, Oct 19th: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Monday & Tuesday, Oct 20th & 21st; 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

#### 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 Fall R&B Sale!

#### Volunteer Sign-up Sheets will post September 21st in the Narthex for the following:

- (1) Set-up: Sunday, October 19, 2025 immediately following the worship service
- (2) Extra help throughout the week of the sale from our YCUCC Church Family: Oct 19th > 25th

- (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, October 23rd
- (d) Friday and/or Saturday Sale Days, October 24th & 25th
- (3) Tear-down: 12:00 p.m. @ 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 25th

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 ~ ~

## **Adult Education**

September marks the end of summer. This past summer in adult education provided many opportunities for thoughtful discussion.

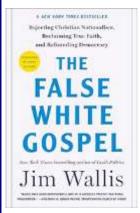
Sugarcane was about the forced removal of indigenous Canadian children, the abuse they were subjected to, and the problems that abuse has caused through the generations.

The Piano Lesson movie focused on the legacy that slavery left on a family and touched on The Great Migration.

The Seed of the Sacred Fig took place in Iran and discussed the 2022 riots and the cost of Government power on a family.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *The Cost of Discipleship* argues that true Christianity requires radical obedience and a complete surrender to Christ, contrasting this with what he calls "cheap grace."

I enjoyed the summer movie discussions and the summer classic Christian book study, and will plan to continue those next summer.

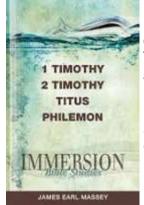


In September, the **Spiritual Development group** will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 9th, at 7:00 p.m. online. The joining code is emailed out. Contact Diane Stablein at <a href="mailto:ycucctech@yorkville-ucc.org">ycucctech@yorkville-ucc.org</a> to be included.

We will be reading and discussing *The False White Gospel* by Jim Wallis. Purchase the book at your favorite retailer. Here is the reading schedule:

September 9--Introduction and Chapter 1 September 23--Chapters 2 and 3 October 7--Chapter 4 October 21--Chapter 5 November 4--Chapters 6 and 7 November 18--Chapter 8 and What's Next

## Bible Study



Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 10, 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: September 10, 17, and 24 October 8, 15, and 29

Aimee List ajlsan1@hotmail.com

# MISSIONS MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 2025

Are you looking forward to a SOUP SUNDAY at YCUCC. Our first fall Soup Sunday will be on September 28<sup>th</sup> with proceeds going to Kendall County Community Food Pantry. The Missions Ministry thanks everyone from our soup makers, bakers and helpers to make this happen. Look for the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

October 12<sup>th</sup> will be another Soup Sunday followed by one in November on the 16<sup>th</sup>.







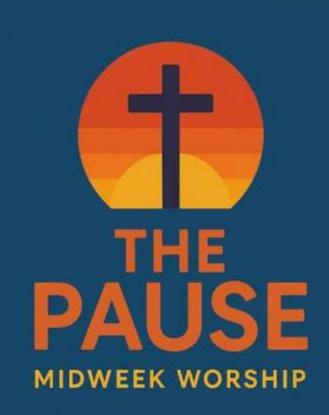
We understand that grief doesn't have a timeline. We've added a grief support group on the first Sunday of the month after worship. All are available to attend. Speak with Pastor Elizabeth for more information.



## Save the Date!

Annual Church Picnic September 21st after worship

Sign up to bring food or drinks on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

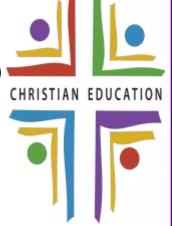


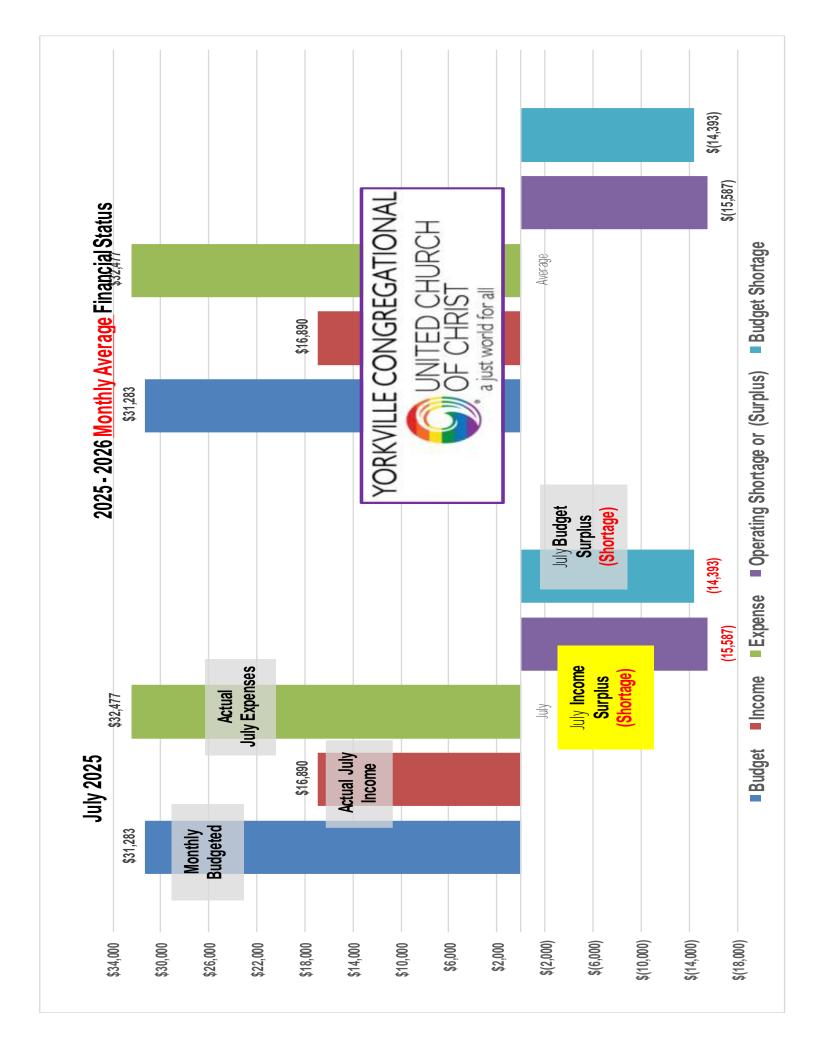
First Wednesday of the Month Starting October 1st 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

## **Important Christian Education Dates!**

September 10th– Homework Club (3:30-5:00pm)
September 10th– Wed. Night Dinner (5:00-6:30pm)
September 10th– Youth Group (7:00-8:00pm)
September 14th– First Day of Sunday School!
(712 Voyageurs at 9:00 am and PreK-6th at

10:00am)





### **Those Grieving:**



Pearl Undesser

**Health 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?

Did you travel 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.





Sep 2025 (Central Time - Chicago 13 20 27 4 12 19 9:15am - Daybreak E == 7pm - Community Organizer Newsletter Articles DUE 6pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - SLT Meeting 1pm - Bingo! 17 24 10 3:30pm - Homework Club 3:30pm - Homework Club 3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Wednesday Night 5pm - Wednesday Night 5pm - Wednesday Night 5pm - Sonshine Chair 5pm - Sonshine Choir 6pm - Pastoral Care 7pm - Youth Group 7pm - Youth Group 7pm - Youth Group Wed 5pm - Bible Study 7pm - Adult Choir 5pm - Bible Study 7pm - Youth Choir 5pm - Bible Study 7pm - Youth Choir 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Adult Choir 6pm - The Pause 7pm - Adult Choir 6 16 23 30 12pm - J.O.Y. Circle Meeting 7pm - Spiritual Development 9am - Building and Grounds 7pm - Spiritual Development 9am - Building and Grounds 10am - Pastoral Care 11am - Staff Meeting 8:30am - Tai Chi 15 OFFICE CLOSED (Labor Day 22 29 80 6:30pm - Green Team 5:30pm - AA Meeting-5:30pm - AA Meeting-5:30pm - AA Meeting-5:30pm - AA Meeting-5:30pm - AA Meeting-Mon 7pm - Outreach 14 21 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Worship Team 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 11:30am - Grief Support 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs YCUCC Church Calendar 10am - First Day of SS 10am - Sunday School 11:15am - Care Team 10am - Sunday School 11am - Church Picnic 10am - Worship with 11am - Soup Sunday 10am - Worship 10am - Worship 10am - Worship 11am - LYN

September Birthdays						
Rick Falato Carrie DeFuss Joe Runkle Marge Hembree Jasper Parrilli-Trumble Dan Gette Adam Kolowski Kristine Arch Finley Walker Tracy Andrus Judy Iverson Dawn Mulligan Brett Rhodes Gulianna Goldman Fred Anderson Julie Kline Sandy Ramirez Elise Phillipp Katie Niesen Amber Anderson Maddy Gawne Bill Drew Caleb Pansera Mae Herron	02 02 03 03 06 07 07 08 13 14 14 15 16 16 17 18 19 20	Lauren Ciccolini Jeff Dillow	21 21 22 22 23 23 23 25 28 29			

## **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost** GREEN

Luke 14: 25-33

## **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

GREEN Luke 15: 1-10

### **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**GREE** 

Luke 16: 1-13

### Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 16:19-31

September Anniversaries	
9/04 Frank & Phyllis Yabsley 9/04 Aimee & Troy List 9/05 Cecil & Marge Hembree 9/17 Scott & Amy Corwin 9/19 Fred & Connie Dickson 9/20 Allan & Beth Goss 9/21 Matthew & Christine Johnson 9/22 Ben & Regina Moe 9/22 Alex & Kaitlin Mulligan 9/23 Joe & Diane Stablein	43 Years 26 Years 43 Years 42 Years 61 Years 45 Years 29 Years 24 Years 7 Years 8 Years



Sermon Titles	Liturgists	Acolytes	Date
Owning Your Faith	Carrie DeFuss	ON BREAK	9/07
Lost and Found: God Never Giv Up	Carrie DeFuss	Rhylen Rebsom	9/14
Who's the Boss: God or Money	Fred Gaebler	Benjamin DeFuss	9/21
Closing the Gap: Seeing the People in Front of Us	Fred Gaebler	Lincoln Skinner	9/28

#### **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.
- 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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