



# CONNECTIONS

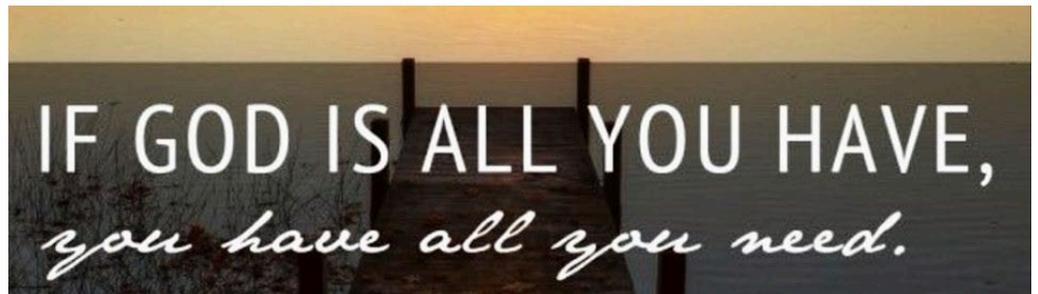
Our mission is to connect with God, as we live by faith, are known by love, and cultivate hope.

God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
 OF CHRIST



*Welcome*

Welcome to Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ, which is part of an historic mainline Protestant denomination. We are the church of the "still speaking God" that believes we should never place a comma. Roberts UCC is family-centered and bible-grounded. We embrace openness for all God's children, celebrate diversity and put love in practice. Here you will find a gracious welcome where judgment is left at the front door and God's grace is experienced. We invite you to worship and experience a message that will touch your soul, or attend one of our fellowship events to experience a hospitality that will warm your heart.



## FAITH USE IT OR LOSE IT

I heard about a mother who was reading exciting Bible stories to her young daughter one night. The little girl turned to her and said, "Mommy, it seems like God was a lot more exciting back then." Maybe it seems that way because we don't apply faith. The men and women of the Bible took risks, and God blessed them.

## WORLD CHANGERS

In the New Testament book of Hebrews, we find a group of very interesting men and women who went out and changed their world. They were ordinary people like you and I, but they did extraordinary things. They faced adverse circumstances like we do, but they rose above them. Elijah, for example, was a great prophet of the Lord. One day God said to him, "Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you." So, Elijah went to Zarephath, and the widow agreed to let him stay. Although she had a son and limited resources, she fed him from the meager supply of food that she had.

What she didn't realize was that she had welcomed a world changer into her home. She always had what she needed, and God kept providing for her. Then, one day, her beloved son, more precious to her than anything on Earth, died. And she blamed Elijah for it. But Elijah took the boy in his arms, carried him up to the room where he was staying, and raised the little boy from the dead. Even death does not stop the world changer.

Of course, we think of Elijah as a rock star, a biblical legend. After all, he raised a boy from the dead. He stopped the rain and called down fire from Heaven. Yet, the Bible tells us that "Elijah was as human as we are" After Elijah had his great contest with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, he fell into a deep funk. He was deeply depressed and didn't want to live any longer. This reminds us that even world changers get depressed at times.

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**Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ**

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**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK  
SOMETHING NEW  
SOMETHING EXCITING  
CHANGES ARE HAPPENING**

*Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.*

—Deuteronomy 6:6-7

There is an excitement in the air with your Christian Education Board, as they roll out the new year for... Sunday School? Only it is not **“Sunday”** School but rather Family Time!

It isn't going to be on Sundays and it is not designed for just our younger family members. This is meant for **ALL** of our Church Families! There will be a meal, music, Scripture, and of course, fun and learning for all ages. So let's layout for you what the vision and plan is going to look like.

They will be meeting every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month starting at 5:30pm.

The evening will begin with a potluck dinner (*where each family will bring a dish to pass and their own plates, cups, and utensils*).

At 6pm there will be a short gathering time with music (*both the old hymns and contemporary songs*), Scripture, prayer, and a short thought to focus everyone for the night.

From 6:30-7:00pm everyone will break into separate age groups to discuss and learn about the Scripture and thought for the night. Everyone will then come together as families to talk about what all they have learned and share our ideas with one another – parents, children, grandparents, and all our adopted children, parents, grandparents in our Family of Christ.

Finally, they will end the evening in prayer and be done somewhere between 7:15 and 7:30.

So, why the change? There are some logistical reasons, but most importantly it is about our Scripture above...it is about the “family” learning together. It is about us growing as a family along our journey with Christ. Along this journey we will study various Scripture and ideas around them. We will learn about church, worship, and everyday life topics which relate to all of us. For example, we may discuss on one night the topic of lying and how it affects us and others and the next time possible learn about prayer (what prayer is, or how do we pray, or possibly different types of prayers).

By dividing into the different age groups, we will be able to have age-appropriate discussions around the topics. It will allow us to go to various depths on our thoughts for the night. It will also allow us to share our needs and thoughts around living our faith, parenting in our current world, and dealing with various topics of family while allowing the younger family members to talk about real world application around using these topics at home, school, or any number of other places. It will be a time where we can see how others do things, get help where we need and want it, and find out that we are all living in the same boat in many ways. We do not all have the perfect answers to the events that happen around us. We all make mistakes. There are a lot of neat and ingenuitive ways of dealing with situations and life events. And along the way we will find God in and amongst us.

By coming back together, the idea is to start the “family” discussing things and sharing ideas. It will help our younger family members see us as we struggle with issues and practice our faith. It will allow our older family members to learn from our youth. Most of all though it will get us following God's command from above talk and share the teaching and laws of our God and find journey together as we try to figure out our individual journeys and relationships with God and one another!

Our first family gathering will be Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, with dinner starting promptly at 5:30pm. As we journey together we are sure there will be adaptations made to how we do things and hills and valleys to enjoy together. Come and join us on this new adventure. This is not just for the kids or for families with children. It is for our entire church family...ALL are welcome!



*Peace and God Bless,  
Pastor Burt*



**...if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move...**

– Matthew 17:20

Have you ever wished that you had more faith? Stronger faith? Deeper faith? Sometimes, we think that if we can only muster up more faith from within ourselves, we can accomplish more.

One of the greatest mistakes we can make in the Christian life is to think that power is *sourced* in faith itself. But on two separate occasions in the Gospel Accounts, Jesus talks about a “mustard seed” faith that can result in great things.

Why does Jesus use a mustard seed to describe faith? In Jesus’ day, the mustard seed was used proverbially to represent the smallest of things. And with a diameter of 1 to 2 millimeters, it’s a fitting illustration!

By using this illustration to describe faith, Jesus is directing our attention, not to the quantity or strength of our faith, but to the object of our faith. Our faith is only as strong as the object in which its placed.

If our faith, even if it’s the size of a mustard seed, is placed in the all-powerful God, great things can happen. In The Gospel According to Matthew, Leon Morris says, “It is not necessary to have great faith; even a small faith is enough, as long as it is faith in the great God.”

Jesus is telling us that only *faith in a powerful God* can accomplish the things that only a powerful God can do. This does *not* mean, however, that we can harness God’s power to accomplish whatever *we* desire. We cannot hijack the power of God for our own purposes.

If faith is a self-emptied, dependent assurance in the character and promise of God, then that faith will only pursue things that align with his character and agree with his promises. True faith is aligned with his will as revealed in Scripture—it’s not a magical charm to pursue our own dreams.



## COMMUNITY DINNER

*Sponsored by Women’s fellowship*



**Thursday, September 8 , 2022  
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.**

### MENU

Turkey & ham, potatoes and gravy, dressing, green beans, dinner rolls  
Assorted Desserts and Beverages

Adults: \$6.00 Children \$3.00

Take-out meals are available upon request.

Invite your friends and family for this time of fellowship. All are welcome!



**ROBERTS  
Food Pantry**

*Giving hope to our neighbors*

### OPEN WEEKLY

Tuesdays &  
Thursdays  
9:00 -11:30 am

Wednesdays  
6:30 - 8:00 pm

### ITEMS NEEDED

Syrup / Pancake Mixes  
Egg Noodles  
Jell-O / Pudding  
Any Paper Products  
Laundry Soap  
Grocery Bags

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*\*\* Detailed minutes of the Trustees meetings, including full financial statements are available upon request.*

### General Fund Financial Summary as of July 31, 2022

#### Statement of Activity

Income/Contributions	\$ 111,648.88
Facility use income	1,120.00
Fundraising income	3,191.22
Interest	0.82
Total income	121,140.92
Expenses	(112,786.99)
Transfers from other accounts	10,000.00
Net Activity	\$ 18,353.93

#### Statement of Financial Position

<b>Assets</b>	
General Accounts	\$ 2,605.00
Other bank accounts	67,895.77
Fixed assets	1,874,642.28
Total Assets	\$ 1,945,143.05
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	
Accrued expenses	\$ 1,848.46
Bank mortgage balance	590,883.43
Member mortgage balances	150,000.00
Total liabilities	742,731.89
Equity	1,202,411.16
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 1,945,143.05

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#### **ORDINARY PEOPLE GOD USED**

The men and women of Hebrews 11 didn't make it into the Heroes Hall of Faith because they were great people. Rather, it's because they put their faith in a great God. For instance, Gideon was a frightened farmer when the angel of the Lord called him to be a mighty warrior to deliver Israel. Moses was a fugitive from justice when the Lord called out to him from the burning bush. We think of Abraham as the father of faith, yet we know that he lied about his wife, Sarah—twice. And Sarah, also named in Hebrews 11, laughed at the promise of God and then denied that she laughed. David committed adultery and tried to cover it up by essentially committing murder. Samson was very immoral.

These people didn't collect medals. In fact, they sometimes collected scars. But we don't find one mention of their failures in Hebrews 11. They all were human beings whom God worked through. And God can work through us as well. It was said of the first-century church that they turned their world upside down (Acts 17:6). This, by the way, was not meant as a compliment. Yet, I think that for some Christians it seems as though the world is turning them upside down.

#### **HAVING ACTIVE FAITH**

World changers have an active, not passive, faith. Faith is like a muscle. The more we use it, the stronger it becomes. It reminds me of someone I saw at the gym who had bulging biceps and a massive upper body. But, for some reason, he had incredibly skinny legs. That's how it can be with some of us when it comes to faith. We exercise our faith in some areas, but we don't exercise it in others. Faith is not fragile. God has given it to us to use, to stretch, to flex and to develop. And the more we use our faith, the more we will have. But if we neglect our faith, it will atrophy.

In other words: use it or lose it. The Bible tells us, "But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love" Notice the emphasis is on doing things. Faith is praying, faith is staying, and faith is keeping—faith is active.

God has given us this faith to use, but all too often we don't. Instead, we neglect it. For many of us, our faith is all show and no go. In fact, we can stop the work of God in our lives by unbelief. And unbelief is a thief. We see in the Bible how God worked through people exercising their faith to produce amazing things. God could have parted the Red Sea by his own power. Yet, he told Moses, "Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground".

God didn't need Elijah to call down fire from Heaven when he was facing off with the prophets of Baal. He could have done it without Elijah. But God wants us to exercise our faith. He wants us to be part of the process.

Maybe you've messed up in life. Maybe you feel like your story is over. That isn't true. God can change your story. God can change the trajectory that your life is taking. And if we learn nothing else from Hebrews 11, we see that that God can use flawed people.

When we look at ourselves, we may see weakness, but God sees potential. We see what we are, but God sees what we can be. We see the past, but God sees the future. In fact, we may even think of ourselves as zeros, but the truth is that God can make us into heroes—heroes of faith.

**MINUTES FROM REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF  
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
August 4, 2022**

Dawn Budrow (Moderator), Lori Jurek (S.H.I.F.T. and Women's Fellowship), Tony Jurek (Trustees), Duane Loewel (Deacons), and Connie Mueller (Church Clerk).

Opening Devotions was led by Tony: Based on 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Minutes: June and July minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Lori to approve the minutes and seconded by Duane. Motion carried.

Reports:

**S.H.I.F.T**

- Taking care of the food stand for the church auction on August 17<sup>th</sup>
- Serving Grace Place on August 18<sup>th</sup>

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

- Met today
- Kitchen went through inspection today. Changes to be made: 1) all food items must be prepared at the church (other than brownies,,etc.), 2) hot items must be cooled quickly, and 3) the bleach water used for cleaning the tables only requires a couple of drops of bleach in the containers.
- If a group is not using the dishwasher, all three tubs must be used for washing dishes: wash, rinse, sanitize.
- E-mail is going out requesting baked goods for the church auction.
- Stove is currently in need of cleaning. If that does not solve issues with the stove, a repair person will need to be called in.
- Business contacted regarding the dishwasher repair has not responded yet.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

- No meeting
- Reminder: Sunday Funday August 14<sup>th</sup> Potluck

**TRUSTEES**

- No meeting held
- A F Ahem Fire Management is up and running. All services from various vendors have been terminated. Reports regarding deficiencies and bills to bring those deficiencies up to code have been received. Tony will work on getting the phone for the food pantry restored.
- Closet across from the kitchen has been cleaned. CE needs to organize their materials yet.
- Closet containing the fold up chairs has not been cleaned and organized yet.
- Parking lot has been resurfaced.
- Shed has had one coat of paint. One more coat needed.
- Baby grand piano has been donated to the church.
- Pick Up Your Pebble campaign is continuing
- Church Auction: August 17<sup>th</sup>
- Developing a new policy covering the timing and process for turning over the various Boards Chair responsibilities. One policy for each board.

**TREASURER**

- See newsletter for the report.

**DEACONS**

- No meeting held
- Letters have been sent out regarding membership and start time for church.

**PASTOR**

- No report

**OTHER BUSINESS** Next Meeting: September 8 (Duane will lead the opening)

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Mueller, Church Clerk



# S.H.I.F.T!



**S.H.I.F.T!**  
**DONATIONS NEEDED**  
**CHILDREN'S BAGS**

S.H.I.F.T! will be “refreshing” the children’s activity bags for use during worship. We are looking for donations of crayons, coloring pages/pads, small books, and other quiet toys appropriate for small children.

If you’d prefer to make a financial donation and have S.H.I.F.T! do the shopping, reach out to Lori Jurek or Sonya Jansma. Thank you!

## THE TIME TO **GIVE BLOOD** IS NOW

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**ROBERTS UCC**  
 Friday, September 16, 2022  
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE**  
 We will be hosting a blood drive on Friday, September 16, 2022 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at our church, Roberts United Church of Christ, 1001 Birch Drive, Roberts, WI 54023

Please take some time to out of your day to help save someone’s life. Your donation matters!

**About every 2 SECONDS someone in the U.S. needs BLOOD**

DID YOU KNOW?

STANFORD BLOOD CENTER

## Congregate Dining

### SENIOR NUTRITION DINING

The purpose of the Elderly Nutrition Program is to provide services that assist older individuals in Wisconsin to live independently, by promoting better health through improved nutrition & reduced isolation. Not only are nutritious meals served at our congregate sites, but services also include nutrition education, nutrition screening, and nutrition counseling. Also important: the opportunity to socialize!

Senior Dining is open to individuals age 60 or older and their spouses, regardless of age; any handicapped person who lives in an apartment building with a meal site; and program volunteers.

**Location; Parkside Restaurant & Bar, Hammond, WI.**

### MY MEAL, MY WAY

- ✓ All Seniors 60+ are welcome regardless of your ability to donate
- ✓ Suggested donation \$5.00 per meal.
- ✓ Donations are confidential.
- ✓ No additional tipping is required

### HOW IT WORKS

- Register or sign in with Senor Meal Program Staff
- Put your donation in the My Meal, My Way box
- Choose one of the lunch options on the back
- Place your order with the server
- Wait for the server to bring you your meal & enjoy!



# Prayer LIST

Brian Wille	Tracy Grabau	Earl Pechuman	Eric Wangen
Mary Frederick	Linda Hall	Danielle Anderson	Terry Nygaard
Terry McKinley	Walt Lamson	Donna Lamson	Linda Jourdeans
Audrey Ackley	Joe Fetzer	Wanda Hopkins	Bob Hartmon
Terry Dull	Mark Clay	Janice Kuschel	
Forman Family	Rich McDonald's Family		

All those serving active in the Military and those serving our state & community in law enforcement.

If you have placed someone on the prayer list, please keep us current on their situation. If you would like to add to remove someone, please contact the office at 715.749.3225 or [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org)

# Monthly CELEBRATIONS



Dave Hatch	Sept. 1	Walt Lamson	Sept. 14
James Jansma	Sept. 1	Christie Risberg	Sept. 15
Sue Wille	Sept. 1	Renee Gullixson	Sept. 16
Earl Pechuman	Sept. 2	Annika Hansen	Sept. 16
Audrey Ackley	Sept. 3	Zachary Williams	Sept. 18
Toni Williams	Sept. 5	Mary Schultz	Sept. 21
Tricia Dull	Sept. 7	Kathy Johnson	Sept. 23
Terra Jansma	Sept. 7	Don Gillis	Sept. 24
Steven Hansen	Sept. 8	Jenny Muller	Sept. 26
Dennis Nelson	Sept. 10	Kiley Ament	Sept. 27
Glenda Hansen	Sept. 11	Brandon Dull	Sept. 27
Corynne Arendt	Sept. 13		



## SEPTEMBER 2

Glenn & Linda Hall

## SEPTEMBER 7

Jim & Lynn Cave

## SEPTEMBER 10

Brandon & Shelly Dull

Jeff & Trudy Hinkel

## SEPTEMBER 14

David & Michelle Hansen

## SEPTEMBER 16

Tom & Nicole O'Connell

Tim & Tracy Ronnander

## SEPTEMBER 18

Steven & Cynthia Hansen



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 3:30 pm Women's Fellowship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Communion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:30 – 6:30pm Community Dinner  6pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Fellowship RaiseRight Due	<b>12</b> 6:30pm SHIFT! Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9am – 3pm Blood Drive	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	<b>19</b> 4pm Rummage Sale Drop off  6pm CE Meeting	<b>20</b> 1 -5 pm Rummage Sale Drop off  6:30pm Trustees Meeting  Newsletter info due	<b>21</b> 1 -5 pm Rummage Sale Drop off  6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>22</b> 1 -5 pm Rummage Sale Drop off	<b>23</b> 8am – 6pm Rummage Sale	<b>24</b> 8am – 10:30am Rummage Sale
<b>25</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Fellowship RaiseRight™ Due	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>LOOK AHEAD:</b> October 1 <sup>st</sup> 9-11am Feed My Starving Children

