



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.

GOD IS SO GOOD

From the day we are born, we have trouble. And what we discover as we get older is that life is filled with lots of it. In fact, when we have a conflict-free day where there is no crisis—large or small—that is a very good day. Then there are those days when it seems like the bottom drops out. What could go wrong, does go wrong, and then even more things go wrong beyond that and we question why it's happening to us.

QUESTIONING GOD

As we look at our world today, we wonder about the heartbreaking things that take place. Why do things like that happen? Why does God allow tragedy? We hear it stated many ways: why does God allow wars to rage? Why does He allow innocent people to be killed? What about all the horrible injustices in our world? If God can prevent tragedies, then why does He allow them to happen? Here's the classic statement of the problem: either God is all-powerful but is not all good, therefore, He doesn't stop evil. Or He is all good but is not all-powerful, therefore, He can't stop evil. The general tendency is to blame all the problems of the world on God.

We've heard the question posed this way: If God is so good and loving, then why does He allow evil?

The first part of that question implies that God isn't good and loving. Someone who asks that question is, in essence, saying they are moral center of the universe, and they determine what is good and loving.

Yet, God doesn't become good because that is our opinion of Him or because we personally agree with His actions or His words. Rather, God is good because God says that He is good. Jesus said, "Only God is truly good". You see, God is good whether we believe it or not. God—and God alone—is the final court of arbitration. As the apostle Paul wrote, "Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true". Good is whatever God approves. To put it another way, good is what God says is good. And bad is what God says is bad. Some might say that is circular reasoning, but I would describe it as biblical reasoning. We're coming back to a source of truth, the Word of God, and to God Himself, who is telling us what our values ought to be, what right and wrong are, what good and evil are. In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, we read, "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. 'And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts'".

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Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Continuing to Learn

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

– Colossians 3:16

Make sure to read all the way to the end of this one!!

A RUCCKUS is going to start here at Roberts Congregational UCC. No, that is not a typo, it is spelled exactly that way. We are going to start a RUCCKUS here in the church. RUCCKUS - **Roberts UCC Kids Understanding Scripture** – It is our new **FAMILY** oriented Christian Education. It is meant for the ENTIRE family here at the church made up of kids from little to the oldest of us. It will start conversations amongst us, whet our palettes to learn more, and give us a chance to share our faith with one another. It really is meant for everyone, not just those with young families. Here is how it is going to work:

- 1) At 5:30pm we will gather for a potluck meal for all who choose to participate. We ask that you bring a dish to pass as well as your own service ware (plates, silverware, etc.)
- 2) At 6pm we will gather together for the reading of Scripture, singing of a couple of songs, and to learn about that night's "Big Idea."
- 3) From 6:30-7pm we will break into groups (adults in one and children in another) where we can look deeper into the Scripture and Big Idea to gain a better understanding and share our thoughts.
- 4) At 7pm we will come back together as a group where the children and adults can share what things they are taking away from the night.
- 5) And we should be done somewhere between 7:15 and 7:30pm.

So what is the big deal about this and why should you consider coming? The "What is the big deal about this?" is that this will be different than any bible study or Sunday School class you have ever been to.

It is an informal, but nuts and bolts gathering. We plan on hitting everyday topics that we come up against all the time. Things like, why shouldn't I lie? What is a lie? What is wisdom and can I be wise? What makes up my family – is it blood, faith, circumstances, choice? How do we love our neighbor? What are some of the things we do in church and why? We will be using Scripture to understand better. It will involve theology. Yet, we will be doing it at a real-world level. In other words, we will be talking about how and why it matters in our daily lives and not just in the world as it "should" be. We will share our faith stories along the way. We will grow closer as a family. This is something completely different from anything we have ever done before. It only works if you come though. We are asking for minimal time twice a month (the first and third Wednesdays of the month) in order to strengthen your faith and understanding of Scripture as well as the faith and understanding of your peers and the generations to come.

We will be starting in October meeting on the 5th and the 19th. Here is the Scripture, Big Idea, and songs for our first two gatherings.

October 5th

Scripture: Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23/James 2:1-10

Big Idea: I can be wise by not choosing sides.

Music: Let Us Break Bread Together

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwdFOMeyFwc>)

"Words" by Hawk Nelson

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfH7Lwl0FI>)

October 19th

Scripture: Psalm 19/James 3:4-10

Big Idea: I can be wise by choosing my words carefully

Music: Let Us Break Bread Together

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwdFOMeyFwc>)

"Words" by Hawk Nelson

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfH7Lwl0FI>)

Come join us and experience God's word in a completely different way!

*Peace and God Bless,
Pastor Burt*





THIRD QUARTER STATEMENTS

The Third Quarter Giving Statements will be printed and available to pick up in the narthex beginning October 2nd.

If you are unable to pick yours up in person, your statement will be mailed out 2nd week of October. Thank you for all the ways in which you support the ministries of Roberts UCC with your gifts!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT RUCCKUS

All Are Invited!

Have you heard the news? Our traditional Sunday School, youth education program, will no longer be held during worship service on Sunday mornings. We've got new program called RUCCKUS and it begins on October 5th. If you skipped Pastor Burt's article, we suggest you back up and read it. 😊 He shares all the details that you'll want to be aware of! We look forward to growing as a family through this exciting new Christian Education program! And remember, this isn't just for our families with kiddos. This is open to EVERYONE -- members, friends, young, old and all who fall in between. We sincerely hope that you'll make plans to join us in the RUCCKUS!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship



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

MENU

Baked Chicken, Potatoes with Gravy
Corn, Rutabagas, Cranberry Salad
Relish Tray, Dinner Rolls
Assorted Pies 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 August 31, 2022

<u>Statement of Activity</u>		<u>Statement of Financial Position</u>	
Income/Contributions	\$ 124,558.88	Assets	
Pick Up Your Pebble Income	6,005.00		
		General Accounts	\$ 5,889.47
Facility use income	1,120.00	Other bank accounts	66,024.02
Fundraising income	11,647.77	Fixed assets	1,874,642.28
Interest	1.00	Total Assets	\$ 1,946,555.77
Total income	143,332.65		
Expenses	(127,990.33)	Liabilities & Equity	
Transfers from other accounts	10,000.00	Accrued expenses	\$ 804.78
Net Activity	\$ 25,342.32	Bank mortgage balance	587,723.19
		Member mortgage balances	150,000.00
		Total liabilities	738,527.97
		Equity	1,208,027.80
		Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 1,946,555.77

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THE CAUSE OF EVIL

Let's come back to the second part of that question: why does God allow evil? Remember that Adam and Eve were not created as evil beings. They were innocent, ageless, and immortal. Of course, we know that our first parents made the wrong choice and did just what God told them not to do. But before we're too critical of them, let's recognize that if we had been in the Garden of Eden, we would have done the same thing, evidenced by the fact that we all make wrong choices throughout our lives.

As a result of the sin of Adam and Eve, sin and death entered the human race. The Bible tells us, "When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned". Therefore, we need to keep in mind that it is humanity, not God, who is responsible for sin.

Then why didn't God make us incapable of sin? It's because He didn't want puppets on a string. He didn't want windup robots, preprogrammed people who had no choice or free will. God doesn't want us to love Him because we have to. He wants us to love Him because we choose to. He gave us the ability to choose.

Adam and Eve made the wrong choice, we make the wrong choices, and so much of the evil in the world and the wrongs that are done are because people make wrong choices. Maybe you're thinking, "I can accept that. But why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?"

Most of us can accept the idea of suffering in general, especially when it comes as a consequence of bad behavior.

For example, if someone lives a wicked life, does horrible things, and then faces the repercussions of it, we might say, "Well, they got what they deserved. They reaped what they sowed." We can accept the idea of suffering in certain instances. But we struggle with the idea of undeserved suffering, when suffering comes into the life of someone we think of as innocent or godly.

FAITH DURING SUFFERING

I think of Job, who was a man of integrity, a man of character. God Himself said so, and Job could not have had a higher endorsement. But in one day, Job lost all his children and went from being the wealthiest person in the land to essentially being bankrupt. Yet the Bible tells us that "in all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God". Job was a real man with real problems with a real God whom he turned to—the same God whom we can turn to in our time of need.

We can approach God at any time, based on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and His shed blood for us. It is not about our worthiness; it's about His grace extended to us.

The writer of Hebrews says, "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most". Everyone suffers. Calamity comes into every life, both righteous and unrighteous. But our comfort is in Christ. Our hope is in God. And the place where we need to put our faith is in Him.

**MINUTES FROM REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
September 8, 2022**

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

Meeting was called to order by Dawn at 6:00 P.M. Opening Devotions was led by Duane: "Finish the Sentence"
Minutes: August minutes reviewed. Motion was made by Duane to approve the minutes & seconded by Toni, motion carried.

Christian Education:

- RUCKUS starts: (Roberts UCC Kids Understanding Scripture)
 - Begins October 5th for kids of all ages, Held the first and third Wednesday of the month.
- October 2nd: Due to Covid, several classes of students have not received their Bibles. The Bibles will be presented during worship.
- Discussed participating in Trunk-or-Treat on Main Street
- Christmas program will be held on Dec. 17
 - Dress rehearsal at 10, Program will be presented at 11
- Last Wednesday program for 2022, hoping to have an adult Christmas program ready to present to the children.
- January 2023: Begin planning for summer picnic

Deacons:

- Have received back 60% of letters regarding membership. Will call those who have not responded.
- Sunday Service time change question: By a ratio of 4 to 1, the responding members wanted to leave the service time the same.
- Tentatively planning an All Saints Day Service this year
- Begun planning Advent
- Stewardship Sunday will be Nov. 13th, throughout year, the theme of generosity will be woven into church services.

S.H.I.F.T

- Non-meeting month
- In October, SHIFT will be refreshing the Quiet Bags and making more Feel Good Kits.

Women's Fellowship:

- Fall Rummage Sale: September 23 and 24
- Spring Rummage Sale: April 14 and 15

Trustees:

- Will be repairing the current sign
- No response regarding the roof shingle claim submitted
- Pantry phone is now working
- Will be repairing the main doors which are letting in rain and snow
- Fundraising committee is coming up with new ideas
- Need to replace the doorbells
- The Narthex and Fellowship Hall will be cleaned and waxed. October 9th, the furniture will be removed from the floors. October 14th, beginning at 5 A.M., the floors will be waxed.
- Dishwasher is fixed.

Treasurer:

- Fund Raising Committee: "All Things M"
 - Saturday Feb. 18, Music (Boondoggle), Meatloaf, Gift baskets, and much more. Come for the fun
- See newsletter for financial statement

Pastor:

- Recent fundraiser has concluded. A total of \$5,705 was raised. Thanks to all.
- Stripping and waxing of the floors in the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex will happen on October 14th, starting at 5 A.M. Nine to twelve people are needed to assist with this task.
- Beginning the first Wednesday in October, a family study worship experience will be held in lieu of the traditional Sunday morning Sunday School. It will be held the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Come and join in this new programming.
- Led by the St. Croix Chamber, CE is beginning work on participating in the Community Wide Trunk-or-Treat down on Main Street.
- There has been a rise in the number of visitations recently and counseling those in need.
- Thank you to Mary Smidt for the donation of the new baby grand piano.
- Pastor was on vacation from September 7th-14th.

Next two meetings: October 6th (Reports only) November 3rd

Respectfully submitted, Connie Mueller, Church Clerk

Prayer LIST

Brian Wille	Tracy Grabau	Earl Pechuman	Eric Wangen
Mary Frederick	Linda Hall	Terry Nygaard	Danielle Anderson
Terry McKinley	Walt Lamson	Donna Lamson	Linda Jourdeans
Audrey Ackley	Bob Hartmon	Joe Fetzer	Terry Dull
Mark Clay	Curt Ness	Vladmir & Alevtina Forman	
Friends & Family of Linda Cowles		Friends & Family of Bruce Libby	

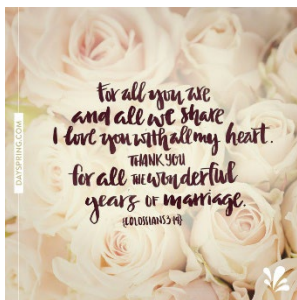
All those serving active in the Military and those serving our state & community in law enforcement.

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

Monthly CELEBRATIONS



Wanda Hopkins	Oct. 1	Allyson Nelson	Oct. 21
Steve Nelson	Oct. 4	Brent Ackley	Oct. 22
Jerry Mueller	Oct. 5	Donna Ray	Oct. 24
Maggie Olson	Oct. 6	Darrell Nelson	Oct. 26
Kate Kapaun	Oct. 9	Sheryl Budrow	Oct. 29
Gordon Gallati	Oct. 10	Kamaria Stone	Oct. 29
Dennis Thorsen	Oct. 11	Laura Hahr	Oct. 30
Lydia Weiss	Oct. 11		
Tori Williams	Oct. 12		
Camille Budrow	Oct. 14		
Bentley Muller	Oct. 14		
Hayley Henley	Oct. 15		
Carrie Fisher	Oct. 21		



OCTOBER 3

Terry & Carol Dull

OCTOBER 10

Brent & Rachel Ackley

OCTOBER 14

Jeff & Barb Haas

OCTOBER 24

Brett & Dawn Budrow

OCTOBER 27

Andrew & Jennifer Korn



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8am Carpool 9-11am Feed My Starving Children
2 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion Neighbors In Need offering collected 11:15am Fellowship	3	4 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	5 5:30pm RUCCKUS 6:30pm Bell Choir Council Reports Due!	6 3:30pm Women's Fellowship 4:30 – 6:30pm Community Dinner (No Council Mtg)	7	8
9 10:0 am Worship 11:15am Fellowship RaiseRight Due	10 6:30pm SHIFT! Meeting	11	12 6:30pm Bell Choir	13	14	15
16 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	17 6pm CE Meeting	18 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	19 5:30pm RUCCKUS 6:30pm Bell Choir	20 Newsletter info due SHIFT – dinner for Grace Place	21	22
23 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship RaiseRight Due	24	25	26 6:30pm Bell Choir	27	28	29
30 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	31					LOOK AHEAD: November 23: Red Cross Blood Drive