

YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

The Happenings

April 2026



Our Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Hartung, Pastor
Robin Campos, Christian Edu. Director
Leslie Inukai, Chancel Choir Dir.
Sondra Shatters, Children's Choir Dir.
Andy Maya, Organist
Lori Runkle, Pianist
Abby Goniwicha, Childcare Team
Dakota Shatters, Childcare Team
Hailey Shatters, Childcare Team
Kim Jones, Custodian
Louise DeFuss, Sexton

About Us

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.

Our Shepherds

Carrie DeFuss, Chairperson
Sue Kimes, Vice Chairperson
Aaron Shatters, Recording Secretary
Vacant, Personnel
Tony Houle, Building and Ground
Tim Andrus, Finance
Aimee List, Adult Christian Education
Rachel Rebsom, Youth Christian Education
Deanna Bazan, Worship Serving
Louise DeFuss, Worship Preparation
Vacant, Caring
Laurie Houle, Fellowship
June Davis, Missions
Kathy Farren, Outreach and Welcoming

Pastor's Porch

Becoming the Resurrection People

Dear Church Family,

Something is going to happen in our worship space this Easter season, and I want you to be part of it from the very first Sunday.

Beginning April 12, and building week by week through May 3, a table will take shape — right here, among us. Each Sunday, a new element will be carried forward and placed: a candle, a loaf of bread, place settings with names, and finally a cup. By May 3, the table will be full.

This is how we will practice what it means to be resurrection people. Because resurrection is not only something we celebrate — it is something we become.

Resurrection people don't hoard — they share. They set tables. They make room. They live with open hands.

This Easter season, our series Becoming the Resurrection People will guide us as we explore how resurrection shapes the way we live — moving us from fear to trust, from isolation to community, and from holding back to sharing what we have.

This is not a separate stewardship campaign added onto the season. This is the season — lived honestly and fully.

On **April 12, Doubting Sunday**, we begin with Thomas, who needed to see before he could trust. We will ask honestly: where is fear keeping our hands closed? Generosity doesn't begin when everything is certain. It begins when we trust that God is already holding us.

On **April 19, Earth Day**, we turn to the story of Emmaus, where the disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread. We will reflect on what it means to live generously — not only with money, but with the earth and with each other.

On **April 26, Faith Sunday**, we remember the early church, where people shared what they had because they belonged to one another. On that day, you will be invited to place your name at the table — a simple way of saying, "This is my community, and I belong here." You may also choose to name something you have received here — a moment, a connection, or a sense of belonging.

On **May 3, Gifts Sunday**, we gather everything we have become over these weeks — and we celebrate it together. The Spirit does not give gifts to store, but to share. This Sunday, we will be invited to either recommit or make a new financial pledge for the year ahead. That pledge is not the goal of this journey; it is the natural expression of it. It is what happens when trust grows, when belonging deepens, when we look at what we have and realize we want to offer it — because this community is worth showing up for.

Let us remember: a pledge is not a transaction. It is not a contract or a dues payment. It is a practice of resurrection. It is a way of saying, "I am part of what God is doing here, and I want to show up for it." Whatever you can give — it matters, and it belongs at the table.

In the weeks ahead, I invite you to watch the table grow. Each element that appears is a sign of what we are becoming: more trusting, more generous, more alive to what resurrection looks like in practice.

Because this is what resurrection looks like — a table where there is always room, always enough, and always something to share.

**Peace in God's Love,
Pastor Elizabeth**

From the Shepherds Leadership Team

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me."*
-Psalm 51:10 (NRSVue)

The last two months, the SLT has been focusing on "strengthening and focus." We have looked at the roles of each Shepherd as it is stated within the written Constitution to see if any changes need to be made to better serve you as a Congregation. We are working on the website for ease of navigation, content, and visibility.

Do you know the importance of having an updated emergency contact on file with the church office? We want to make sure we can contact the proper person should you need help during a church event. Please fill out the Emergency Contact Sheet attached separately and return it to the office (or grab one from the office). Many on file are outdated, or we simply have none on file at all. Please help us to be able to help you if needed.

We continue our process of becoming a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health is underway. This will let those in the community living with neurodiversity and substance abuse challenges know we are a safe environment for worship. Our WISE committee has written our covenant. You can find it posted in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to read it if you have not seen it. The final step of becoming WISE is for you, as part of the Congregation, to vote YES at our annual meeting in May.

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

"And that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth."

-Ephesians 3:17-18 (NRSVue)

Upcoming events to be aware of:
April 2: Bingo at 1 pm; **Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm**

April 3: **Good Friday Service at 6 pm**

April 5: Easter Breakfast 8:30 am, Easter Service 10:00 am

April 12-16: Rummage Sale Set up

April 17: Daybreak

April 17-18: Rummage Sale/Bake Sale

April 19: Soup Sunday

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

**Blessings,
Carrie DeFuss
SLT Chairperson**

Emergency Contact Form

Please PRINT the following information:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

In the event of an emergency, I, the undersigned, authorize any member/staff of the Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ to notify the following persons:

1st Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Best Contact Number: _____

OK to leave message/voicemail: ____ Yes ____ No

2nd Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Best Contact Number: _____

OK to leave message/voicemail: ____ Yes ____ No

I understand and agree that the church and/or its staff will have no obligation or liability to notify such in case of emergency.

Date

Signature

Stewardship Ministry

Becoming the Resurrection People

Spring is a time of new life in the world and Resurrection in the church. Over four Sundays this spring, beginning April 12, there will be sermons by Pastor Elizabeth Hartung and remarks from church members about becoming Resurrection people.

As we hear what that means, we will learn about overcoming doubt, living generously, appreciating what we receive, and sharing what we have. And we will be making- or renewing- our pledges to the church.

Didn't we just do that? Well, it's been six months since we turned in pledge cards on Ingathering Sunday. Or rather, some people turned them in. Many people who give to the church online through EZ Giving did not realize they should also fill out pledge cards. The SLT relies on those pledges as they draft the next year's budget in time for your vote at the annual meeting. They also realize that your circumstances may change in the next year and understand that this may affect your ability to fulfill your pledge.

In the first two-thirds of the current fiscal year, our income was \$52,000 below what was budgeted. The gifts we give to the church enable us to pay our staff, maintain our building, teach our children, and support missions in and beyond our church. In other words, your financial contributions let us do the work of the church- to live the Resurrection. Not knowing what our income will be makes planning and budgeting quite difficult.

After we hear what it means to live generously as Resurrection People, you will have a chance on "Gifts Sunday," May 3, to make a pledge or renew the pledge you made last fall.

When Jesus' disciples spread the word about His teachings in the time after His Resurrection, they had to overcome their very human doubts with their new faith. They shared all they had with each other and new disciples. They learned to recognize and appreciate all that had been given to them. And they committed to their new way of life- living the Resurrection.

This spring, we will have the opportunity to also become Resurrection people- maybe not in the communal way of the early disciples- but by fully living our faith today.

Becoming the Resurrection
CONVERSATIONS WITH PETER

Becoming the Resurrection · Conversations with Peter
"Resurrection people live open-handed lives."

2026 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT · GIFTS SUNDAY, MAY 3

I am making a NEW pledge of
\$ _____ week month year

I am RECOMMITTING my pledge of
\$ _____ week month year

I plan on giving this amount

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone (optional): _____

*In gratitude for what I have received here,
I offer this gift in the name of the risen Christ.*

----- ✂ keep this portion for your records ✂ -----

Place in offering box by May 3

My 2026 Commitment | \$ _____ week month year Name: _____

Worship Team Ministry

MUSIC SUNDAY EXPANDED: GOD'S GIFTS SUNDAY

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 3, to be filled with the musical talents of our choirs and musicians during the worship service. All choirs will be singing, and there will be some special instrumental music as well. Following the service, all are invited to Fellowship Hall, where we will also recognize the amazing gifts God has granted to so many of us. Are you a painter? A quilter? A photographer? A woodworker? Do you design stained glass? Do you create floral arrangements? Do you knit, crochet, or stitch? Are you an author? The Worship Team is asking you to share your God-given talents with your church family by displaying a sample of your work so others can learn more about you. Because we may not know your talent, you are encouraged to let us know what you intend to share. Please contact Deanna Bazan to confirm a table space reserved just for you. Again, Sunday, May 3, is the day we celebrate our God-given gifts, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Deana Bazan
Worship Serving Shepherd

Green Team

Field Trip to explore and picnic at Morton Arboretum

A New Date!

Saturday, April 25th, 10:00 a.m.

Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m to carpool to the Arboretum.

- Explore the glorious grounds
- Bring a picnic lunch
- Celebrate the beauty of nature and the joy of fellowship

Discounted group rates for non-members are:

Seniors (65+) - \$11

Adults (18-64) - \$12

Children (2-17) - \$9

Children under 2 - free

The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, April 19.

Sponsored by the Green Team



**The Green Team meets the 1st Monday
of the month at 6:30 pm in the
Fellowship Hall.**

Outreach Ministry

How You Can Help Grow the Church

Over the past few months, the Outreach and Evangelism Ministry has been looking at many ideas for growing our church. We've found more than 200 suggestions online- many of which YCUC is already doing- develop a logo, produce a newsletter, have a website, etc. The committee is working on some new ideas, but many suggestions we found can be done by all members.

- When you see a Facebook post from church, especially about an event others might enjoy, please share it with all of your online friends.
- We greet visitors as they enter the building every Sunday, but you can help with the next welcoming steps. Say hello, introduce yourself. Offer to sit with a visitor. If they don't have a bulletin, offer one to them. By all means, welcome them after worship. Invite them to a coffee fellowship.
- Remember that people you encounter anywhere might be interested in our church- invite them. Have you met folks you like at your kids' games or events, at work, at the gym, in your neighborhood? Maybe they would enjoy seeing you at church, too.
- Sign up to be a greeter on Sundays. It's not hard work at all.
- When Outreach sponsors or hosts an event, volunteer to help out for an hour or two. Your friendliness might just convince someone to visit us on a Sunday. From Touch a Truck at Hometown Days to giving away snow cones during Fourth of July fireworks to Juneteenth, there are opportunities all year long to demonstrate to people how welcoming and caring we are.

And you can help.

Kathy Farren
Outreach Shepherd

Missions Ministry

Our Soup Sunday on March 15th came to \$501.01. Our youth at Y.C.U.C.C. are grateful to have this going towards their trip to Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI this summer in June.

As of this printing, the 5 for 5 Offering, OGHS One Great Hour of Sharing, is not tallied. Will report next month.

April 19th will be our last Soup Sunday till fall. Proceeds will be going to our Vacation Bible School. Come join us and enjoy some soup.



June Davis
Missions Shepherd

Care Team

A call or visit from a YCUCC Care Team person may bring a smile to your life! Contact Pastor Elizabeth, the church office, or Carrie DeFuss.



Wednesday Night Dinner

April 1st -

Soup and
Sandwiches

April 8th -

Macaroni and
Cheese Bar

April 15th-

No Dinner
(Rummage Sale)

April 22nd-

Sloppy Joes

April 29th-

Tacos

Interested in helping with
Wednesday Night Dinner?
Contact Sue Kimes.

J.O.Y. Circle



YCUCC'S 2026 SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH & SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH



SORT



PRICE



BAKE



HELP

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: WEEK OF THE 2026 SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

- Sunday, 4.12** **Set-Up Crew** begins immediately following the Worship Service
Drop off Rummage Sale donations: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
• Volunteers: sorting/organizing
- Monday, 4.13** Drop off Rummage Sale donations: 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
• Tony Houle/B&G (815-546-1061) will pick up scheduled rummage sale donations 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
• Volunteers: sorting/organizing
- Tuesday, 4.14** Drop off Rummage Sale donations: 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
• Volunteers: sorting/organizing
- Wednesday, 4.15** Volunteers continue sorting/organizing: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 4.16** Volunteers finalize sorting/organizing/pricing: 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Bake Sale Donations: Deliver between 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, 4.17** **1st Sale Day:** 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, 4.18** **2nd Sale Day:** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; \$3-a-Bag Sale | ½ price day
Tear-Down Crew begins promptly at **NOON**
• Box/Bag remaining items for a donation pickup.
• Bag remaining clothing & shoes separately for a donation pickup.

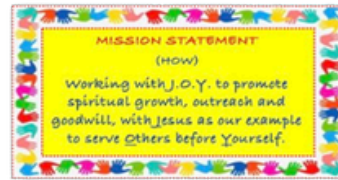
*** VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE POSTED IN THE NARTHEX***

~ ~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT ~ ~

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)

J.O.Y. Circle Cont.



J.O.Y. Circle will not be meeting

in the month of April

due to the

2026 Spring Rummage & Bake Sale!

~ Week of April 12th - 18th ~



Fellowship Ministry

Join us for Bingo on the first Thursday of the month!

Games begin at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

No RSVP needed!



Spring Bake Sale

Friday and Saturday, April 17th and 18th

Look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex!

Suggested items:

- Cinnamon Rolls
- Brownies
- Pies
- Carrot Cake
- Lemon Bars
- Gluten Free
- Any of your favorites!

Items should be brought to the church for “plating” on
Thursday, April 16th, between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Profits will go to Christian Education and Vacation Bible School!

Let's continue to make this a big event!



Children and Youth Christian Education

Are you ready for a COOL summer adventure?

Join us July 5–9th from 5:00–7:30 PM for an unforgettable Vacation Bible School experience, Snowball Mountain Challenge!

Each evening, kids will set out on an exciting mountain adventure filled with high-energy games, creative crafts, uplifting music, and engaging Bible lessons. As they “climb” higher, they’ll discover how to trust God through every challenge while building friendships and making lasting memories along the way.

Our focus verse for the week is Philippians 4:13 (NRSV): “*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*” Through this powerful message, kids will be encouraged to face life’s challenges with confidence, knowing they are never alone.



Registration opens May 1st!

From Here to Camp: Make the Journey Possible!

The graphic shows a desert landscape with a road leading to mountains. Two vans are on the road: a blue and green Mystery Machine on the left and a brown Twinkie on the right. The title "Battle of the Vans" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the top. A small rainbow logo is in the top left corner.

Battle of the Vans

The Mystery Machine
(from *Scooby Doo*)
aka Bob's Van

The Twinkie
(from *Outer Banks*)
aka Robin's Van

The first van to cross the finish line (\$1,000) wins!
Donation amounts of \$20, \$50, \$100, \$200, and \$500 all have
donation incentives! Let's get our students to camp!

In Our Prayers

Those Grieving

The McCracken Family
The Wayne Family
The Dietz Family

Those in Cancer Treatment

Pearl Undesser

Health Concerns

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

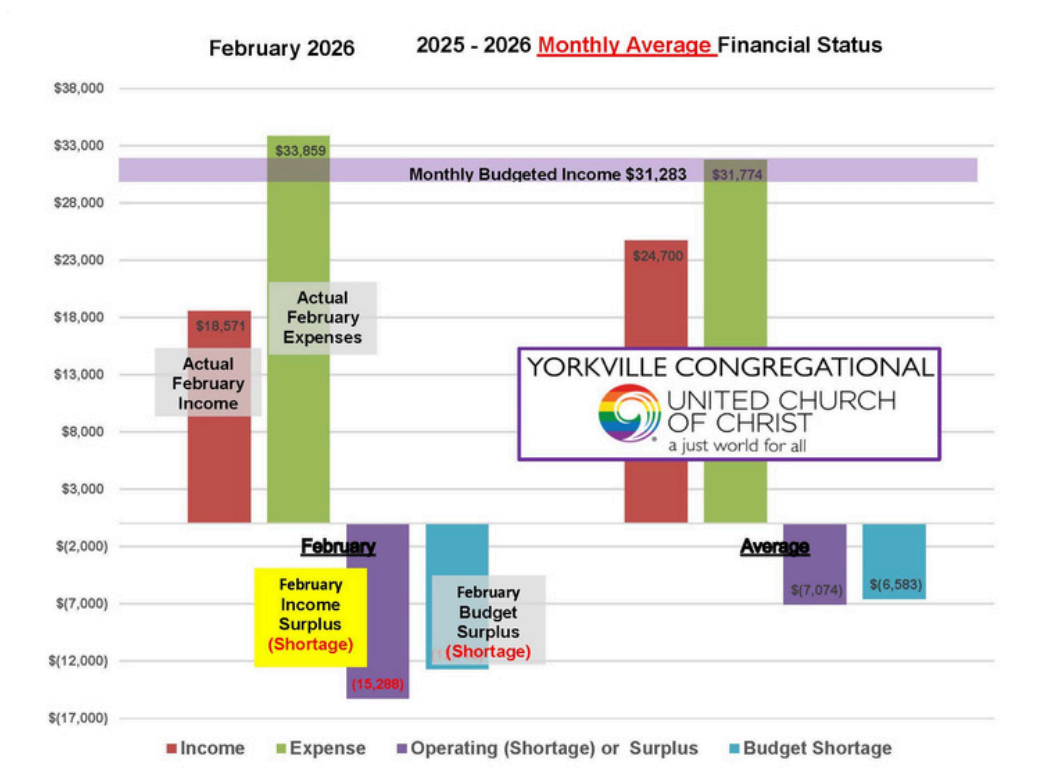
Hombound & Assisted Living

Fred Anderson
Delores Cruise
Dave Encinas
Gayle Jacobs

General Concerns

The Prochaska Family
The Mendell Family
The Hughes Family

Finance



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Sonshine Choir 5pm - Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Youth Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm - Bingo 7pm - Maundy Thursday Service 	6pm - Good Friday Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Easter Breakfast Set-up
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Sunday 8:30am - Easter Breakfast 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Closed (Easter Monday) 3:30pm - Private Music 5:30pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Green Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 7pm - Spiritual Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Sonshine Choir 5pm - Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm - Pastoral Care 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Youth Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - SLT Meeting 		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hummage and Bake Sale Setup 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Care Team 11:15am - Worship Team Meeting 11:15am - Youth Choir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Private Music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Pastoral Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm - Sonshine Choir 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hummage and Bake Sale 9:15am - Daybreak 	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 10am - One Room Sunday 10am - Worship (Earth Sunday) 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Soup Sunday 11:15am - Youth Choir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Private Music 5:30pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 7pm - Spiritual Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Sonshine Choir 5pm - Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Youth Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Articles DUE 		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation Sunday 9am - 7-12th Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship w/Communion 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11am - LYN 11:15am - Youth Choir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am - Lifeline Screenings TBD 11am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Private Music 5:30pm - AA Meeting 5:30pm - Mothers of Estranged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am - Tai Chi 9am - Building and Grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm - Homework Club 5pm - Sonshine Choir 5pm - Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Youth Group 			

Birthdays

Jill Mickelson	02
Jim Stott	02
John Sleezer	02
Bob McGee	03
Leslie Hart	03
Andrew Goss	05
Hudson Martinez	05
Owen Shatters	08
Colton Kolowski	09
Jacob Reeder	12
Dan Melhouse	13
Chase Pranga	13
Linda Haan	15
Matt Skinner	16
Stacy Skinner	17
Carole Munson	18
Tim Strong	18
Artie Prochaska	19
Mariela Olvera	19
Adam Morello	20
Craig Pottinger	21
Brant Corwin	22
Julie Gawne	24
Beth Goss	27
Sarah Pottinger	27
Lark Willmann	28
Jo Pierce	29
Robin Campos	29

Anniversaries

4/06	Tony & Pam Campos	35 Years
4/12	John & Ruth Morello	40 Years
4/15	Ron & Deb Bezroukoff	31 Years
4/19	Chuck & Deb Steinbach	45 Years
4/26	Tim & Laurie Strong	40 Years

Liturgical Calendar

Easter Sunday

WHITE

Acts 10:34-43 and Matt. 28:1-10

Second Sunday after Easter

WHITE

1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 20:19-31

Third Sunday after Easter

WHITE

1 Peter 1:17-23 and Luke 24: 13-35

Fourth Sunday after Easter

WHITE

Acts 2:42-47 and John 10:1-10

Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
4/5/2026	Jacob DeFuss	Sandy deRidder	Drawn Into Life Together
4/12/2026	Penelope Skinner	Sandy deRidder	Doubting Sunday
4/19/2026	Chelsea Skinner	Fred Gaebler	Earth Sunday
4/26/2026	Benajmin DeFuss	Fred Gaebler	Confirmation Sunday

YCUC 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.

Open and Affirming Covenant

God's community of unconditional love, made real for everyone, everywhere.

Our Vision Statement

To live as Jesus lived: Love without judgement, Welcome without Exception, Serve with Compassion, Teach by Example.

Our Mission Statement

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

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