



CONNECTIONS

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

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Auction Event Information

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Blood Drive (Red Cross)

Calendar

Christian Education - VBS

Church App Information

Church Picnic

Community Dinner

Council Minutes

Food Pantry

From the Pastor

Giving Information

Prayer List

RaiseRight

Treasurer's Report

Website Update

**JULY 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd,
& 30th**

10:00 am Worship

Communion is offered the

1st Sunday of the month.

All are Welcome!



**Wednesday
August 16th**



4:00 PM - BAKE SALE

On **August 16th** one of the most fun events of our church will take place. The Church Auction.

The Women's Fellowship (open to all members) has for as long as I can remember, overseen the **bake sale**. This year is no exception.

We are asking for donations of baked goods, pies, cakes, candy, bread, bars, snacks, and donuts. All proceeds will go to the church. Let's make this a year to remember! If anyone has questions or would like to volunteer to price or sell items, please contact:

Judy Snoeyenbos at 715-410-1909.

Thanks for your support.

Judy Snoeyenbos, President of Women's Fellowship

4:00 PM - FOOD STAND

Grab dinner at the food stand!

MENU: Sloppy Joes, chips, assorted beverages, and ice cream sandwiches.

5:00 PM - LIVE AUCTION

Donations for the live auction are also needed. Seeking donations by day of sale of new and gently used items, fresh produce (fruits, vegetables, eggs, butter, meat, etc.), handmade items, and anything else that is sale worthy.

Donated items can be dropped off in the fellowship hall during most normal business hours any time prior to sale. Please call Roger Ray, Chairperson, at (715) 246-5239 or (715) 441-5942, or email rlray@frontier.com to arrange donations that need special attention or assistance unloading. Please, no used electronics or furniture without contacting first.

Thank You for Supporting this event.



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



From the Pastor's Desk...

The Spiritual Practice of Stewardship

*Yet Jesus also said, "I give you a new commandment:
love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another"*
—John 13:34

We **continue** our journey of stewardship together this year by looking at yet another aspect of practicing stewardship. The spiritual practice of stewardship is fundamental to the Christian life. Yet, what does that **mean**? Spiritual Practice? For many, the idea of being spiritual has to do with prayer and meditation. So, is that what I need to do? Pray and meditate more? In a manner of speaking, yes. Though not in the typical way of thinking about it.

Prayer in one respect is about sitting and focusing on our relationship with God through conversation. Then, after the conversation we meditate, **reflect**, and listen, for a response in some way from God. That response is rarely through a spoken word and often comes through our living out life and seeing what God **DOES** in our lives. There is an action to it. So, I am suggesting that our prayer can also be communicated through our actions. What are we communicating to God in how we are living?

Now, let's take that back to Spiritual Practice. If being "spiritual" has to do with our relationship and communication with God, then the "practice" part has to do with how well we are communicating with God through our actions. Stewardship is a big portion of that. What are we doing with the gifts we are given? **And** what does that communicate to our God? Bear with me for just a little bit longer. I promise there is a point to all of this.

Stewardship as a Spiritual Practice is then about how we live out what we are claiming. Looking at the passage above, Jesus is talking to the people and telling them to love one another as He has loved them. Just before this the Gospel According to John has Jesus washing the Disciples feet. He is doing so to show them love. What is more important in that scenario though, is what is said **in** John 13:3, "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God..." All those **who** Jesus was with were gifts to him from God; gifts which he needed to be a good steward of. He was living out the example not only for others to see, but for the glory of God. What we do with the gifts we are given matters.

Here is where the point comes in. Most of us are pretty good about loving others. We try to watch our speech and not be offensive. We try to be inclusive of those who are different from us. We try to make sure that those less fortunate know they are loved and cared for through the ministries we participate in and support. When we read the passage above, we are moved to do such things.

There are others who have been given to us as gifts though. Note that Jesus does not go out and wash the feet of the crowds. Instead, he washes the feet of the Disciples. It is an act of servitude and a gift of extravagant generosity. He is washing the feet of those **to whom he is closest**. Even though he is the leader and deserving of the servitude of the Disciples, he is serving them and doing so extravagantly.

I am challenging all of us to give serious thought to this (and I do mean **ALL**, **me** included). Our family and friends, personal and church, are extravagant gifts from God. How are we doing at serving them extravagantly? Treating them as if they are the most important thing in our world and going above and beyond for them? Are we loving them as Jesus has loved us, with forgiveness and grace beyond measure?

If I am going to be fully honest, often my family suffers in order for me to show love, forgiveness, and grace for others. I would like to say they are first on my mind, but too often I am more focused on the ministry

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of love God has called me to and lose sight of the importance of this great gift I am given in the ones who make that ministry possible and fill me back up when I feel I am running on empty. Stewardship of those gifts is also so very important. That spiritual practice is something Jesus preaches often through his own actions. No words needed.

The same can be said for our church family. Sometimes we are so focused on the greater community and world and their needs, that we forget to look around us and see the needs we could be serving...of the gifts God has given us in the people around us...our church family. The practice of stewardship is so much more than just the finances we give. It is a way of living which was a gift from God. It is a way to see all that God has given us and ask ourselves how well we are doing in our care of those things. So, stewardship is a Spiritual Practice and one which has so many wonderful dimensions.

How are you doing in your Spiritual Practice of Stewardship? Could it use a little work? Are there places which have been neglected while you were focused on another aspect of your faith life or calling from God? There is hope and it is never too late to start this practice in your life.

The end of Chapter 13 in John shows this hope. Jesus foretells Peter denial after promising that even though Peter cannot come with Jesus right now to Glory, he will follow later. Even Peter, the one who Jesus is going to build his church upon, falls from following the life of Jesus perfectly, to the point of denying Jesus. Yet, he is promised eternal life with Christ. If even in his denial Peter can receive grace, forgiveness, and glory, imagine what God has in store for you.

Go out and be good stewards of the gifts God has given you...ALL the gifts God has given you! Love one another as Jesus has loved you!

Peace,
Pastor Burt

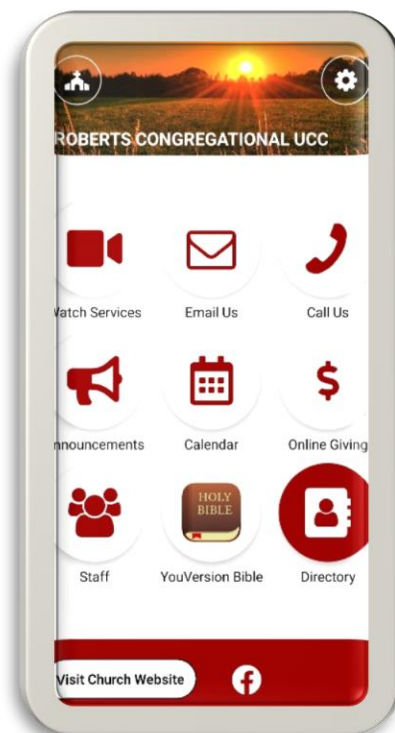


RUCC CHURCH APP

If you haven't heard, our church has its very own APP!

Features include being able to directly access our *online sermons, calendar, or newsletters*. With just a click you can *make an online donation or access a digital Bible*. You also have our *church directory* at your fingertips! We believe it offers a great deal of functionality. There is no cost to you, and we hope you'll consider downloading it to your smartphone or tablets. You should have received an email invitation from **Universal Directories** with download instructions and a unique log-in code specific to your household. In case you missed it, reach out to Lori Jurek at aljurek@baldwin-telecom.net and she'll resend the information to you. The only people who have access to the APP are those Roberts UCC members who have an email address on record with the office.

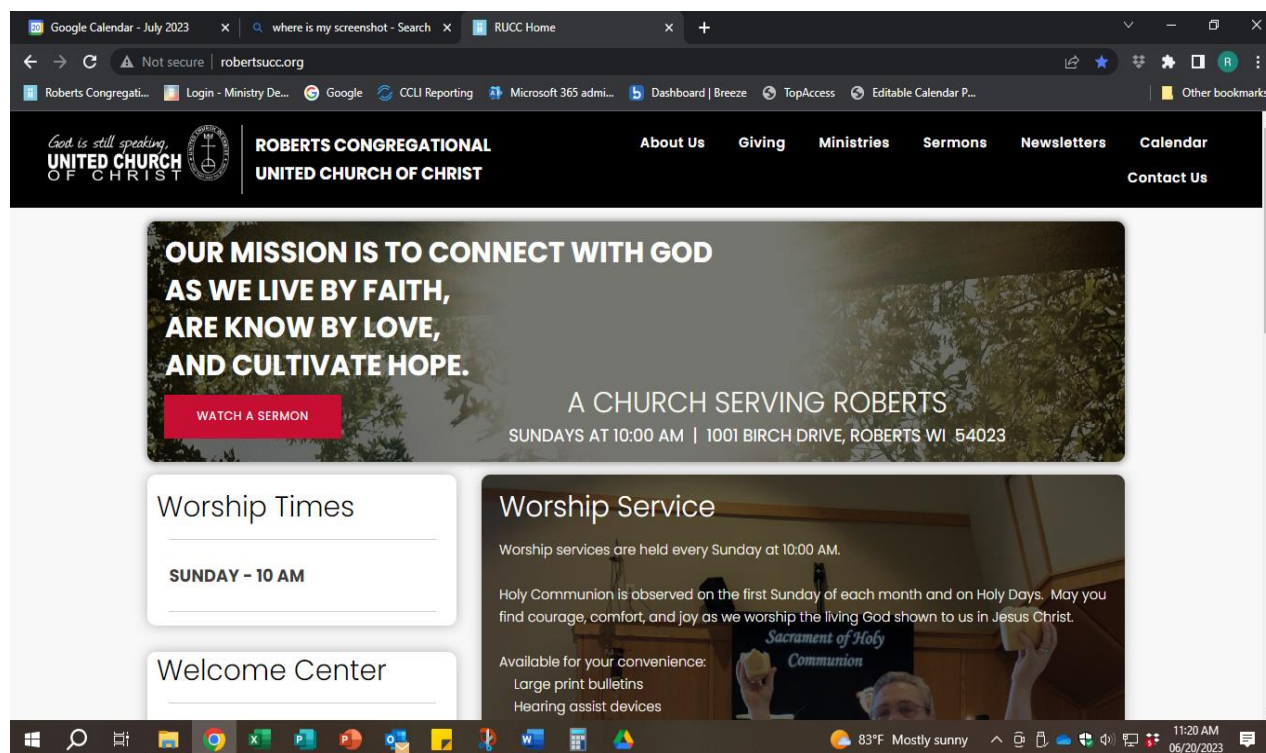
If you need your contact information updated contact the church office: secretary@robertsucc.org. Other questions, contact Lori. We will be happy to help!



NEW WEBSITE

After months of work, our new website has been launched!

You can still find us at www.robertsucc.org. We encourage you to visit the site, check out the new look and updated content. Feedback is welcome! If you are part of a church board or ministry team, pay particular attention to "your" page. Please submit any changes or corrections you'd like taken care of to the office: secretary@robertsucc.org and we'll have the website team make those adjustments!



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Fund Financial Summary as of May 31, 2023**Statement of Activity**

Income/Contributions	\$ 83,172.49
Facility use income	1,825.00
Fundraising income	12,002.48
Interest	.65
Total income	97,000.62
Expenses	105,727.51
Transfers from other accounts	11,225.03
Net Activity	\$ 2,498.14

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
General Accounts	\$ 1,637.70
Other Bank Accounts	60,168.56
Fixed assets	1,874,642.28
Total Assets	1,936,448.54
<u>Liabilities & Equity</u>	
Accrued expenses	\$ 1,115.16
Bank mortgage balance	568,884.27
Member mortgage balances	150,000.00
Total liabilities	719,999.43
Equity	1,216,449.11
Total Liabilities & Equity	1,936,448.54



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 17th** right after worship, for our first annual all church old-fashioned picnic!

Join us for some good old-fashioned games, tasty food and most importantly, having FUN together!

Watch for upcoming details.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE WITHOUT WRITING A CHECK?

Consider donating through EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) for your convenience. Funds are automatically withdrawn on the 15th of each month.

We also offer ONLINE giving through our website: www.robertsucc.org/giving. PayPal Accounts & Credit/Debit cards can be used.

If you have questions about either option, please contact the church office at 715-749-3225

or email: secretary@robertsucc.org.



CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
June 1, 2023

Lori Jurek (Moderator, S.H.I.F.T. and Women's Fellowship), Dianne Loewel (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 Tony : "Working and Sharing"

Minutes: April 26 minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by to Toni to approve the minutes and seconded by Duane. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Christian Education:

- Making final plans for VBS
- For the Stewardship Campaign, CE will be holding small group discussions during coffee fellowship. The first coffee fellowship is June 11th.
- The church picnic will be held Sept. 17th. All attending are reminded that it is a potluck, but hot dogs and lemonade will be provided. Duane suggested that CE and Deacons get together in July in order to plan activities for the picnic.

Deacons:

- First testimonial for the Stewardship Campaign will be given by Katy Kapaun on June 11th.
- Deacons are working on testimonials for the remaining Stewardship Campaign services.
- Discussed the many successes of our church.

S.H.I.F.T

- No meeting in May
- Next meeting: June 12th
- Preparing a meal for Grace Place for June 15th. They will not be serving it.
- Will be discussing doing the food stand for the auction.

Pastor:

- Held baptism on May 21st of Silas Rogers, son of Dan and Beth Rogers
- 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. Connie Mueller will serve as Recording Secretary. The pastor has contacted all members to establish meeting times in which all are available.
- 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.
- 2023 Stewardship Campaign has begun. CE is working on small group discussions. Trustees are working on a narrative budget. Deacons will be handling the final event, in hopes of coordinating with the Women's Fellowship. Deacons will also be pulling together the testimonials for each Sunday dedicated toward the 2023 Stewardship Campaign: June 11, July 2, Aug. 13, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Nov. 12. The final event will be held on Nov. 19th.
- Working on Safe Sanctuary Policy. An account is being set up with Praesidium through the Insurance Boards UCC for Background Checks. The cost is \$11.00 per background check done. All adults working with the children will need to be checked. A background check is good for 7 years.

Trustees:

- Met May 16.

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CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
June 1, 2023

Continued from previous page.

- Reviewed pastor's vacation dates
- No fundraising meeting has been held.
- The fire inspection was completed. Issues were raised around the afib machine, documentation regarding the cleaning of the kitchen fan which needs monthly inspection and/or cleaning, and the CO2 detector.
- Discussed usage of the copier
- Discussed usage of the kitchen. A local party has inquired about use of the church on a regular basis. The trustees approved usage of the kitchen and a place in the area where CE keeps their materials for equipment storage. A monthly donation will be given to the church for the use of the kitchen and this shelving space.

Women's Fellowship:

- No meeting in June and July
- Will be discussing having a bake sale for the auction.

New Business

- Website is close to being launched.
- Directory: The directory is here and available to families. The church purchased an app which will allow updates and all to more readily get needed information. Everyone is encouraged to download the app. The app has a lot more available on in than just the directory. If you have lost information regarding the app or need to make changes regarding own information, contact Lori Jurek.
- Auction will be held on Aug. 16th. Roger Ray is serving as the chairperson.

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

Respectfully submitted,
 Connie Mueller, Church Clerk



JUNE 25-28, 2023, 6:00-8:00PM

Hey everyone!! We had lots of families and kiddos attend VBS "On the Case," this 2023 year. We were detectives investigating some of Jesus' parables!

The excitement was amazing! We had such a fun time and will give you a recap in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.



RaiseRight is easy and supports RUCC while you do your everyday shopping at popular retailers. **Physical, eGift, or Reloadable gift cards are available.**

THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS TO ORDER:

Print out a form NOW! Click this direct link: <http://www.robertsucc.org/mt-content/uploads/2023/05/raiseright-form.pdf> OR from our website, www.robertsucc.org, go to "Giving," RaiseRight, print & fill out a form. Either way, drop off the completed form in the box at church. We will place your order & contact you when your gift card(s) are ready. You can also go directly to the **RaiseRight** website at www.shopwithscrip.com for the extensive selection of retailers.

Existing Supporters can sign on as usual.

New Supporters are encouraged to browse the website first.

Once you decide which cards, simply create an account.

You will need a **CODE** to order.

To obtain the **CODE** or with questions:

Contact Dianne Loewel at: dianne.loewel@gmail.com or the church office at: secretary@robertsucc.org or call (715) -749-2335.

**** There are currently 2 (two) \$100 County Market gift cards available for immediate purchase at church.**

COMING SOON TO RUCC



All in to
help save lives!



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

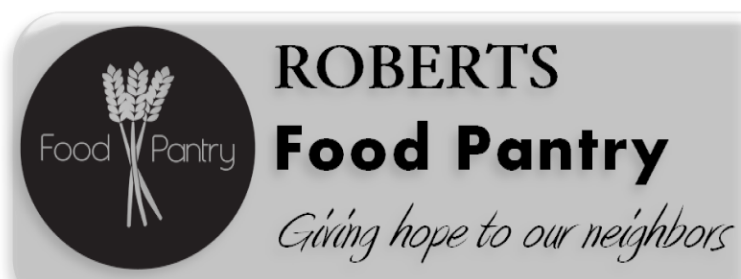
**Roberts Community
Roberts Congregational
United Church of Christ
1001 Birch Dr.
Roberts, WI**

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023
12:00pm – 6:00pm**

Appointments can be made by going to July 19th on our calendar at www.robertsucc.org. Click on Blood Drive and you will see the link.

Or you can click here:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Roberts>

For questions, please contact Lori Jurek: aljurek@baldwin-telecom.net

**ITEMS NEEDED**

Juice Boxes
Peanut Butter Crackers
Cheese Crackers
Granola Bars
Animal Crackers

OPEN WEEKLY

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

Wednesdays
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Help give our food pantry good nutrition.
Our wish-list for this summer is any excess *garden vegetables* you might have.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the Food Pantry places any excess food items we have out in the narthex and on the shelves by the office to share with all? Help yourself!

Did you know that the number of families coming to the pantry has nearly doubled?

Did you know many of these families have small children?

Did you know the pantry has many items it buys to give the families basic nutrition - such as meat, milk, bread, eggs, and many other items?

Did you know how appreciative these families are that our church has provided a space so this service can be provided to the Roberts and Hammond communities?

Thank you for your support!

**JULY 3**

Terry Dull
Adalyn Hoyer
Bruce Riggins

JULY 5

Jamie Delander

JULY 7

Steven Mueller
Wil Ronnander

JULY 8

Tiana Kristensen

JULY 9

Derek Ray

JULY 11

Wendy Gonzalez
Khristian Steinke

JULY 16

Lucas O'Connell

JULY 20

Lowell Johnson

JULY 21

Sonya Jansma

JULY 23

Doug Ackley
Darla Ramberg

JULY 24

Pamela Kamm

Happy Anniversary!

**JULY 14**

Connie & Jerry Mueller

PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER:

Brian Wille
Mary Frederick
Audrey Ackley
Glenn Hall
Jean Lindus

Tracy Grabau
Linda Hall
Bob Hartmon
The Forman Family

Earl Pechuman
Terry McKinley
Tom Sullwold
Missy Reed

Eric Wangen
Walt Lamson
Allison
Roene Frederick

All those serving in our law enforcement, first responders, military, healthcare settings, and those in Ukraine.

For all those not listed above but needing prayer, we lift you up.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion	3	4 Independence Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>	5	6 6:00pm Council Meeting	7	8
9 10:00am Worship <i>Raise Right</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:00am Worship	17 6:00pm CE Meeting	18 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	19 12:00pm-6:00pm Blood Drive	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21	22
23 10:00am Worship <i>RaiseRight</i>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00am Worship	31	 1 st – 6:00pm Deacons Meeting 3 rd – 3:30pm Women’s Fellowship 4:00pm - Community Dinner 6:00pm - Council Meeting				

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