



CONNECTIONS

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

2023 River Dunk - Roberts UCC by The Rotary Club of Hudson, WI

Saturday, February 4
12:15pm – 1:30pm

Lakefront Park Beach House

The Roberts Congregational UCC is a beacon of light in an otherwise dark, chaotic world. Together with the community of Roberts, WI, we bring to St. Croix County services such as operating the Roberts Food Shelf, gas cards for those in need, meals to feed anyone who stops in each month and a wonderful place to build strong relationships with God and those who choose to deliver love rather than hate. Your donation will help us continue this positive impact.

Roberts UCC'S Frozen Faithful will be participating in the Hudson Rotary Club's 5th Annual River Dunk on *February 4, 2023!* The event is hosted by the Rotary Club to raise funds for St. Croix Valley non-profits and clubs. There are a few ways for you to get involved:

- 1) Become a team member to raise pledges and take the plunge.
- 2) Make a financial donation to the Roberts UCC team. Money raised by our team will benefit RUCC!
- 3) Come to Lakefront Park in Hudson WI to watch and cheer for all the hardy folks who will be jumping into the St. Croix River.

Here is the link if you would like to raise pledges, take the plunge, or donate:

<https://secure.frontstream.com/2023-rotary-river-dunk/team/991069>

or contact Tony Jurek, Team Captain, at **612-816-3828** for more information.

F E B R U A R Y

February 2nd

Community Dinner
4:30pm Fellowship Hall

February 4th

River Dunk – RUCC Team
12:15pm Lakeside Park,
Hudson, WI

February 11th

Feed My Starving Children
8:00am FMSC Meet at Church
9:00am – 11:00am Eagan, MN

February 16th

Grace Place Serving by SHIFT
5:00 pm

February 18th

Mid-Winter Mischief Fundraising
Event
12:00pm – 4:00pm

February 22nd

Ash Wednesday Service
7:00pm

February 26 **(Through April 2)**

Lenten Bible Study



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



A SNEAK PEEK AHEAD



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7:00pm February 22nd

Hard to believe that Lent is almost here. Just a few short weeks until we once again begin our journey,

Lenten Bible Study

We will be having a Lenten Bible Study again this year. It will begin *Sunday, February 26th* and run through *April 2nd*. Currently I am planning on holding them right after Sunday Services. This year's theme is "Lenten Journey Psalms." We will be studying Psalms: 23, 32, 95, 121, and 130 alongside each of the lectionary Gospel readings. Our final Sunday will be on Jesus' Triumphal Entry, in light of what we have learned through the Psalms in the previous weeks.

If you are interested in participating in the study, please email Pastor Burt at: pastor@robertsucc.org by *February 19th* so we can have the right number of packets available for those participating.

E A S T E R

Sunday, April 2nd

Palm Sunday

New Member Sunday
10:00am Worship

Thursday, April 6th

Maundy Thursday

7:00pm Worship (Communion)

Friday, April 7th

Ecumenical Service

(Time & Place TBD)

Sunday, April 9th

Easter Services

7:00am Easter Sunrise Service
(On the hill of the Southeast side of our parking lot)
10:00am Easter Service
(Sanctuary)

**Great Bike For:**

Hunting, Camping, Errands,
or Fun!

Questions about who to contact:

Contact the church office at:

secretary@robertsucc.org

Motorized Bike Raffle

Saturday, February 18th

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Raffle Tickets Available **NOW**

(\$20.00)

See A Ticket Rep

Roberts UCC Presents:

Mini Golf * Music * Meatloaf

Mid-Winter Mischief

1001 Birch Drive, Roberts WI

February 18, 2023 * Noon—4 p.m.

Moustache & **M**ullet Competition 1 pm (prizes)

Minnie Pearl Hat Competition 12:45 pm (prizes)

All Things "**M**" Silent Auction (highest bidder)

Music with Boondoggle unplugged (free)

Motorized Bicycle Raffle (3:30 pm) (\$20/ticket)

Mini-Golf (in door) (\$5/round)

Meatloaf & **M**ashed Potatoes (\$15/person)

**SILENT AUCTION**

Begins: Online Early February

Ends: February 18th

Contact Patti Robertson at 715-531-8611

or pattirobertson13@gmail.com



**ITEMS
FOR SALE:**

“All things **M** “
themed baskets

HELP NEEDED!!

For the last 4 years we have been blessed to have Phil Knox volunteering his time to keep our building clean. In that time, he has been very diligent about being here every week (with very few exceptions). Phil's regular job has offered him more hours and he is no longer able to give us the time he once could and as of today, December 29th, Phil has served us for the final time. He will be greatly missed. This has also left us with an urgent need for people to help us keep the building cleaned up. We are looking for someone (or a group) to help with the cleaning of the building.

The duties entail:

- Wiping down of tables in the Narthex/Fellowship Hall if needed
- Collecting of trash and recyclable bins
- Cleaning of the glass doors
- Cleaning of the Bathrooms
- Sweeping and mopping the Bathrooms, Fellowship Hall, Narthex, and Sanctuary
- Vacuuming of all carpeted areas throughout the church

If you are willing and able to help, please contact the church office at 715-749-3225 or

secretary@robertsucc.org



From the Pastor's Desk



A Lenten Journey

Our Lenten Season begins this month with Ash Wednesday, February 22. Then for the Next 6 Sundays we are to spend taking a spiritual journey of prayer, self-reflection, and repentance as we prepare for our Easter Celebration which will happen on April 9th. For many people, Easter is just a day and Lent is just a period in the church before it. It is not understood, but not mysterious either. It is just there. I understand this feeling and mind set. I spent a good deal of my early adult life there. Somewhere around mid-seminary that changed. I was challenged by a professor to take it from something I didn't understand to working at understanding it. More importantly, I was challenged to experience the mystery of it all. I won't say it was an overnight process, but over the years (over the last 20 plus years actually) I have spent a great deal of time studying, preparing services for myself and others, and putting my heart and soul into the practice of Lent and celebrating Easter more fully. But what does all that mean?

Well, there are many things which have changed along this journey over the years. What has really changed though is me. How I see things, what I am looking for, and where my focus is have all changed immensely. It started with that first challenge though to put serious effort into what I was doing and consciously making the Lenten Journey my focus for the full 7 weeks of Lent. I have to admit that at first my thought process was that I would spend that *one* Lenten season really focusing on it and then go back to life as it had always been. That one conscious choice was the beginning of a journey I have come to cherish more than any other I have taken, and one which has continued ever since. Yet, it started with that first conscious act of making my Lenten Journey my focus.

That first Lent I put what I thought was everything I had into the season. I made time for prayer, albeit I wasn't very good at sticking to a regular schedule. That wouldn't come for a couple of years yet. I attended each service of the special celebrations – Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday. I joined and attended regularly (at least half if I am going to be honest) the Bible study the seminary was holding over the season. I gave up video games (a long-time passion of mine) for the season. Although I wasn't sure why I was doing it. It was just what I was told I needed to do. I asked questions and read a lot. I made a definite point of being fully present to understand what it was all about. The one thing I didn't do was invest myself emotionally and spiritually. That is until we hit that Good Friday service. It was there that things changed.

I was exhausted. Everything I have just mentioned was happening while I still tried to maintain normal life and all it required of me. Sleep deprived and frustrated at the fact I wasn't seeing any significant change, I slumped into the pew for service. As the lights dimmed in the sanctuary, my eyes grew very heavy. There were seven candles lit up front with people dressed all in black sitting at the table behind them. The Pastor began to speak, and I began to doze off. I woke with a start as that first hammering rang out. There at the front, off to the side of all the readers were two people, a large block of wood, a sledgehammer, and a railroad spike. After each reading, there was the loud clang of that hammer driving that spike. Metal on metal ringing out through the darkening sanctuary. Then another candle would be extinguished until at last the only light in the sanctuary was that of the Christ Candle sitting on an empty table flickering in the darkness. When a soft barely audible voice said in a whisper from the back of the room, "It is finished..." and the Christ Candle

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From the Pastor's Desk

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went out. Then there was nothing. Just silence. My heart sank as I felt the emotions welling up inside. As I sat there in that silence for what seemed to be an eternity, a tear rolled down my cheek. Then that same small voice was heard, "Our Father..." A few more voices joined in, "Who art in heaven..." and with each line more voices from the congregation joined. When the words, "For thine is the power..." were read, the Christ Candle had been moved into the center of the sanctuary and was relit. With the "Amen," the Candle was taken out of the sanctuary into the world. The lights came up.

On the 40-minute ride home by myself, my emotions raced as did my mind. I was moving from one thing to another of what I had learned over the last seven weeks and trying to make sense of the emotions I was feeling. Anger, bewilderment, joy, sadness, they all seemed to be present at once. I was no longer uninvested emotionally or spiritually. That Easter Sunrise as I attended service out in the cold Maine weather things were different. As "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" played triumphantly and sang with zeal, I felt an extreme joy. I didn't understand it all. In fact, I didn't understand much. Yet, I was certain something was different and that something was a mystery inside of me. There wasn't an angel visitant, burning bush, or loud booming voice. I knew God was there though and wanted to know more. It wasn't magic. Yet, I couldn't explain it.

What I have come to understand over the last 2 decades is this. From that first conscious step that Lent to today I have been eager for the Lenten Journey. I have continued to grow in my understanding of things and most importantly I have come to understand myself in relationship to our God better. I challenge you today. Take that conscious step to make your Lenten Journey a priority this year. I am not promising a spiritual awakening because each of our journeys is different. I do promise, however, that you will learn something about yourself, our God, and why the process is so important!

Peace and God bless you all!

Pastor Burt



April 2nd

10:00am Palm Sunday Worship

New Member Orientation Meeting

Interested in becoming a member of Roberts Congregational UCC?

We will be holding a New Member Orientation on:

Sunday, March 19th at 1pm

With the ***New Member Recognition*** being held on:

Sunday, April 2nd
During Worship

If you are interested or want to know more, please contact Pastor Burt at 563-387-7093 or pastor@robertsucc.org



A team of people from RUCC will be heading to FMSC on *February 11th* to help pack meals for hungry children around the world. We will meet at church at 8:00am and serve from 9:00am-11:00am.

Thank you for filling the available slots so quickly! For questions, please contact Michelle Hansen at shell_329@hotmail.com or call her at 715-377-8887

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sponsored by Women's fellowship.

Thursday, February 2, 2023

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

MENU: Lasagna & Salad, French Bread,
Dessert: Bars Milk & Coffee

Adults: \$7.00 Children \$4.00

Take-out meals are available upon request.

Invite your friends and family to join you for great food and fellowship.

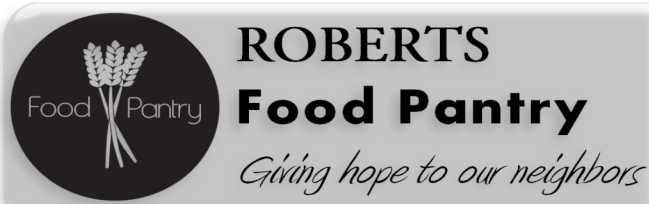
Thank you to all who provide this fabulous gathering!

RaiseRight makes it easy to purchase gift cards from **popular retailers** while supporting RUCC!@ Either download a form from our website

www.robartsucc.org (the *RaiseRight* form is under "Giving") & drop it off at church OR if you prefer, go directly to the *RaiseRight* website at:

www.shopwithscrip.com and use the code: A721F7F236429.

If you have any other questions, please contact Dianne Loewel at dloewel135@gmail.com or contact the church office with questions.



RUCC Food Pantry does a fabulous job helping those in need of grocery items.

If you are in need of food or know someone in need of food, please remember to utilize this ministry.

Thank you to the many volunteers!

OPEN WEEKLY

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9:00am -11:30am

Wednesdays

6:30 - 8:00pm

ITEMS NEEDED

Paper Products

Jell-O/Pudding

Ramen Noodles



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 8 Jamie & Melissa Delander

February 9 Danielle & Justin Johnson



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Fund Financial Summary as of December 31, 2022

SEE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**MINUTES FROM REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
January 5, 2022**

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

Meeting was called to order by Dawn at 6:00 P.M.

Opening Devotions was led by Tony. "Dashes"

Minutes: December update was reviewed. Motion was made by Tony to approve the minutes and seconded by Duane. Motion carried.

Reports:**Christian Education:**

- Christmas program went well.
- Due to weather, the adult pageant for the children will be held on Jan. 18th.

Deacons:

- Christmas services went well.
- Nominating Committee has three open positions. Duane is going to seek to fill these openings at the Annual Meeting.

S.H.I.F.T.:

- Holiday Social Gathering will be held on Sunday, January 8th.
- No meeting during January.
- Will be serving Grace Place in February.

Women's Fellowship:

- Met today.
- Reviewed the 2023 monthly meal committees.
- There will be no dinner in April due to Maundy Thursday

Trustees:

- Budget is ready for approval.
- Repairs to fire system have been completed.
- Had some compliance issues that needed to be addressed. Church is up to code now.

Treasurer:

- See newsletter for report.

Pastor:

- Thank you to all who helped during Advent and the Christmas Eve services.
- Membership role has been completed. Current membership is 173.
- **Nominating Committee:** Positions filled to be voted on.

Moderator: Lori Jurek

Treasurer: Sonya Jansma

Trustees: Tony Jurek and John Bond or Andrew Korn

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Deacons: Connie Mueller and Bruce Riggins

Christian Education: Jenny Korn

Still needed: Church Clerk and 2 Christian Ed people

- **New membership:** Currently aware of 2 individuals interested in becoming members with another 3 possibilities. Tentative plans to hold New Member Sunday on April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday.
- **Lent:** Plans have begun for the Lent/Easter Season which begins February 22 with Ash Wednesday. Easter is April 9th, 2023.
- **Suggestions for a Lenten/Bible Study are being sought.**
- A leadership retreat is tentatively being planned during the first or second quarter. More information will be coming to all past members of the leadership team and those who will be approved at the Annual Meeting.

Other Business:

- "M" fundraiser update: Date is set and tickets for the raffle are available to be sold. It was a general consensus that more information about the fundraiser needs to get out soon.
- Question? Should there be a Financial Secretary who is responsible for recording giving and generating statements? It was the consensus that the Office Administrator has time to do this, but that the pledge cards need to have information regarding ACH's. Thus, a list could be generated of who is using ACH and the proper paperwork can be filled out for the signatures needed.
- Question? Have the trustees addressed the slippery spots on the sidewalk? Several solutions were discussed for the trustees.
- Lori encouraged all to sign up for directory pictures, which are being taken on Jan. 6 and 7. Ideas for other pages were discussed (letter from the pastor, history of the church, etc.)
- River Dunk is the first Saturday in February.
- New website is in need of a lot of modifications, which will take time.
- Boards/committees: If a meeting date is being changed, please contact Kim, Office Administrator) with the correct information.

Next meeting: No meeting will be held in February. All update reports are to be sent to Lori Jurek by Feb. 1st.
Respectfully submitted, Connie Mueller, Church Clerk



**OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 19, 2023**



Something to Think About

Below is the direct link for UCC's wider mission:
<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

Below is the direct link to check out stories of how this donation is making a difference:
https://www.ucc.org/oghs_stories/



VBS

June 25-28, 2023

6:00-8:00pm

The CE team is excited to announce we have set the dates for VBS 2023! We look forward to sharing God's love and investigating some of Jesus' best parables with our youngest members June 25-28th 6:00-8:00pm each night. **NEW THIS YEAR:** we will kick off Sunday night at 5pm with a potluck! We hope you all choose to come and join in the fun with us!!

Let's Build an ARK!



For the next 7 RUCCUS sessions, one of the things we will be talking about is how we can change the world one **Act of Random Kindness(ARK)** at a time. As a part of that, the kids will be invited to write their acts of random kindness on "planks" with which we will build our ark. We would love to have you join us in this season of focusing on kindness to others and helping to change our world!

PRAYER LIST

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

PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER:

Brian Wille	Tracy Grabau	Earl Pechuman
Eric Wangen	Mary Frederick	Linda Hall
Terry McKinley	Walt Lamson	Linda Jourdeans
Audrey Ackley	Bob Hartmon	Forman Family

All those serving in our military, law enforcement, healthcare settings and those in Ukraine. For all those not listed above but needing prayer we lift you up.



Lent Project

Once again, this year, the CE team will be hosting a Lenten project with our kids. The challenge will be for each family to put 1 gently used and no longer needed item in a bag for 40 days starting on Ash Wednesday (February 22). These bags will then be donated to Women's Fellowship for their Spring Rummage Sale. Please contact CE if you have any questions at: ce@robertsucc.org

Do you have someone to celebrate, honor or be remembered?

Go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-2023> and sign up through *SignUp Genius*.

There is also a paper sign-up in the church narthex.

A donation of \$15.00 per bulletin is helpful for covering the cost of paper and printing.

Thank you for supporting RUCC.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February 1	Mark Clay		
February 2	Pete Amendt		
February 13	David McKenna	February 21	Carol Dull
February 19	Shelly Dull		Roger Ray
February 20	Laurene Ray	February 25	Barbara Haas
		February 26	Brian Poulin
		February 27	Kenneth Fern
		February 28	John Vorwald

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 RUCCUS 5:30pm Potluck 6:00pm Program Begins 6:30pm Bell Choir	2 3:30pm WF 4:30pm Community Dinner	3	4 12:15pm 2023 RUCC Team River Dunk
5 10:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	6 6:30pm Food Pantry Volunteer Mtg	7 6:00pm Deacons Mtg 7:00pm Joyful Brass Practice	8 6:30pm Bell Choir	9	10	11 8:00am Meet @ Church for 9:00am-11am FMSC Meal Packing
12 10:00am Worship w/Baptism <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	13 6:30pm SHIFT Mtg	14 7:00pm Joyful Brass Practice HAPPY VALENTINES DAY	15 RUCCUS 5:30pm Potluck 6:00pm Program Begins 6:30pm Bell Choir	16 5:00pm Grace Place by SHIFT	17	18 12:00pm – 4:00pm Mid-Winter Mischief Event
19 10:00am Worship	20 Presidents Day 6:00pm CE Mtg <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 6:30pm Trustees Mtg	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Worship	23	24	25
26 10:00am Worship 11:00am Lent Bible Study <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	27	28	1 RUCCUS 5:30pm Potluck 6:00pm Program Begins 6:30pm Bell Choir	2 3:30pm WF 4:30pm Community Diner	3	4



Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ

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Church Office: 715-749-3225 | <https://www.facebook.com/RobertsUCC>Pastor: pastor@robertsucc.org | Office: secretary@robertsucc.orgWebsite: <http://www.robertsucc.org> | YouTube: Roberts Congregational UCC