

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: @vorkvilleucc Instagram: @yorkvilleucc Office Hours: Monday - Friday Hours vary weekly.

Staff

Robin Campos

Alex Houle

Leslie Inukai

Minister Christian Edu. Director Administrative Assistant **Chancel Choir Director** Children's Choir Director <u>Pianist</u> **Organist** Childcare Team

Sondra Shatters Lori Runkle Andy Maya 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

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

The Happenings

November





Pastor's Porch

How Do You Think About Our Altar?

When you enter the sanctuary, your eyes probably notice the altar, the steady table at the center of our worship space. It doesn't change much from week to week, but it's always there, waiting. The altar isn't just a decoration. It's a sign of God's presence, a place that centers our hearts and our worship.

This month, you'll notice something new: a few prayer books placed on a small table beside the altar. You're invited to come forward before or after worship, or even during a quiet moment, to read a prayer or say one of your own. Let it be a reminder that this space, the chancel, and the altar are holy ground.

A Little Background

The altar has a long story in the life of God's people.

In the Old Testament, altars were built outdoors, often simple piles of stone or wood, where people offered sacrifices, prayers, and expressions of thanksgiving. They were places of meeting with God, where promises were made and blessings received.

When the early Christians began gathering in homes, they used ordinary tables for shared meals and prayer. Over time, those tables came to symbolize both sacrifice and fellowship the meeting place between heaven and earth.

Today, our altar continues that story. It reminds us that God is near, that worship connects our everyday lives to the holy, and that sacredness doesn't come from the object itself, but from the purpose it serves.

How I Approach the Altar

Before worship begins each Sunday morning, I take a quiet moment to stand before the altar. I place my hands gently on its edge, close my eyes, and take three deep breaths:

The first, for God the Creator, is the breath of life that sustains us.

The second, for Christ Jesus, is the one who walks with us in compassion and truth.

The third, for the Holy Spirit, is the presence that moves through us and binds us together in love.

Those breaths help me center myself, body, mind, and spirit before stepping into the rhythm of worship. I offer this practice to you as well. If you come forward to pray or pause at the altar, take your own three breaths. Let them ground you in God's presence and open your heart to the sacred that is already here.

Simple Guidelines for the Altar

Keep It Holy — "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

The altar is a space set apart for prayer and reverence. Approach it with quiet hearts and open spirits. Keep It Orderly — "Let all things be done decently and in order." (1 Corinthians 14:40)

What we place on the altar should be meaningful and straightforward, pointing to God's presence, not our own decoration.

Keep It Light-Bearing — "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

The two candles remind us of the Old and New Testaments, God's truth and light that guide our worship and our lives.

An Invitation

Throughout this month, I invite you to pause at the altar. Open a prayer book. Whisper your hopes. Read words that bring you peace. Take your three breaths. Sometimes, we need something tangible to remind us of what we believe. The altar does that for us week after week, calling us back to God's steady presence, right here among us.

As we continue our November sermon series, Draw the Circle Wide, may the altar remind us that God's love and welcome extend far beyond these walls, inviting all to come, pray, and belong.

Drawing the Circle Wide

November 2 – Blessed Belonging

Scripture: Luke 6:20-31

Focus Verse: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." (Luke 6:20)

November 9 – Guest Preacher: Rev. Jeffrey Phillips

Scripture: Luke 20:27–38

November 16 – Enduring Hope

Scripture: Luke 21:5–19

Focus Verse: "By your endurance you will gain your souls." (Luke 21:19)

November 23 – Remember Me

Scripture: Luke 23:33–43

Focus Verse: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:42)

Sunday, November 30, we will gather for our annual Hanging of the Greens worship service—a beloved tradition that marks the beginning of Advent. Together, we'll decorate our sanctuary with symbols of hope, peace, joy, and love, preparing our hearts and space for the coming of Christ. Come ready to sing, share in community, and celebrate the beauty of this sacred season.

Peace in God's Love, Pastor Elizabeth Hartung

From the Desk of the Chair...

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose."—Romans 8:28

The church is getting the face lift, or shall I say the much-needed ground lift we have been asking for. Our carpets are over 30 years old, and they are showing their years in spades. We have raised over \$13,000.00 from the Congregation which is above and beyond what was

asked. This means less is needed to be taken out of the Capital Fund for the remaining amount. A BIG thank you to the Obenauer Family for their donation of \$5,000 and to each and every member for their contribution toward this project. Installation is scheduled for November 10-12. The building will be CLOSED during this project.

Would you like to see more people in church on Sunday mornings? Or Wednesday evening? I know I would. We are bringing back "Bring a Friend to Church Day." The Hanging of the Greens Service on November 30th is the first opportunity for this. Invite a friend, a neighbor or another family member to come and enjoy carols and the beautification of the sanctuary.

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. We have sent our statement of intent for our Congregation to the UCC Mental Health Network and this has been accepted. Next we will work on our WISE Covenant.

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).

We will be looking into scheduling a Pet Blessing in the near future with Pastor Elizabeth and lay helpers to keep our furry friends welcome and happy.

"God Will Direct Your Steps." - Proverbs 3:6

Upcoming events to be aware of:

Nov 2: Financial Contributions-RMDs and Advanced Directive Workshop (following worship); Trick-or-Treat around the church (11-1130AM); Grief Group (1130AM)

Nov 4: Elections; SDG (7-8pm)

Nov 5: Bible Study 5pm, Youth Choirs 5pm, Wednesday dinner 5pm, The Pause (Worship) 6pm; Adult Choir 7pm

Nov 6: Bingo 1pm

Nov 10-12: Carpet Installation (building closed)

Nov 12: Bible Study 5pm, Youth Choirs 5pm, Wednesday dinner 5pm

Nov 16: Soup Sunday

Nov 18: SDG (7-8pm)

Nov 21: Daybreak meal

Nov 23: Thanksgiving Feast (following service)

Nov 30: Hanging of the Greens

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

Blessings,

Carrie DeFuss, SLT Chairperson

Care team wishes everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving!

We are available for you during the holiday season, for visiting, listening, sharing time together, or working through difficult challenges you may have. Contact us if you need us. Pastor Elizabeth, Carrie DeFuss, or Salli Walden.



MISSIONS MINISTRY NEWS NOVEMBER 2025

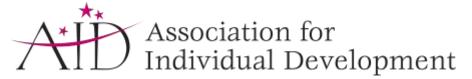
Soup Sunday on October 12th supported the Special Olympics with \$222.00; and along with the Missions Ministry budgeted line item for Special Olympics of \$300.00, a check will be sent for a total of \$522.00. The Mission Ministry thanks all who helped make this possible.

A check for \$200.00 was sent to the Bristol-Kendall Fire Department for School Safety Materials from the Missions Ministry budget.

Our next Soup Sunday will be on November 9th. See Sign-up sheet posted in narthex. Proceeds will go to our church's "Pastoral Care Emergency Fund".

The A.I.D. (Association for Individual Development) Christmas Tree will go up on November 16th. Please take a tag and give generously.

Reminder - our Annual Cookie Sale will be on Saturday, December 13th.





What's Happening in Building and Grounds Submitted by Alex Houle

The Building & Grounds team has been working hard to keep this running smooth and looking good. We all want to send out a special thanks to

Andy Hamblin. Andy has retired and he is the last member of the original Building & Grounds team. He has been a massive help over the last 30+ years here. Please thank him for taking care of this church we have all loved ever since it was built.

Thank you for answering the call to help us gather the necessary funding to get new carpets in the Narthex and Sanctuary. They will Be installed during the week of November 10th. The new carpet will be hot pink with orange stripes...Just kidding! It will be a speckled gray that will tie the church together and weather well.

We are planning to cut down a mostly dead pin oak tree out front on November 8th. Please join us to help mulch branches, split firewood and take home some wood to burn. We will be replacing the tree with a white oak donated by Anne Engelhardt.

B&G continues to meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00am. Please join us. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

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.



Help provide lunch for the homeless Nov. 21

It will be our church's turn to provide lunch at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet on Friday, Nov. 21 and we still need a few food items.

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



Some items have been covered but we still need some sloppy joe and buns. If you would be willing to provide 3 pounds of sloppy joe or buns, let Kathy Farren (ednpub@earthlink.net) know. If it's more convenient to contribute to the cost of the buns, we will gladly pick them up.

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

Caring for Our Earth During the Holidays

When: Thanksgiving through Mid-January
Where: Look for labeled boxes in church entrance
RECYCLING THESE ITEMS

OLD/ BROKEN/ UNWANTED HOLIDAY LIGHT STRINGS

Tie up, or bag up light strings



POLYSTYRENE (STYROFOAM) PRODUCTS (RECYCLING SYMBOL #6)



Examples
CLEAN Packaging Materials - shaped or molded
Styrofoam food service containers
Cups, plates, bowls, take-out containers

Guidelines for Recycling Foam Products:
Rinse cups and containers to rid them of food.
Place foam in a large plastic bag
NO straws or lids
NO foam insulation
NO packaging peanuts
Items may be brought in plastic bags

This environmental project is sponsored by YCUCC's Green Team, who will be responsible for taking all of the dropped off materials to companies that will recycle the used items.

Next meeting will be **Monday January 5, 2026, 6:30** p.m. at the church. Green Team will meet to talk about and plan for the New Year. You are invited to join us and share your ideas!



Save The Date For The "Friendsgiving Dinner" On Sunday, Nov. 23

A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex Plan to celebrate Thanksgiving with your fellow church members!









J.O.Y. Circle Meeting



12:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 18, 2025 in YCUCC's Fellowship Hall

Agenda

~ Determine recipients from the 2025 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale's proceeds ~



"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.



'All are welcome' to attend Lori's Journey of Faith!

You do not need to be a member of J.O.Y. Circle to attend!

Save the Date!

Youth Group Christmas Lock-in December 19-20th from 6:00pm-9:00am

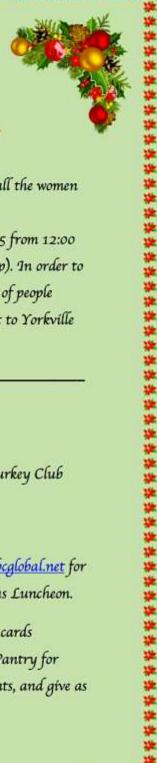
All 6th-12th grade students are invited for a night of fun, fellowship, and our annual Christmas party!

A permission slip and more information will be sent out at a later date.









2025 J.O.Y. CIRCLE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Christmas is coming and so is the J.O.Y. Circle Christmas Luncheon. We invite all the women of the Church to join us for this annual event. A Lunch Buffet will be served at The Oaks Grille (2245 Kennedy Rd, Bristol, IL) on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. The cost of the Lunch Buffet is \$23.00 (includes tax and tip). In order to be served in a timely manner, The Oaks Grille request to know the total number of people planning to attend. Mary McCracken is accepting either cash or check made out to Yorkville Congregational Women's Fellowship by Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Name:	

Lunch Buffet Menu:

- Cream of Baked Potato Soup
- > Tossed Salad
- Variety of Wraps: Tuna Salad; Chicken Salad; Chicken Caesar Salad; Turkey Club
- Available Beverages: Iced Tea, Lemonade, Soda, Coffee, Water
- > A dessert table will be provided by J.O.Y. Circle members.

Please contact Mary, 630-553-7051, 630-408-3724 (cell), email marymac68@sbcglobal.net for questions, or if you are willing to provide a dessert for the J.O.Y. Circle Christmas Luncheon.

As a service to our community, it has been our tradition to donate fast food gift cards (McDonalds, Wendy's, Subway, etc.) to the Kendall County Community Food Pantry for their teenage clients. If you wish to give, we recommend cards in \$10.00 increments, and give as many as you like to Regina Moe.











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thank everyone who made a monetary contribution toward providing resettled, refugee families the opportunity to attend the 2025 Fall Rummage & Bake Sale! Due to your generosity, 20 refugee families were invited to attend the fall sale!

Thank you for your support!

world for all.



Thank you, YCUCC Church Family, for your continued partnership with

world relief

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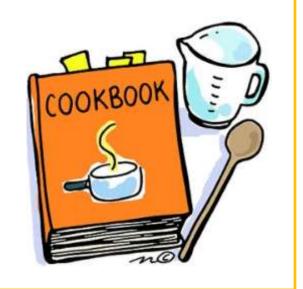


Texas Caviar from Jill Mickelson

In a large bowl, mix together the following ingredients:

- 1 Can Black-eyed Peas, drained
- 1 Can Black Beans, drained
- 2 Cans of White Corn, drained
- 1 Bunch of Chopped Parsley or Cilantro
- 1/2 of a Large Green Bell Pepper
- 1/2 of a Large Red Bell Pepper
- 1/2 of a Large Orange Bell Pepper
- 1 Bunch of Green Onions, chopped
- 1 Tbs. Minced Garlic
- 2-3 Tomatoes, chopped
- 1 Large Bottle of Zesty Italian Dressing
- 1 Small Jar of Artichoke Hearts, chopped
- 1/2 Cup of Chopped Carrots

Makes 4 quarts Best served chilled









"WALKING THE COASTAL ROUTE OF THE CAMINO PORTUGUÉS -A DIFFERENT SORT OF PILGRIMAGE."

~ Presented by Lori Runkle ~

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | YCUCC Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Choosing a second Camino route, after completing the Camino Francés in the spring of 2023, proved challenging. Walking the Camino Francés, the "granddaddy" of the many pilgrimage trails, was a hard act to follow. Although quite different, the Camino Portugués had its own wonders and unique characteristics. Learning about the Portugués culture, ancient cities, religious history, legends, and appreciating the beauty of walking the Coastal route along the Atlantic proved well worth the effort of hiking 300 plus miles.

I hope you can join me in comparing and contrasting the two Camino Pilgrimages that thus far my childhood friend Tina and I have had the good fortune to walk together. My hope is that others will be inspired to either walk their own Camino, or spread the word to others who might be inclined to do so.

Lori Runkle

'All are welcome' to attend Lori's Journey of Faith presentation!

What's for Dinner?

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

November 5th– Soup and Sandwiches
November 12th– NO DINNER
November 19th– Sloppy Joes
November 26th– NO DINNER



Those Grieving:



Pearl Undesser



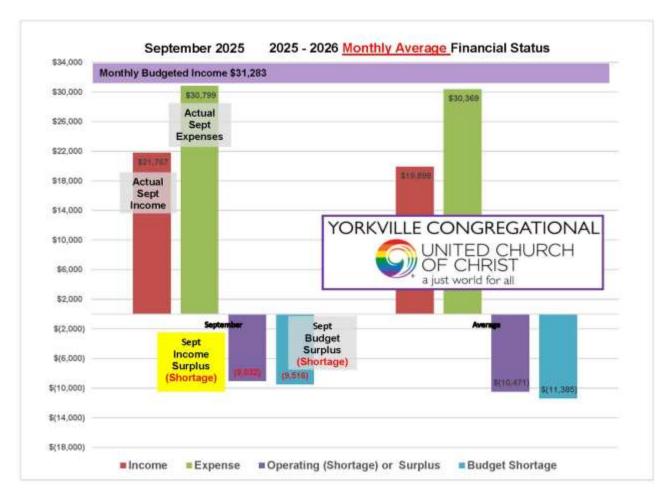
The Prochaska Family The Mendell Family The Hughes Family



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

Homebound/Assisted Living:

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





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Financial Contributions - HMDs	5:30pm - AA Meeting-Fellowship	8:30am - Tai Chi	3:30pm - Homework Club	1pm - Bingol		
9am - 7-12th Voyageurs		9am - Building and Grounds	Spm - Bible Study			
10am - Sunday School		11am - Staff Meeting	5pm - Sonshine Choir			
10am - Worship w Communion		7pm - Spiritual Development Group	Spm - Wednesday Night Dinner			
11am - Coffee Fellowship			6pm - The Pause			
11am - Trick or Treating at YCUCC			7pm - Adult Choir			
11:15am - Youth Choir			7pm - Youth Group			
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9am - 7-12th Voyageurs	BUILDING CLOSED-Carper Construction	uor				
10am - Sunday School	5:30pm - AA Meeting-Fellowship	8.30am - Tai Chi	5pm - Bible Study	6pm - Finance Meeting		
10am - Worship		9am - Building and Grounds	5pm - Sonshine Choir	7pm - SLT Meeting		
11am - Coffee Fellowship		10am - Pastoral Care	6pm - Pastoral Care			
11:15am - Care Team		11am - Staff Meeting	7pm - Adult Choir			
11:15am - Worship Team Meeting			7pm - Youth Group			
11:15am - Youth Choir						
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Sam - 7-12th Voyageurs	5:30pm - AA Meeting-Fellowship	8:30am - Tai Chi	3:30pm - Homework Club	Westerler Articles DUE	9 15am - Daybreak	
10am - Sunday School	7pm - Outreach	Sum - Building and Grounds	Spm - Bible Study			
10am - Worship		11am - Staff Meeting	5pm - Sonshine Choir			
11am - Coffee Fellowship		12pm - J.O.Y. Circle Meeting	Spm - Wednesday Night Dinner			
11am - Confirmation Class		7pm - Spiritual Development Group	7pm - Adult Choir			
11am - Soup Sunday			7pm - Youth Group			
11:15am - Youth Choir						
22	7	22	**	22	28	28
9am - 7-12th Voyageurs	5:30pm - AA Meeting-Fellowship	8:30am - Tai Chi	3:30pm - Homework Club	OFFICE CLUSED	OFFICE CLOSED	
10am - Sunday School		Sum - Building and Grounds	Spm - Sonshine Choir			
10am - Worship		11am - Staff Meeting				
11am - Coffee Fellowship						
11am - LYN						
11am - Thanksgiving FEASTI						
11:15am - Youth Chor						
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Hanging of the Greens						
Sam - 7-12th Voyageurs						
10am - No Sunday School						
10am - Worship						
11am - Coffee Fellowship						
11am - Confirmation Class						
11:15am - Youth Choir						

Nov	embe	er Birthdays	
Zoey Houle Krista Wilson	01 03	Keri Phillipp	29
Nick Skinner Joann Morr	05 06		
Julia Runkle John Pratt	06 08		
Amanda Seibel Audrey Fitzgerald	08 10		
Jonathan Lamp Laurie Houle	12 14		
Linda Melhouse Courtney Skinner	15 16		
Gabe Keith Lynne White	16 19		
Terry Keith Evan Griffin	19 19		
Christopher Johnson Tess Tsusaki	19 21		
Anna Emmert Ron Anderson	23 24		
Deb Bezroukoff	27		
Grant Guenzler Jim Davis	28 29		
Wayne Norr	29		

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost GREEN

Luke 6:20-31

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN Luke 20:27-38

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 21:5-19

Reign of Christ

GRĚEN

Luke 23:33-43

First Sunday of Advent

VIOLET

Hanging of the Greens

November Anniversaries	
11/04 Bethany & Matt Harbour	8 Years
11/11 Steve & Julie Gawne	30 Years
11/19 Rev. Elizabeth Hartung & Bob McGee	9 Years



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
11/02	Benajmin DeFuss	Kathy Farren	Blessed Belonging
11/09	Lincoln Skinner	Sandy Lindblom	Guest Preacher: Rev. Jeffrey Phillips
11/16	Jacob DeFuss	Sandy Lindblom	Enduring Hope
11/23	Penelope Skinner	Pam Campos	Remember Me
11/30	Chelsea Skinner	Pam Campos	Hanging of the Greens

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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