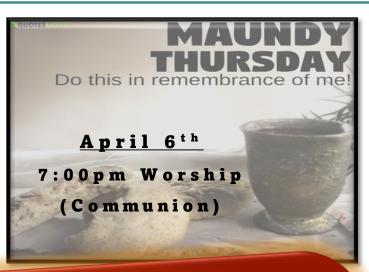


Our mission is to connect with God, as we live by faith, are known by love, and cultivate hope.









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





OPEN WEEKLY:

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

9:00am - 11:30am

WEDNESDAYS

6:30pm - 8:00pm

ITEMS NEEDED

Paper Products
Assorted Crackers
Ramen Noodles
Shampoo
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Liquid Hand Soap

(Donations are greatly appreciated)

A huge thank you to all who volunteer in making this ministry successful!



GERTEN'S GREENHOUSE SPRING PLANT SALE coordinated by SHIFT!

You are invited to shop for your spring plant needs through our online fundraising site.

Simply visit: http://www.gertensfundraising.com/ and Enter ID #744 to order from a wide selection of available options.

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

Deadline for placing orders is 10 pm on: **Thursday, April 6**^{th.} **Order early for best availability!**

All products will be delivered directly to the church. Your order will be ready for you to pick up on April 29th & 30th at RUCC.

If you have any questions or would like assistance placing an order, contact:

Sonya Jansma (<u>ruccfinancial@gmail.com</u>) or Lori Jurek (<u>lorijurek@gmail.com</u>).

Thank you for your support!





Prayer and Meditation

But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds were gathering to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Meanwhile, he would slip away to deserted places and pray.

—Luke 5:16

Prayer and meditation, there have been volumes upon volumes written on the subjects. Books on how to, when to do them. Each person with a different idea of just the right formula to make them work. So much so that it has made many afraid they won't do it right, so they don't. These spiritual practices can often be wonderful and mystical.

Yet, they aren't magic. There isn't the exact right incantation or formula of words to say. You do not need to have a shrine built with beautiful architecture. You do not need to be in exactly the right outfit. In fact, the best way to do it is to come just as you are, speak the way you speak, be who you are. God is looking for our genuine selves just the way we were created.

I am not saying there are not things which can help, and those volumes of writing cannot be helpful at times. They can be. It is our genuineness which is most important though. God, by all means, is all-powerful and almighty. God is also approachable and waiting to be in relationship with the real you. This world tells us what we must look like, be like, and sound like. This can make it difficult to just be ourselves...broken, in need, hurting...rejoicing, loving, laughing. Whatever and wherever we are, that is where and what God wants us to be. The reason those volumes of writing exist is there is no one way to do this.

We want something, as the disciples did when they asked Jesus to teach them to pray, which will be perfect and approved by God...and you are. You are perfect for where you are at just this moment and though God may not approve of some of what we have done, God does approve of us as God's creation. That is a hard one to believe sometimes, but it is true. How does any of this help me pray though? I still do not know what to say!

That is where the statement, "It isn't magic" comes into play. Do you have conversations with people you know and love? What do you talk about? How do you say it? I have never approached my friend to talk and said, "O beautiful friend, who has been there for me whenever I have come and called, please hear me speak!" It sounds more like, "Hey John, you got a minute?" Now, maybe it would do us some good to address each other with a little more thought like the previous statement. I can say that I for one though would wonder what was going on if you approached me like that though. There are times to be formal and times not to (and the informal times tend to be much more prevalent than the formal ones for most of our dearest friendships). So let's start there...just having some "real" conversations with God about where we are and what we are feeling. Being ourselves to the fullest. Those are GREAT prayers.

The other part to our best conversations with friends is the listening. In our prayer time we call that meditation. Ruminating on what God wants from us. And I know, this is the harder part, because although possible, God rarely "speaks" in voices to us. God does communicate though. We may not always notice it. We may not understand its meaning. Let's be honest though, the same is true of our conversations with our best friends. We often miss what was said or have misunderstandings of what was actually meant. Why is that? Usually, because we are too busy thinking about what we are going to say next or distracted by what is going on around us. If that happens when actual words are being spoken how much more so when the communication is non-verbal as is often the case with God.





Therefore, meditation is often done trying to clear our minds of everything else in quiet places where there is little to distract us. It is done with determined focus. One might think, "I have tried that pastor and my mind always wonders to other things. I can't just sit there. It is uncomfortable." Again, isn't the same true in our conversations with one another. Yet, we search out the meanings of the things we see, hear, and think in our daily conversations with one another. Over time we begin to learn what certain nods, smiles, sighs, and other non-verbals of our closest friends mean (or at least we think we do).

This is true with God as we practice as well. It may be that the place where your mind wanders off to is where God is directing you. Maybe it is to a friend you haven't spoken to in a while, or a task you told someone you would get done. The trick is then to try to find what it is God is trying to tell you. You may get it right and you may not. It is a trial-and-error thing. That is how we grow in our relationship to God and learn.

What is truly important is to start trying. Taking the time to be genuine. Listening with focus. Growing in our communication and understanding of our relationship with the Divine. Try it. Maybe it is just once a week to start. Maybe it feels awkward to start with. Maybe you make a mystical, wonderful new friend with whom to share this life with. Peace be with you all.

—Pastor Burt



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.

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 Margaret Cave

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.





VBS 2023

Sunday, June 25th - Wednesday, June 28th 6:00pm - 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!!

RUCCUS

Roberts UCC Understanding Scripture

Join us! All are Welcome!

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month
October thru May

5:30pm Potluck meal

Bring a dish to share, your own plates, utensils & beverages.

6:00pm - 7:15ish Program

Music, Discussion Groups, Worship & Prayer

Contact Toni at: drtonidc@gmail.com with any questions.

Our final RUCCUS session of this school year will be *Wednesday, May 3^{rd.}*

We will take the summer off and resume in the fall.

HELP NEEDED!!

The good news is we have had some volunteers step up to help with cleaning the bathrooms. We are still looking for people to help with the cleaning of the Sanctuary, Narthex, Fellowship Hall, and Office. Those Duties would entail:

Wiping down of tables in the Narthex/Fellowship Hall as needed.

Collecting of trash and recyclable bins.

Cleaning of the glass doors.

Sweeping and mopping of the Fellowship Hall, Narthex, and Sanctuary. Vacuuming of all carpeted areas throughout the church.

If you are willing and able to help with any of this, please contact the church office at: 715-749-3225 or secretary@robertsucc.org.

April 2nd Laura Logas

<u>April 3rd</u> Diane McKenna Jerry Vasfaret

April 7th Skyler Hanley Alex Ray

April 8th Roxie Hatch

April 9th
Sheryl Johnson

April 11th Callie Robelia

April 17th Debby Phillips

April 18th Madalyn Dull

April 19th
Brielle Hansen
Dylan Hueman

April 20th Noah Steinke

> April 21st Tim Myer



April 22nd Margo Schultz

April 23rd
Dan Rogers

April 24th
Ron Boenish

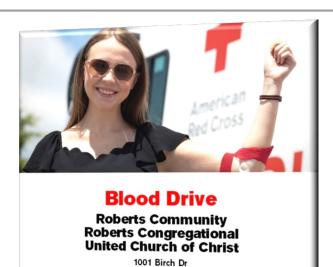
April 25th
Dick Colbeth

April 26th
Dawn Budrow
Ryan Hansen

April 27th Ceola Lindquist April 28th Ashlyn Hueman

April 29th Nancy Kirouac

April 30th
Anna Lindquist



Friday, April 28, 2023 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

> American Red Cross

Use the QR Code to schedule a direct appointment booking.





April 4th Ken & Mary Fern

April 6th Hayley & Skyler Henley

April 8th
Dave & Diane McKenna

April 24th
Laurene & Roger Ray

April 29th
Don & Rochelle Graf
Roxanne & Steve Nelson



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMMUNITY

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 14 & 15

FRIDAY: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm (Lunch Available)

SATURDAY 8:00 am – 10:30 am

EVERYTHING IS PRICED TO GO!

YOU WILL FIND:

BABY & KIDS CLOTHING ♥ HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
GAMES, BOOKS & TOYS ♥ WOMEN'S CLOTHING
MEN'S CLOTHING ♥ CRAFTS AND MUCH MORE!

Friday, April 14TH Unless otherwise marked, all items are .50 cents each!

Saturday, April 15TH Stuff a big garbage bag for \$2.00!

DROP OFF DATE

Monday, April 10th from 4pm – 7pm Tuesday, April 11th – Thursday, April 13th from 1pm – 5pm

If you have items to drop off, please make sure they are clean, good condition and work. We have always had a GREAT SALE because of your GOOD STUFF!!

Questions may be directed to Judy at (715) 410-1909



Community Dinner Reminder

There is
NO
Community Dinner in April
due to Holy Week Worship

We will return on Thursday, May 4^{th.} with pulled pork sandwiches & MORE!

RaiseRight makes it easy to purchase gift cards from **popular retailers** while supporting RUCC! Either download, print, fill out a form from our website: www.robertsucc.org

("Giving"), & drop it off at church OR if you prefer, go directly to the *RaiseRight* website at: www.shopwithscrip.com and use the

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



Please contact Dianne Loewel at <u>dloewel135@gmail.com</u> or contact the church office with questions.



Genius &

GRACE PLACE SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Our next opportunity to provide & serve dinner at *Grace Place* will be on $\underline{April\ 20,}^{th}$ from 5:00pm - 6:00pm

If you are interested in contributing to the meal, are available to help serve the meal, or are in need of additional details please visit our *Sign-Up Genius* page by clicking on the following link:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-grace

Questions may be directed to Nancy Kirouac, Lori Jurek, or any other SHIFT team member.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Fund Financial Summary as of February 28, 2023

Statement of Activ	<u>vity</u>	Statement of Financial Position			
Income/Contributions	\$30,600.74	Assets			
Facility use income	\$100.00	General Accounts	\$ 2,427.11		
Fundraising income	\$10,211.35	Other Bank Accounts	61,265.26		
Interest	.39	Fixed assets	\$1,874,642.28		
Total income	\$40,912.48	Total Assets	\$1,938,334.65		
Expenses	\$42,720.75				
Transfers from other accounts	\$5,425.03	<u>Liabilities & Equity</u>			
Net Activity	\$3,616.76	Accrued expenses	\$745.76		
		Bank mortgage balance	\$571,074.46		
		Member mortgage balances	\$150,000.00		
		Total liabilities	\$721,820.22		
		Equity	\$1,216,514.43		
		Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,938,334.65		

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

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

Opening devotion was led by Lori. "Bible Candy Match"

Minutes: February minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Duane to approve the minutes and seconded by Toni . Motion carried.

Reports:

Christian Education:

- No meeting held in February.
- Vacation Bible School: June 25th through the 28th from 6 to 8 P.M. The theme this year is "On the Case." In addition, there will be a potluck on Sunday, June 25th, beginning at 5 P.M., to kick off VBS.

Deacons:

- Discussed Lent/Easter services.
- New member Sunday will be held on Palm Sunday.
- Easter flower orders will be taken to decorate the church.
- Duane is the chairperson.

S.H.I.F.T.

- Grace Place is now allowing groups to not only prepare a meal but to serve it as well. Sign-up sheets will be set. up for any member to provide food or help serve the meal, regardless if he or she is part of the S.H.I.F.T. group.
- Gerten's fundraiser has been started to raise funds for this group.
- S.H.I.F.T. is open to all women and men.

Continued from previous page.

Pastor:

- New member Sunday will be April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday.
- Lenten Schedule: April 6 (Maundy Thursday), April 7th (Good Friday-Ecumenical Service with Baldwin Ministry), and April 9th (Easter-7:00 Sunrise? and 10:00 A.M.)
- The Lenten Bible Study has begun with 13 registered participants.
- Volunteers are now taking care of cleaning the bathrooms, the kitchen, cleaning the tables, and weekly vacuuming of the church. MORE volunteers are needed for sweeping, mopping, windows (particularly the doors), garbage, and taking care of recyclables.
- RUCCUS is 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 3rd, following the final RUCCUS night. Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- Vacation Bible School will be held June 25th through the 28th, (Sunday through Wednesday night from 6 to 8 P.M.) The theme for this year is "On the Case."
- Sunday Offertory has returned to passing the plate and bringing the Sunday offering forward.
- One Board Governance: Seeking 6 to 8 volunteers to work on this project. One representative from each board is requested and members at large are needed for the group. The purpose of this group will be to 1) establish a definition and skeletal look of what one board governance would look like, 2) outline and organize meetings to educate and open discussion among the members at large, and 3) recruit others to work on small teams in order to get the work of the church needed done.
- Pastor discussed his sabbatical, which he is planning on taking during 2024. He is currently in year 5 of his contract and needs to take it by year 7, or he loses it. He suggested that a possible way of covering this is to have each board take and plan some services.

Trustees:

- Discussed refinancing to a 30 year mortgage. This will allow for extra funds to take care of repairs needed to the church.
- Reviewed the success of the recent fund-raisers.
- Internet service and charge has not changed.
- Have had issues with the fire system.

Women's Fellowship:

- Take-out meals will now be given a ticket to be turned in.
- Donated funds to S.H.I.F.T., which should provide funds to create 24 more Feel Good kits.
- No April meeting due to Maundy Thursday

NEW BUSINESS:

Website:

• Lori Jurek, Jenny Korn, and Pastor Burt are working on the website and getting it ready to launch.

Directory:

- Lori edited the directory and submitted the edits.
- The directory should be available in approximately 4 weeks.
- In addition, there will be an app that many may find quite useful.

Next meeting: May 4th (6 P.M.). Toni will do the opening.

No council meeting on April 6th due to Maundy Thursday. Send reports to Connie by April 5th.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Mueller, Church Clerk



			1		1	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 PALM SUNDAY 10:00am Worship New Member Recognition with Holy Communion 11:00am Lent Bible Study	3	4 8am Piano Tuning	5 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program Begins 6:30pm Bell Choir	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7pm Worship w/Communion No Community Dinner	7 GOOD FRIDAY 12pm Ecumenical Service @ Cross Lutheran Church; Roberts, Wi	8
9 EASTER 7am Sunrise Service (Outdoor) 10am Worship (Sanctuary) (Both Services offer Communion) RaiseRight Orders	4pm-7pm Spring Rummage Sale Donation Drop Off 6:30pm SHIFT Meeting	11 1pm-5pm Spring Rummage Sale Donation Drop Off	12 1pm-5pm Spring Rummage Sale Donation Drop Off 6:30pm Bell Choir	13 1pm-5pm Spring Rummage Sale Donation Drop Off	14 8am-6pm Spring Rummage Sale	15 8am-10:30am Spring Rummage Sale
16 10am Worship	17 6pm CE Meeting	18 6:30pm Trustees	19 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program Begins 6:30pm Bell Choir	20 5pm-6pm SHIFT @ Grace Place Newsletter Deadline	21	22
23 10am Worship RaiseRight Orders	24	25	26 6:30pm Bell Choir	27	28 9am-3pm Blood Drive	29
30 10am Worship	1 HAPPY MAY	2 6pm Deacons Meeting	3 FINAL RUCCUS UNTIL FALL 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program Begins 6:30pm Bell Choir	4 3:30pm Women's Fellowship 4:30pm Community Dinner 6pm Council		



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