



# CONNECTIONS

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

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### A BIG THANK YOU

To all those who planned, worked, and participated in our Mid-Winter Mischief Event and a special thank you to the event organizer, Sonya Jansma.

### MOTORIZED BIKE RAFFLE WINNER:

SCOTT GAVIN  
RIVER FALLS, WI

WE RAISED:  
\$7,387.04

A GOOD TIME WAS  
HAD BY ALL!



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](mailto:pastor@robertsucc.org) | Office: [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org)  
Website: <http://www.robertsucc.org> | YouTube: Roberts Congregational UCC

# Updates

# R I V E R D U N K



A very BIG thank you to everyone who supported our team this year. Six people and one dog took the plunge in the St. Croix on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Together we raised roughly \$3000 which will help support the ministries of Roberts UCC. We sincerely appreciated your donations, words of encouragement, prayers for our safety & cheers from those who were there as spectators!

Your 2023 Jumpers,

Tony & Lori Jurek, Sonya Jansma, Brent Ackley, Bruce Riggins & Ace and Mark Scherr

# F M S C



On February 11,<sup>th</sup> twelve (12) volunteers spent the morning packing meals at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. Enough meals were packed to feed fifty-six (56) children for an entire year!

This is such a great opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of children who would literally starve to death if they didn't have access to these manna packs. If you'd like to get involved with a future packing session, reach out to Michelle Hansen at [shell\\_329@hotmail.com](mailto:shell_329@hotmail.com) for further information.



**Feel Good Kits**

A total of 36 *Feel Good Kits* were recently distributed to three area schools. There are additional schools in need of kits; however, SHIFT has depleted our financial resources to purchase the necessary supplies.

Audrey Ackley continues to generously donate hand-sewn bags for our use but each one costs \$10-\$15 to fill. We're hoping some of you might feel called to cover the cost of filling a bag or two. If this is something you're in a position to do, donations would gratefully be accepted. Checks can be made out to RUCC with *Feel Good Kits* on the memo line. Cash donations could be given directly to Nancy Kirouac or Lori Jurek if you prefer.

Thank you for considering our request. A sweet note from a group of students who received kits has been posted on the narthex bulletin board. Be sure to look for it!



***An Expression of Heartfelt Gratitude  
To RUCC's Christmas Clothesline***

***(The Thank You Letters Keep Coming)***

Dear Members of the United Church of Christ,

On behalf of St. Croix County's Adult Community Support Service Team, we want to express our deepest gratitude for showing our clients the true meaning of Christmas. By your amazing generosity, you make our client's holiday season, and possibly their whole year! Your church has shown who Christ really is and you always go out of your way to show our clients the true love of Jesus. It's a privilege to see the reaction on each client's face. Some clients are completely speechless because they have never had anyone give them anything, much less from a "stranger" or people that don't even know them. Some start crying and can't stop crying the whole time they are opening the gifts. Some are so happy and just can't get over how much time and effort you all have put into buying these gifts. They are amazed how nice these gifts are because they are so used to shopping at Goodwill or getting something used. They even comment on how nice the gifts are wrapped and just can't believe that someone would work so hard to present such wonderful gifts to them. Many of our clients do not have natural supports in their life to celebrate the holidays with, which can make the holiday season a very difficult time. Receiving such love and support from your congregation provides these people with such hope when they are otherwise feeling hopeless. It is always such a privilege to be a part of the wonderful blessing you provide to these people every year, by being able to be the delivery person. We truly appreciate your congregation and really hope you can let them all know just how meaningful this is for our clients. You are making a wonderful difference in our community, and we really cannot thank you enough.

Love,

St. Croix County's Adult Community Support Services Team



*From the Pastor's Desk*



### **A New Dawning...**

*After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning...  
—Matthew 28:1*

As I sit here in the office I am looking out to the window to the east and watching the most amazing sunrise. There are beautiful shades of deep purple fading up into pink. Above that they form a bow of deep orange fading gently to bright yellows. Then at the very top those yellows become brilliant bright white rays reaching up into the pale blue sky caressed by wisps of featherlike clouds. A beautiful new day is dawning and almost as with reverence the sun is bowing its head and raising its arms in praise of our Creator. It truly is an awe-inspiring way to begin this new day which God has created for all of us.

Even more amazing is the attitude of nature in this marvelous act of praise. Despite what happened yesterday, good or bad, what may happen today, or the hustle and bustle of the traffic frantically going by oblivious to the worship going on around it, nature continues its act of praise and thanksgiving in an epic display of love and reverence. It is going to happen regardless of what anyone else thinks of what it is doing. Some will notice its beauty and stop a moment just to admire and give thanks as well. Some will see it and find an opportunity to stop and take a picture which they will be able to use in order to make money to sustain themselves. Some won't even notice it is happening as they have their hearts and minds filled with all the other busyness they have in the day ahead. Some will be frustrated as the brightness shines in their eyes disrupting their view as they hurriedly rush towards the business of the day. Yet, nature continues with its grand "Hallelujah! praise be to God!"

This is a long way around to introduce what it is I wish to speak about in this article though. By the time you are going to be reading this, our Lenten Season will have started. In those 7 weeks of Lent, we will be preparing for our Easter Celebration. It is a time of soul searching, preparation, and repentance. We will share in the laughter of fellowship, study of Scripture, and marvel at the stories of the miracles of Jesus. With all we will be doing there will be much reason to rejoice. Then we will enter into that final week of Jesus' time with us here on earth, which we refer to as Holy Week. It was a dark week in the life of Jesus and the Disciples. Maundy Thursday we will engage in the Institution of the Lord's Supper, often referred to as the Last Supper. In the dark of night, Jesus will be betrayed and put on trial by his own people. On Friday, known as Good Friday, we will travel with Jesus to the cross and ultimately to his death. There will be fear and sadness for those who loved him most as they are not even able to tend to his battered and broken body because of the Sabbath. It will be dark times indeed. Yet, that is not even close to the end of the story...

Before Jesus' earthly body will be able to be tended to in preparation for burial, there will be another Son-rise. Despite what had happened the days before. Despite the hustle and bustle of the rest of the world around. Despite the beliefs, traditions, disbeliefs, or complete lack of caring of the people of the world. Come Easter morning, the Son is going to be raised by the power of God and nature itself is going to rejoice singing

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out in glorious hallelujahs! The glory of God is going to shine out in the raising of Jesus the Christ from the dead. It is the act which brings us eternal life, the Holy Spirit, and above all else hope for the days to come.

It is easy to get caught up in the death of Jesus, especially when it is one which was not only tragically too early in the life of a human and heinously vicious in its manner. Yet, it is not Jesus' death we are celebrating, but his resurrection...the Son-rise. Take the time over the next weeks to get up early and rejoice with nature each day. Let the sunrise each day brings remind you of the marvelous power and grace our God has shown us by bringing us to another day. Each day is a small Easter as each day is a New Day Dawning!

Peace,  
Pastor Burt



**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**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 at the 10:00 am service on

**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**E A S T E R**

**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Palm Sunday**  
New Member Sunday  
10:00am Worship

**Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Maundy Thursday**  
7:00pm Worship (Communion)

**Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Ecumenical Service**  
12:00pm Cross Lutheran Church  
Roberts, WI

**Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

10:00am Easter Service  
(Sanctuary)

**Easter Lily Orders**

**It's time to start thinking about decorating our facility for the Easter Season**

Flowers can be ordered *in honor of* or *in memory of* your loved ones.

*Easter Lilies Come with foil and bow: \$12*

Please see Megan Frye if you have any questions.

***Deadline for ordering is March 12<sup>th</sup>***





**OFFERING DATE:  
MARCH 19, 2023**

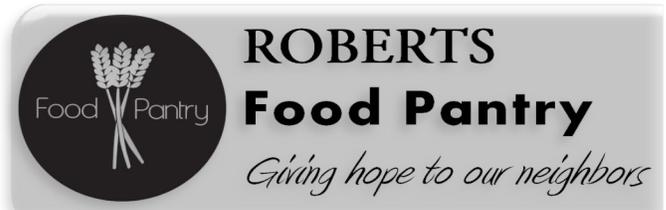
**If You Can...**

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/](https://www.ucc.org/oghs_stories/)



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
- Pancake Mix



**2023 Gertens Spring Bedding Plants & Perennials Fundraiser**

[www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)

Enter the Store ID code **744** into the text field and click 'Enter ID' to Continue. Remember we will receive 30% of all orders.

SHIFT! will receive **30%** of all sales. Proceeds will be used to support our community outreach ministry programs.

**Spring fundraiser sites will close on April 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Pick up orders at RUCC April 29<sup>th</sup> & April 30<sup>th</sup>**

If you have any questions or would like assistance placing an order, contact Sonya Jansma ([ruccfinancial@gmail.com](mailto:ruccfinancial@gmail.com)) or Lori Jurek ([lorijurek@gmail.com](mailto:lorijurek@gmail.com)).

**Community Dinner**  
Sponsored by Women's Fellowship  
**Thursday, March 2, 2023**  
**4:30—6:30pm**



Menu:  
Barbecues  
Baked Beans  
Assorted Salads & Cakes  
Beverages

Adults: \$7.00  
Children (5-13) \$4.00  
Under 5: FREE

**Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ**  
1001 Birch Drive, Roberts, WI 54023

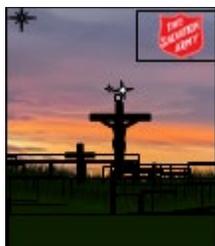
**Silent Messengers: Celebrating a Savior**

**Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> 5pm** Soup Supper 6pm Show begins!

Immaculate Conception Church, New Richmond

Join us for this presentation of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Free Will Offering and Proceeds Benefit Grace Place.  
RSVP appreciated but not required. RSVP by calling,  
715-912-2834



**MINUTES FROM REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
February 2, 2023**

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

Update Reports:

Christian Education:

- Vacation Bible School: June 25<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 P.M. The theme this year is "On the Case." In addition, there will be a potluck on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5 P.M., to kick off VBS.
- In RUCCUS, they will be incorporating building an ARK (Acts of Random Kindness).
- A weather policy was created. If the local school district is closed because of weather, there will be no RUCCUS activities that night.
- Family Lent challenge is to donate one item per day per family during Lent to give to the April Rummage Sale. This challenge begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Easter.
- Meetings will be held the third Monday of every month beginning at 6 P.M.
- Toni will be the chair of the Christian Education Board and Michelle Hansen will be the secretary.
- The board is unable to be in charge of the float for Good Neighbor Days, and they are looking for a group to take it on.

Deacons:

- Meeting was cancelled due to weather.
- Via email, the board discusses updates on the Nominating Committee Report and undecorating the church after Christmas.

S.H.I.F.T

- Distributed 36 Feel Good Kits last month.
- Serving dinner at Grace Place on Feb. 16
- Sending a group of volunteers to Feed My Starving Children on February 11

Women's Fellowship:

- The Financial Records were submitted for audit and were found to be in good order.
- Spring Rummage Sale: April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please start setting aside donations.
- As a reminder, there will be no community dinner in April.

Trustees:

- Discussed the need for a financial secretary. It was decided that it is not needed at this time.
- New roof is completed.
- Dennis and Mary Thorsen have volunteered to clean the bathrooms. No other volunteers have come forward.
- Discussed charges for kitchen use in regard to nonmember and commercial use. A motion was made to make changes to Kitchen Use Policy.
- Sound/video team for the church. Brent Ackley will serve on this team. No chairperson has been found for this team yet.
- Discussed the slippery spots on the sidewalk. Down spouts need to be addressed in the spring. Salt needs to be put on them throughout this winter.
- Leadership Retreat will be addressed after Easter.
- Nancy conducted a review with Office Administrator. No concerns were addressed at this time. Another review will be conducted in May.

Treasurer:

- See newsletter for report.

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**MINUTES FROM REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
February 2, 2023**

Pastor:

- New Member Orientation will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 P.M. at the church. New member Sunday will be April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday. Pastor Burt would like to have some of the church leadership team at this orientation. Church Council: contact Pastor Burt if interested. Anyone interested in joining the church should come to the orientation meeting.
- Lenten Schedule: February 22 (Ash Wednesday), April 6 (Maundy Thursday), April 7<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday-Ecumenical Service with Baldwin Ministry), and April 9<sup>th</sup> (Easter-7:00 Sunrise? and 10:00 A.M.)
- The Lenten Bible Study will begin on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> through Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> after worship. It will focus on the Lectionary Psalms for the Lenten Season.
- Cleaning help needed. Dennis and Mary Thorsen have been taking care of the bathrooms. More help is needed. Pastor Burt has been sweeping and moping when time allows.
- The Annual UCC Yearbook’s data has been entered and sent for 2022.
- The Year End Giving Statements and Thank You Letters have been sent out.
- Brynley and Carter Dittman were baptized on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Ashlyn Hueman will be baptized on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- RUCCUS will be focusing on Act of Random Kindness (ARK) for the remainder of the year. Participants will be documenting their acts of kindness on paper planks, to build an ark. These will be celebrated in church on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the final RUCCUS night.
- Vacation Bible School will be held June 25<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>, (Sunday through Wednesday night from 6 to 8 P.M.) The theme for this year is “On the Case.”
- Good Neighbor Days: Christian Education is requesting a break from creating the church float for Good Neighbor Days. If you know of a group or individuals interested in doing the float, contact Pastor Burt.

Next meeting: March 2<sup>nd</sup> (6 P.M.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Mueller, Church Clerk

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

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

**General Fund Financial Summary as of January 31, 2023**

**Statement of Activity**

Income/Contributions	\$16,163.01
Facility use income	\$
Fundraising income	\$1,098.00
Interest	.28
Total income	\$17,261.29
Expenses	(19,923.49)
Transfers from other accounts	\$500.00
Net Activity	\$(2,162.20)

**Statement of Financial Position**

<b>Assets</b>	
General Accounts	\$ 1,751.37
Other Bank Accounts	\$63,463.08
Fixed assets	\$1,874,642.28
Total Assets	\$1,939,856.73
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	
Accrued expenses	\$985.57
Deferred Fundraising Income	\$2,190.35
Bank mortgage balance	\$573,747.52
Member mortgage balances	\$150,000.00
Total liabilities	\$726,923.44
Equity	\$1,212,933.29
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,939,856.73



**VBS**

**June 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> , 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.

**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!!



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<sup>nd</sup>)**. 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](mailto:ce@robertsucc.org)



**Let's Build an ARK!**

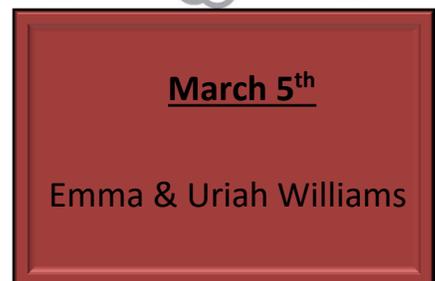
For the next 7 RUCCUS sessions, one of the things we will be talking about is how we can change the world one **Act of Random Kindness (ARK)** at a time. As a part of that, the kids will be invited to write their acts of random kindness on "planks" with which we will build our ark. We would love to have 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 or remove someone, please contact the church office at 715-749-3225 or [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto: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    | Audrey Ackley |
| Bob Hartmon                         | Roger Fromm    | Susan Gnatzig |
| Forman Family                       |                |               |
| Family & Friends of Linda Jourdeans |                |               |



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.

# MARCH



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** Gracie Delander  
Hailey Larson  
Dan Nelson

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** Whitney Adrian  
Bill Snoeyenbos

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** Faron Fuller  
Margie Ricci

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** Chris Bohl

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** Mary Thorsen

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** Jeff Hinkel

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** Logan Nelson

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** Mary Grupe

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** Pat Colbeth  
Daryl Jones

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** Avery Rogers

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** Sally Fields  
Rick Risberg

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** Cheryl Cowles

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** Brita Lindquist

**March 27<sup>th</sup>** Betty Schultz

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** Michelle Hansen

**March 30<sup>th</sup>** Cheryl Lindquist

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 6:00pm Council 7:00pm Joyful Brass Practice	3	4
5 10:00am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:00am Lenten Bible Study	6 6:30pm Food Pantry Volunteer Mtg	7 6:00pm Deacons Mtg	8 6:30pm Bell Choir	9	10	11
12 10:00am Worship 11:00am Lent Bible Study <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	13 6:30pm SHIFT Mtg	14	15 RUCCUS 5:30pm Potluck 6:00pm Program Begins 6:30pm Bell Choir	16 7:00pm Joyful Brass Practice	17	18
19 10:00am Worship 11:00am Lent Bible Study 1:00pm New Member Orientation	20 6:00pm CE Mtg <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 6:30pm Trustees Mtg	22 6:30pm Bell Choir	23	24	25
26 10:00am Worship 11:00am Lent Bible Study <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	27	28	29 6:30pm Bell Choir	30	31	1



**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](mailto:pastor@robertsucc.org) | Office: [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org)

Website: <http://www.robertsucc.org> | YouTube: Roberts Congregational UCC