



CONNECTIONS

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



MAY EVENTS

May 3rd

5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck
6:00pm RUCCUS Program
Please Note: This is the final RUCCUS until next fall.

May 4th

4:30pm Community Dinner

May 13th

8:00am Meet at Church for *Feed My Starving Children* (FMSC) Carpool
9:00am – 11:00am FMSC Meal Packing

May 14th

Mother's Day

May 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
10:00am Worship
Communion offered on the 1st Sunday of the month.

(Full Calendar on Page 10)



HUNGER IS REAL!

Will you please join us in packing meals on:

**Saturday, May 13th,
9:00am – 11:00am**

Sign-Up in the narthex OR go to:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4eaba92aa3fac61-feed1#/>

Meet at church to carpool at 8:00 am

Please contact Michelle Hansen at:

715-377-8887 or
shell_329@hotmail.com

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

The Women's Fellowship had another successful spring rummage sale on May 14th and 15th. We had a profit of \$1,189.50 for the rummage sale and the lunch. Thank you to all the church members and community who donated and shopped. We look forward to our fall sale on Sept. 15th and 16th. Please see the church calendar for more details. It is never too early to be collecting gently used items to donate.

A special thank you to all our helpers through-out the week. Those who helped set up, those who sorted items and those who packed up, those who reset and cleaned the fellowship hall and those who delivered the leftover items to Goodwill. We could not have done this without your help.



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 Good Day Fishing...

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."

—Matt 4:19

In the early spring of 1985, I had a skateboarding accident which destroyed my right knee. In that accident, the skateboard did a full 360-degree spin taking my foot and ankle along with it. Unfortunately, the bottom half of my knee made the rotation while the top half stayed squarely in place resulting in ligament tears, a piece of bone the diameter of a quarter breaking off the back of my kneecap, and pieces of everything else jolted out of place. I spent 2 weeks in an immobilizer before having reconstructive surgery, another month in recovery and, finally, several months in physical rehab just to get it functional. It is by far the worst physical pain I have ever gone through. Through it all my parents had to put up with a 12-year-old whose world had been turned upside down and didn't tolerate pain well. Looking back, I am not sure how they made it through. I am not sure I would have had the patience. And I know I pushed theirs to the limit.

For weeks I was barely able to move on my own because of the pain and all they had to give me for it was Tylenol. After surgery things got easier, but I had gotten used to being waited on. I couldn't get up to my own room, so stayed on the living room sofa during this time. To make easier to get help when I needed it, they had put one of those hotel desk bells next to it for me. If I wanted something to eat... ring...ring... and my mother would appear. It was the same thing if I wanted the channel changed (there was no remote for our TV back then), something to drink, needed to use the restroom, wanted to get resituated, or any other whim I might have. And I used that to its fullest potential. By the time I reached the rehab portion of this adventure my poor mother was ready to ship me off in a box to anywhere but there. Just the sound of that bell would make her visibly shake. Yet, her and my dad gritted their teeth because they knew how much pain I was in.

My grandfather's ritual around this time of life was to come into town on Saturday mornings and grocery shop then stop in at our house for a quick hair trim by my father and some coffee before making the 20-minute trek back out to the middle of nowhere in the Northwoods where he and my grandmother called home. After a couple of weeks of rehab, I was getting pretty good at getting around on the crutches, but I still used that bell like my personal genie in a bottle. Apparently, this little irritation was discussed with my grandfather because the next Saturday he showed up in his fishing gear. Not a man to mince words, or ask twice, he walked into the living room, told me to get off my duff, get dressed, and get out to his car. It was no secret in the family that if grandpa said do something, you did it! I was extremely confused, because it was also no secret that grandpa's fishing time was sacred, no one interrupted it, and NO ONE (not even my grandmother who loved to fish) got to go along. I did as I was told.

I sat in silence for the next 20 minutes or so as grandpa drove down what seemed like every dirt road in the county until we came to a small bridge over a creek lined thick with tall grass and tag alder trees. As grandpa got all the gear out of the back of the car, I remained in the passenger seat. Remember, not a word had been spoken so far as to what was going on. Suddenly I heard him holler out I had better get out of the car or the fish wouldn't be biting anymore, and he would be very unhappy if we didn't catch our limit. I was excited and terrified all in the same breath. Excited because I was getting to go fishing with grandpa. Terrified because I had grown up around creeks just like this and I knew the terrain he was asking me to try and navigate on crutches. It was marshy, wet, uneven terrain with clumps of swamp grass just looking to trip the nimblest of explorers up. All of that with a maze of intertwining tag alder which had turned more than one good hunter around and left them momentarily lost in the woods. He expected me to traverse this on crutches? Had he completely lost his mind? Yet, NO ONE argued with grandpa!

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



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I hobbled along behind him as he found a spot for me along the shore, gave me a creel, put a fly on the line, and taught me to cast a flyrod (that is a trick standing on crutches by the way). Grandpa then went upstream and waded out. Every so often he would come back and put a trout in my creel. I didn't catch a thing in the three hours we were fishing. I am not sure if there were more than ten words spoken between us other than teaching me how to cast and work that flyrod. Yet, I was in seventh heaven. I was fishing with grandpa! When he had caught his limit and mine, we headed back home laughing and talking all the way about what an adventure we had been on and how much the time meant to each of us. As we pulled up to my house on Jefferson St, I felt like I could take on the world and then some. I got to go fishing with grandpa!

We entered the kitchen where my parents sat looking like they had just come back from the most relaxing vacation they had ever had. They both had beaming smiles with laughter and lightness we had not shared since the accident. Grandpa emptied my creel into the sink which he had filled with the largest of the trout from the day. He bragged to my dad of how I had out fished him and put him to shame. Dad just chuckled and said it must have been beginner's luck. Grandpa packed up his creel, gave me a wink, and headed home. As soon as he left, I confessed I hadn't caught a single thing. Grandpa was just trying to make me look good. Dad just smiled and winked. Interestingly, I never rang that bell again. In that one excursion something had changed for me. To this day I am the only grandchild who ever got to go fishing with grandpa. It was a good day fishing for us both and our relationship only grew closer from there.

I came to understand later, and it is a standing joke, how my grandfather saved my life that day. When the tension and stress was at a breaking point grandpa knew exactly what to do. That short break for my parents, and showing me I was able to do much more than I thought I could, was the perfect solution and he was probably the only one who could have pulled that off at the time. It was definitely "a good day fishing!" More importantly it is a lesson and a moment in time which will remain with me forever. Grandpa passed a while ago, but he became one of my closest friends and greatest teachers in the time we had together. And I got to go fishing with grandpa!

Pastor Burt

AN AMAZING HOLY WEEK



The week started off with [Palm Sunday/New Member Recognition](#), continued with Learning what Communion is all about with our RUCCUS (Roberts UCC Understanding Scripture) group, our Maundy Thursday Service was next, there was an Ecumenical Good Friday Service and that afternoon an impromptu private baptism, and then our big final events Easter Sunrise Celebration and Easter Sunday Celebration.



EASTER SUNDAY, SANCTUARY

At 10am Easter Sunday, we held our indoor celebration. Our attendance this year was eighty-one (81) with many new faces, children making glorious sounds of life being lived well, beautiful music from our Bell Choir, and impromptu participation from the kids and congregation. "Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed!"



HOLY WEEK



EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP

Our Easter Sunrise Celebration was held at the east end of our parking lot this year at 7:00am. As the pictures show, it was a beautiful morning and sunrise, with 50 degrees for the temperature and a light breeze. Again, since I have been here, we hit a record this year with 28 in attendance!

A SINCERE AND HEART-FEALT THANK YOU
to the MANY volunteers who made this week
(& every week) happen here!

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: drtonide@gmail.com with any
questions.

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

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



VBS 2023

Sunday, June 25th -
Wednesday, June 28th
6:00pm - 8:00pm

The CE team is excited to announce
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, June 25th at 5:00pm with a
potluck! We hope you all choose to come
and join in the fun!!

Thank you for purchasing gift cards through **RaiseRight**.



We, unfortunately, have been notified by **RaiseRight** that they will not be honoring **Bed, Bath & Beyond** gift cards after May 8th and they will not accept returned or unused cards.

However, we can continue to purchase and use many other gift cards for retailers with whom we already shop. And RUCC will continue to be supported through those purchases.

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



SPRING PLANT SALE

Thank you on behalf of the SHIFT Team. The plant sale was very successful, and we look forward to offering it again next spring.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH Sunday, May 28th



Palm Sunday New Member Recognition

Congratulations and welcome to the family of Roberts Congregational UCC. If you have not already, please take a moment to introduce yourselves to our new4st members.

**Kelly, Dylan, &
Ashlyn Hueman**



The (STC) offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the UCC to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Contributions can be made at church or online at any time [here](#).

Below is the direct link to watch a video regarding how giving impacts the UCC Mission:

https://vimeo.com/683913244?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=84207528

and click on the video to begin playing.



Thank you to those who participated at Grace Place in April!!

Watch for upcoming information regarding the next opportunity to either contribute to the meal, or to serve the meal on Thursday, June 15th at 5:00pm

TREASURER'S REPORT*****Detailed minutes of the Trustees meetings, including financial statements are available upon request.*****General Fund Financial Summary as of March 31, 2023**

<u>Statement of Activity</u>		<u>Statement of Financial Position</u>	
Income/Contributions	\$44,719.74	Assets	
Facility use income	\$625.00	General Accounts	\$4,010.99
Fundraising income	\$11,826.60	Other Bank Accounts	\$62,851.53
Interest	.46	Fixed assets	\$1,874,642.28
Total income	\$57,171.80	Total Assets	\$1,941,504.80
Expenses	\$60,509.60	Liabilities & Equity	
Transfers from other accounts	\$6,225.03	Accrued expenses	\$1,509.17
Net Activity	\$2,887.23	Bank mortgage balance	\$571,074.46
		Member mortgage balances	\$150,000.00
		Total liabilities	\$722,583.63
		Equity	\$1,218,921.17
		Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,941,504.80

**MINUTES FROM REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST****April 6, 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

Update Reports:

Christian Education:

- 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. Planning continued.
- Children will be singing in church on Mother's Day
- CE and the Board of Deacons will be trading Sundays for coffee fellowship beginning in May.
- Discussed possibility of having a fundraiser by making RUCC coffee cups/mugs/tumblers

Deacons:

Holy Week:

- Palm Sunday: Two new members joined. Duane represented the Board of Deacons.
- Maundy Thursday: Laura, Megan, and Connie will read. Pastor Burt gave an overview of the service.
- Good Friday: Pastor Burt will send out links for those not in attendance at Cross Lutheran to view it live or/and recorded.
- Sunrise Service: Plans are being made for an outdoor service. Journey cups will be used for communion.
- Easter Service: Plan communion for 80 to 100.
- Twenty-seven flowers have been ordered.

Coffee Fellowship Update:

- CE has agreed to switch Sundays with the Deacons. Deacons will serve the third Sunday of the month.

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- Women's Fellowship donated \$300.00 to the Feel-Good Kits. More kits will be assembled on April 10th following the meeting.

Women's Fellowship:

- Spring Rummage Sale: April 14th and 15th, 2023.
- Fall Rummage Sale: Sept. 15th and 16th, 2023.
- Next community dinner is May 4th. Pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, and more!

Trustees:

- Building maintenance update. 1) Weather stripping is being addressed. 2) Fire system repairs being taken care of. 3) Roof over the kids' room had a patch fail and has been taken care of.
- New mortgage payment plan has been completed.
- New sound/video equipment is being looked into for the church.
- Leadership Retreat will be addressed after Easter.
- Developing employment policy, safe sanctuary policy, and establishing cleaning procedures to include in the Policy for Usage Rental agreement. Eventually a template should be created in which all policies would be included and also have a binder with a hard copy of the current policies as well.
- Looking into acquiring a new insurance provider.
- Lori Jurek is continuing work on the new website.

Treasurer:

- See the newsletter for the report.

Pastor:

- Two new members joined: Dylan and Kelly Hueman on April 2nd.
- Cleaning help needed for sweeping and mopping the Narthex and the Sanctuary. Windows, garbage, and recycling need to be taken care of as well.
- Lenten Bible Study has been going well with an average attendance of 10.
- Pastor updated progress of transition to One Board Governance. To date, the following have agreed to serve on this committee: Pastor Burt, Dawn Budrow, Patti Robertson, Tracy Ronnander, Jenny Korn, Duane Loewel, and Laura Logas. An additional member may join the group. Connie Mueller will serve as Recording Secretary.
- Pastor's Scheduled 2023 Vacation: June 14-20, July 12 – 18, Aug. 2 – 8, Aug. 21 – 24, and Sept. 1-13. Need coverage for June 18, July 16, August 6, Sept. 3, and Sept. 10. If recorded music is needed for one of these services, let Pastor Burt know ahead of time.

Next meeting: April 26 (6 P.M.) Toni will do the opening.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Mueller, Church Clerk



ROBERT'S

Food Pantry

Giving hope to our neighbors

ITEMS NEEDED

Paper Products
Shampoo
Deodorant Liquid
Hand Soap

OPEN WEEKLY

***Tuesdays &
Thursdays*** 9:00am
-11:30am

Wednesdays
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Are you unable to be present at church on a Sunday but would still like to donate? We have two available options other than writing a check.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT) FROM YOUR BANK

Funds can automatically withdraw from your checking account each month. Just fill out a short form with a canceled check. On the 15th of each month, the amount you designate will be automatically withdrawn from your account. If you would like to try this option, please contact the church office and we will get the form for you.

ONLINE DONATION THROUGH PAYPAL

You can give directly through our website, <http://robertsucc.org>. In the Menu, select "GIVING" and then "GIVE NOW" and it will take you to our donations page, OR the direct link is: <http://robertsucc.org/giving>. Choose "GIVE NOW" and use your PayPal account or credit/debit card to donate whenever it is convenient for you.

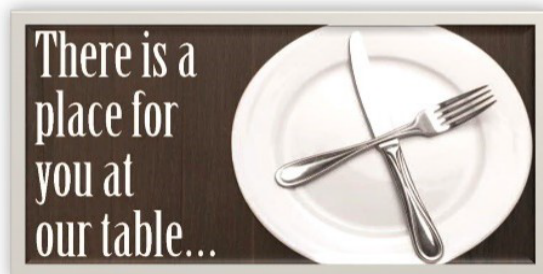
If you have any questions please contact the church office, secretary@robertsucc.org

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

Thursday, May 4th

4:30pm – 6:30pm



MENU

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Cheesy Potatoes

Salad

Assorted Desserts

Beverages: Coffee & Milk

Adults: \$7.00 Children \$4.00

Under 5: FREE

ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1001 BIRCH DRIVE, ROBERTS, WI 54023 ~ 715-749-3225

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.

PLEASE HOLD THE OFFLOWING IN PRAYER:

Brian Wille	Tracy Grabau	Earl Pechuan	Eric Wangen
Mary Frederick	Linda Hall	Terry McKinley	Walt Lamson
Audrey Ackley	Bob Hartmon	Roger Fromm	Susan Gnatzig
Tom Sullwold	The Forman Family	Alison	Glenn Hall
Friends & Family of Julie Anderson			

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



May 7th Carol & Mark Morgen	May 25th Glenn & Sheryl Budrow
May 9th Lori & Anthony Jurek	May 28th Dan & Jacque Nelson
May 10th Kevin & Melanie Robelia	May 29th Dianne & Richard Loewel
May 15th Al & Christine Bohl	May 31st Carrie & Eric Fisher

Just a friendly reminder that if you have an important same-day need or request, our Office Administrator is here from 8:30pm – 12:30pm.

If it can wait, no problem, you can leave a note for me/us which will be managed the following day.

PLEASE when leaving any notes in the office for requests, be sure to include **your name & contact information**, in case we have any questions.

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING BULLETINS

In honor, celebration, or memory of someone, or of a special event.

Sign-Up Genius makes it easy for online date selection.

The direct link is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-2023>

*If you choose to make a donation, not “Bulletin Sponsorship” in the memo line.

*AND there is a paper sign-up available in the church narthex.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00pm Deacons	3 RUCCUS 5:30pm Potluck 6:00pm Program 6:30pm Bell Choir	4 3:30pm WF 4:30pm Community Dinner	5	6
7 10:00am Worship w/Communion	8	9	10 6:30pm Bell Choir	11	12	13 8:00am FMSC Carpool 9:00am-11:00am FMSC
14 Mother's Day 10:00am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders</i>	15 6:00pm CE	16 6:30pm Trustees	17 6:30pm Bell Choir	18	19	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
21 10:00am Worship w/Baptism	22	23	24 6:30pm Bell Choir	25	26	27
28 10:00am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders</i>	29 Memorial Day	30	31 6:30pm Bell Choir	1 3:30pm WF 6:00pm Council	2	3
NO COMMUNITY DINNER IN JUNE OR JULY						


Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ

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