



Connections

Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ
February 2021

Our mission is to connect with God, as we live by faith, are known by love, and cultivate hope.

Scripture basis: We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God ... your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
(1 Thessalonians 1: 2-3)



Lenten Services

- Sunday, February 14th – Transfiguration Sunday – Worship 10am
- Wednesday, February 17th – Ash Wednesday – Worship 7pm
- Sunday, February 21st – 1st Sunday of Lent – Worship 10am
- Sunday, February 28th – 2nd Sunday of Lent – Worship 10am
 - Sunday, March 7th – 3rd Sunday of Lent – Worship 10am
 - Sunday, March 14th – 4th Sunday of Lent – Worship 10am
 - Sunday, March 21st – 5th Sunday of Lent – Worship 10am
 - Sunday, March 28th – Palm Sunday – Worship 10am
 - Holy Week Service Information Coming...

❖ All worship services are also being offered online at:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/RobertsCongregationalUCC>



Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ
1001 Birch Drive | PO Box 116 | Roberts, WI 54023
Church Office: 715-749-3225 | <https://www.facebook.com/RobertsUCC>
Pastor: pastor@robertsucc.org | Office: secretary@robertsucc.org
Website: <http://www.robertsucc.org> | YouTube: Roberts Congregational UCC

From the desk of Pastor Burt



*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
—Numbers 6:24-26*

Many of you are familiar with these words as you have heard them at the end of many services during the benediction. It is known as the Priestly Blessing and was given by God to Moses to give to Aaron and his sons to say over the Israelites. In this way God reminded them of the blessings God was continually giving them, who they were, and what their role was in God's plan. As we head into Lent, it may behoove us to hear these words again. The whole point of Lent is to prepare ourselves for the gift of Christ's grace in our redemption back to the Eternal. This has been a long hard year for many of us, especially in the realm of our faith. We have been separated for so long it is easy to forget the purpose of worship and the church in general. It has been hard not being together. It has been hard changing how we do things. It has been hard to have our lives disrupted on so many levels. Then, to not have the typical structure we are accustomed to can make it hard to keep our focus on the hope and salvation which God continues to bless us with.

It is good to remember the story of the Israelites wandering around in the desert at times such as this. They spent 40 years, a full generation, with our God but separate from everything which felt normal to them. They often lost their way and stumbled from the path of faith. The story of the Golden Calf, the Manna and the Quail, and others along that journey remind us of that. Yet, God used this time in the desert to remold and refocus them; to take those places where they had gone astray in their lives of "comfort" and help them to gain a different perspective. It was by no means easy or comfortable for them to go through this process, but it was necessary for their good and God knew this.

While they were slaves in Egypt, life was not easy but as they looked back it was easier than what they were going through in the desert. Their situation and perspective were changing. I look at the times we are going through and can't help seeing the similarities. In the 20 years I have been serving as pastor in churches I have heard many of the cries of the faithful. "We need more people to be involved in the church." "We need people to give more of their time and finances." "We need more children in Sunday School." "We need more people in Bible study and prayer groups." "We are tired and need help keeping the church running." "Our lives are so busy it is hard to find time to serve." "Sunday's are the only day we have off and to do things with our families." "I give as much as I can, but the cost of living is so high I can't give any more than I am." The list goes on and on. We as congregations and leadership have implemented program after program. We have struggled to find new ways to do things in order to draw more people in and help them find places to be and grow their faith.

I want us to take a look at our list above and ask ourselves what is missing in those statements. I see a lot of "we" and "I," but are we asking what does God want? We have faithfully prayed for answers, but have we truly listened? The Israelites also prayed for God to rescue them from the things that were enslaving them. God did exactly that in taking them out of Egypt. Yet once they were out from under those things, they missed what was comfortable. They cried out against their leadership because the unknown scared them. They needed time for discernment and for changes to truly happen and in wisdom God gave them that as well as freeing them from what had enslaved them. And through it all God continued to "bless" and "keep" them; to "shine upon" and "be gracious" to them; to "lift up his countenance upon" them and give them "peace." The same is true for us. As we have wondered about this last year, we have been blessed and cared for. God has looked down upon us and given us what we needed to survive this time and has continued to reach out and mold us.

I no longer hear the complaints of the past. Now, we are crying for a time when we can again focus on our God together as a family. I am hearing folks who are gracious for the small gifts and times of togetherness.

I watch as families are learning to appreciate the time they have with one another in ways they have not for a long time. I watch as people are looking for how we can reach out more and more to those in need – “Love your neighbor.”

We are still afraid of the unknown. It is hard to place our faith in God’s plan when we cannot see what the next step looks like. Yet, as I watch what is happening in the circles of the faithful, I am finding a renewed hunger for God...a new reliance on faith that God does have us in hand even if we cannot understand fully what is happening all of the time.

So, as we head into Lent, take God’s blessing through Moses with you on your faith journey. Let God prepare your heart for the times to come and the work which will be needed as God reshapes and molds the church in God’s image. Know that God continues to bless and keep us, God is still being gracious unto us as we are watched over and cared for; and that God continues to mold and shape us even while we are apart bringing us to a new place of peace and love. God bless you all and I look forward to our journey together with God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Burt

Treasurer’s Report

Notes from the Treasurers: Detailed minutes of the Trustees meetings, including full financial statements are available upon request.

General Fund Financial Summary as of December 31, 2020

General Fund Financial Summary as of December 31, 2020

Income/Contributions	\$ 202,921.08
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$ 20,802.00
Adopt A Mortgage	860.00
Fundraising income	11,007.28
In-Kind Services	2,633.84
Interest	5.24
Total income	238,229.44
Expenses	202,917.09
Transfers from other accounts	16,284.00
Net General Fund Activity	\$ 51,596.35

Assets

General Accounts	\$ 11,061.29
Other bank accounts	61,042.40
Fixed assets	1,874,642.28
Total Assets	\$ 1,946,745.97

Liabilities & Equity

Accrued expenses	\$ 1,301.88
Bank mortgage balance	673,176.54
Member mortgage balances	150,000.00
Total liabilities	824,478.42

Equity 1,122,267.55

Total Liabilities & Equity \$ 1,946,745.97



Food Pantry

The Roberts Food Pantry is stocked and ready to serve! Curbside service is still being offered during normal Pantry hours.

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9-11:30am

Wednesdays: 6:30-8pm

MINUTES FROM REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 7, 2021

Dawn Budrow (Moderator), Rachel Ackley (Deacons), Jennah Stoffel (Christian Education), Lori Jurek (S.H.I.F.T and Women's Fellowship), Margie Ricci (Financial), Pastor Burt, and Connie Mueller (Church Clerk).

Meeting was called to order by Dawn at 6:00pm

Opening devotion was led by Margie. Based on Hebrews 11:7 "Choose to Trust God in this New Year"

Minutes: December minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Lori to approve the minutes and seconded by Margie. Motion carried.

Reports

Women's Fellowship:

- No meeting in January.
- Bill and Judy cleaned out the church refrigerator and scrubbed the kitchen floor.

Christian Education:

- Sunday School is resuming this month through Zoom. Toni Williams is instructing the class.

Deacons:

- Met January 5th
- Began planning for Lent and Easter
- Reminder of the Annual Meeting and the Leadership Team Meetings to be held on January 17th following the church service.

S.H.I.F.T:

- Next Meeting in February.
- Sent Winter supplies to THUG Life (winter caps, mittens, etc.)

Treasurer:

- See the report in the newsletter.

Trustees:

- Budget approved.
- Plowing and Copier costs are being covered.
- 43 households have pledged for 2021
- Anyone with fundraising ideas, please contact the Trustees.

(Continued on next page)



**MINUTES FROM REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

January 7, 2021

(Continued from previous page)

Pastor:

- Has outlined plans for Lent and Easter.
- Focus for this year will also include getting people involved in service projects and creating fundraising ideas for the church (possible ideas: curbside church meals, Hollywood Squares through Zoom, etc.)

Other Discussion:

- Annual Meeting will be held on January 17th. The Leadership Team meeting will follow.
- The Constitution Committee will be asked to run the portion of the annual meeting, regarding changes to the constitution.
- Connie will get a list of those currently on the membership roll. She will get information regarding membership, etc. to Rachel by the Annual Meeting. Rachel indicated that she will put reviewing the membership list on the February Deacons meeting agenda for discussion.

Next Meeting: February 4th

Devotions: Dawn Budrow

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Mueller, Church Clerk

RUCC SCRIP PROGRAM

SCRIP orders can be placed on the forms available in the Narthex or can be placed online at www.shopwithscrip.com under our Roberts United Church of Christ organization. Our enrollment code is: D7L4154436429.

SCRIP has national cards available. Many of them are represented on the order forms. There are reloadable cards available also which allows you to use the same card and reduce shipping charges for new cards. Family Fresh and County Market cards are ordered locally by Dianne Loewel and must be ordered on the paper forms. Checks for SCRIP should be made out to **Roberts UCC SCRIP** and paid at the time you place your order.

Currently, orders are collected on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Once orders are placed, all cards are shipped to Dianne at her home to reduce shipping charges incurred if shipped directly to the church with morning delivery. Cards are typically available for pick up on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Cards currently in stock are:
10 – \$100 County Market

If you are looking to place an order, please strongly consider ordering online and using a rechargeable card if possible.



Mark Clay – 2/1
Pete Ament – 2/2
Bruce Libby – 2/11
Dave McKenna – 2/13
Delila Johnson – 2/15
Leslie Dull – 2/17
Jackson Hansen – 2/18
Shelly Dull – 2/19

Laurene Ray – 2/20
Evelynn Stoffel – 2/20
Carol Dull – 2/21
Roger Ray – 2/21
Barb Haas – 2/25
Brian Poulin – 2/26
Ken Fern – 2/27
John Vorwald – 2/28

- ♥ Justin & Danielle Johnson – 13 Years!
- ♥ Wes & Mary Frederick – 64 Years!
- ♥ Jamie & Melissa Delander – 17 Years!



Help Wanted!

As many of you know, we have been working extremely hard to find ways of bringing everyone back together again. One of those ways is to start live streaming our services. Our goal in this is to help everyone feel involved in the service, even when you are not physically here with us. We have gotten close and the time has come to find some people that are interested in helping. The need is simple really, we are looking for anyone interested in running the camera, running a computer, or running sound. No experience is necessary as all training will be provided. Pastor Burt has been talking lately about being called, I am asking all of you to prayerfully give this some consideration and then let the deacons, Pastor Burt, or Tiff in the office know if you are feeling called to help us out. We are looking for enough people to step forward so that nobody must feel overwhelmed. Ideally, we would like to have multiple groups of 2-3 people so that no one must commit to every Sunday.

Snow Days

Just a reminder that if schools are closed in the area (Roberts, Baldwin, etc.) church activities will most likely be cancelled that day or evening. The Roberts Food Pantry will also be closed. In case of bad weather, please call the church office before venturing out. Thank you!





If you have placed someone on the prayer list, please update us on how they are currently. If you would like to add or remove someone, please contact Tiff in the office at rccsecretary@gmail.com or (715) 749-3225.

Those currently on the Prayer List:

Carol Moenke Lisa Briess Earl Pechuman Mary Fredrick Joann Libby
LaVere Wolske Amy Moshier Bernie McGaver Todd Knochenmus Dean Hansen
Evelyn Wood-Funkhouser Ericka Evans Schweitzer Spence Porter Brian Wille
Bobbie Kuhnke Linda Hall Renate Koch Danielle Anderson Tracy Grabau
The Friends and Family of Marlys McGaver

- Baldwin Care Center: Marcia Graf
- Those serving on active Military duty.
- Those serving our state & community in Law Enforcement

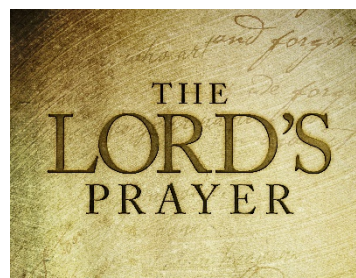
Bulletin Sponsor Information

This year, due to restrictions, we are using Signup Genius as our Bulletin Sponsor Sign Up sheet. Dates listed below are the currently available Sundays to sponsor the bulletin. The cost for sponsoring bulletins is \$15 per Sunday. If you are interested in sponsoring the bulletin on a date available, please let Tiff know so she can get you signed up.

-January 31st - February 7th -February 14th - February 28th -March 14th
-March 21st -March 28th -April 4th Easter 6:30am -April 4th Easter 10am
-April 11th - April 25th - May 2nd - May 16th - May 23rd
- May 30th - July 11th - July 18th - July 25th - August 1st
- August 8th -August 22nd - August 29th -September 12th -October 31st
-November 7th - December 12th - December 24th Christmas Eve 4:30pm

The Lord's Prayer Discussion Group

During Lent, from February 14th through March 31st, there will be a discussion group held on the topic of each week's Sermon on the Lord's Prayer to go a little deeper and ask questions on each week's topic or section. The discussion groups will be held on Sundays at 11:30am after Sunday's services and Wednesdays at noon. The groups will be held via Zoom and if there are those interested in doing in-person that could be done as well. If you are interested, please email Pastor Burt at pastor@robertsucc.org.



February

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:30pm Deacons Meeting	3 6:30pm DISCIPLES 2	4 6pm Council Meeting	5	6
7 10am Worship with Holy Communion	8 6:30pm SHIFT	9	10 6:30pm DISCIPLES 1	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day SCRIP Due 10am Worship	15  PRESIDENT'S DAY	16 6pm Trustees Meeting	17 7pm Worship  ASH WEDNESDAY	18 6pm Christian Education	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20
21 10am Worship 11am PPRC	22	23	24 6:30pm DISCIPLES 1	25	26	27
28 SCRIP Due 10am Worship						