



# CONNECTIONS

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



## HUNGER IS REAL!

Will you please join us in packing meals on:

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>,  
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](mailto:shell_329@hotmail.com)

## MAY EVENTS

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

May 4<sup>th</sup>

4:30pm Community Dinner

May 13<sup>th</sup>

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

May 14<sup>th</sup>

### **Mother's Day**

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

(Full Calendar on Page 10)

## 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.





### 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!

*Continued on Next Page*



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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!

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month**

October thru May

**5:30pm Potluck meal**

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

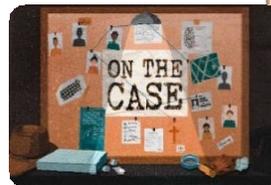
**6:00pm – 7:15ish Program**

Music, Discussion Groups, Worship & Prayer

Contact Toni at: [drtonide@gmail.com](mailto:drtonide@gmail.com) with any questions.

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

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



**VBS 2023**

**Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> -  
Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>  
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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup>**

**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](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 15<sup>th</sup> 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	<b>Assets</b>	
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	<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	
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 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. 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 10<sup>th</sup> following the meeting.

**Women's Fellowship:**

- Spring Rummage Sale: April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Fall Rummage Sale: Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Next community dinner is May 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org)

## **COMMUNITY DINNER**

*Sponsored by Women's Fellowship*

**Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**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](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org).

### **PLEASE HOLD THE OFLOWING 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 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Gail Cotterman

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Wayne Hadley  
Terry McKinley

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Mary Frederick

**May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Marilyn Hayes

**May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Rachel Ackley

**May 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Melissa Delander

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Eric Fisher  
Roene Frederic  
Kevin Robelia

**May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Krew Logas

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Uriah Williams

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Sage Logas  
Roxanne Nelson

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Duane Loewel

**May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Liz Croes  
Haylie Hansen

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Jeff Haas

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Patti Robertson

**May 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Andrew Korn

**May 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Cindy Schultz

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Ann Ostendorf

**May 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Riley Hansen

Happy Birthday!



**May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Carol & Mark Morgen

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Lori & Anthony Jurek

**May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Kevin & Melanie Robelia

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Al & Christine Bohl

**May 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Glenn & Sheryl Budrow

**May 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Dan & Jacque Nelson

**May 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Dianne & Richard Loewel

**May 31<sup>st</sup>**  
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</i> Orders	15 6:00pm CE	16 6:30pm Trustees	17 6:30pm Bell Choir	18	19	20 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i>
21 10:00am Worship w/Baptism	22	23	24 6:30pm Bell Choir	25	26	27
28 10:00am Worship <i>RaiseRight</i> Orders	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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 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