



CONNECTIONS

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

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

AUCTION

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

CALENDAR

CHURCH PICNIC

COMMUNITY DINNER

COUNCIL MINUTES

Direct Your Dollars

Fall Rummage Sale

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

FEEL GOOD KITS

FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PASTOR

GERTENS FALL MUM SALE

GIVING INFORMATION

PRAYER LIST

RAISERIGHT

TREASURER'S REPORT

VBS RECAP

AUGUST

6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th

10:00 am Worship

Communion is offered the

1st Sunday of the month.

All are Welcome!



Thank you, Women's Fellowship for making such wonderful meals!
Future menus can be found on the website calendar.

MENU

Ham & Cheese Slices
Assorted Salads
Rolls
Assorted Bars
Beverages

Adults: \$7.00 Children
\$4.00

5 and Under FREE

Take-out is available upon request.

VBS RECAP



Thank you to all who gave of their time, talents, and resources to make VBS 2023 a huge success! With an average of 23 children and 21 adults every night, we learned about growing, serving, caring, and loving like Jesus by investigating His parables.



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



W e d n e s d a y
A u g u s t 1 6 th



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

THE CHURCH AUCTION.”

4:00 PM - BAKE SALE & FOOD STAND

5:00 PM - LIVE AUCTION

Come early and shop the auction items and **BAKE SALE** while you grab dinner at the **FOOD STAND!**

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

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: 715-410-1909

President of Women's Fellowship

Donations for the **LIVE AUCTION** are also needed. Seeking 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 up to the time of the sale.**

Any questions or to arrange donations that need special attention or assistance unloading. (Please, no used electronics or furniture without contacting first). Please contact:

Roger Ray (715) 246-5239 or (715) 441-5942

Email: rlray@frontier.com

Chairperson

One of the most popular items each year is a **HANDCRAFTED QUILT** donated by one of our members. We are very lucky to have a number of talented quilters. Are you one of them?

If so, would you be willing to donate a quilt for us to auction off ?

Contact Lori Jurek: 715-220-7432

Thank You all for supporting this event.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE WITHOUT WRITING A CHECK

Did you know we offer an EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) option 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.



From the Pastor's Desk...

*"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world.
They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.
Now they know that everything you have given me is from you,
for the words that you gave to me I have given to them,
and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you,
and they have believed that you sent me.*

—John 17:6-8

Looking Back...

It is hard to believe that back in 1998 at about this time of year, I was sitting in the sanctuary of the church a good friend of mine was serving in Bloomer, WI discussing the possibility of officially answering a fulltime call to ministry and going on to Seminary for formal training. I had already been doing youth work and various other ministries in my home church for quite some time and my friend, Rev. Dr. Phil Schneider, was encouraging and challenging me to look at ministry as a fulltime calling/vocation. I was more than a little shocked to hear what Phil had to say and that he thought I had the gifts it would take to be a pastor. It seems like a lifetime ago now and yet as vivid as if it happened this morning. It was exciting, scary, and baffling all in the same breath. Time would pass and after a lot of struggle and prayer and wrestling with all life had to throw at me, I chose to answer the call. It was not an easy decision. I had a young family. I had a good and thriving business up and running. I had finally gotten my feet under me (I was about four years sober at this point). I was happy with a lot of things and yet not satisfied except when I was serving at church. I needed more.

Three years later I would begin Seminary, stepping out in a leap of faith which to this day scares me that I took. We sold our home, closed our business, moved from Northcentral Wisconsin to Bangor, ME, gave up a life with a strong and healthy income and went from a six-figure income to working part-time at U-Haul for \$8.50/hr. (picking up several other part-time jobs in order to survive). I traded 80 hours a week of working for 80 hours a week of studying and working several part-time jobs to make ends meet while trying to be a husband/father to my young family. There I was in my late twenties and starting back at the beginning in education and building a career. The whole experience was almost more humbling than the years I spent when I first quit drinking. And yet, the experiences I would have over the next couple of decades are things I could never have imagined and have blessed me more than I have deserved. Each blessing and small miracle only strengthening my faith more even in all the struggles and hard times (of which there have been plenty) over that same span.

It is amazing looking back over the last quarter century to see all that I have had the great fortune of being a part of. The lives which have touched mine through ministry and life. The places and moments I have been able to share with so many individuals. The love and care God has taken in coloring the pages of the story of our journey together. All of it seems almost too sensational to believe to be true. Yet, I couldn't have written this stuff if I were trying to write the greatest novel ever to hold people's attention and wonder. The best part is that the most cherished moments were not the big events, but those small, intimate memories shared with many of you.

I was recently reminiscing with a colleague of mine I had gone to Seminary with when I wrote the following to her: "It seems so long ago when we were in Seminary and things seemed so much simpler then. We were going to 'save the world one soul at a time.' Now, after all these years, I am finally realizing my journey has been about God saving just one soul...mine. Along the way, I have been privileged to serve and

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witness to God's great work in the world around me. Thanks for being a part of that journey and one of the miracles God has blessed me with.”

At the time I wrote it, I was just reminiscing with a friend and the words simply flowed. Later, when I heard back from her, I had to go back and reread what I had written because of her heartfelt response. The whole thing made me sit back and realize just what I had said and how much that truly meant to me. I am often asked why I do what I do? I could make more money doing counseling, going back into the tech world, or starting up a business again. I could, financially, live much more comfortably. I have a bunch of dreams over the years which I never pursued or put aside because of the demands of time and energy ministry has. What might I have missed? I could give up the long nights of trying to figure out how to get the next ministry thing done or prayer and concern for someone God has placed in my path as I sit with them in their darkest times. I could no longer have to be the one responsible for taking the angry outburst of someone who is hurt and looking for someone to blame and being an easy target for that hurt and anger. Yet, I would be giving up all those moments and people God has used to shape and strengthen my faith. I would be giving up the laughter and tears of joy as someone comes out on the other side of a long hard journey. I would be giving up the many miracles I have witnessed and experienced through my time in ministry.

What hit me most looking back over this statement though is that I would possibly lose sight of the greatest gift God has given me in all of this. The chance to see and experience the power of God firsthand working in and through me and how each time one of these miracles or experiences happened (the saving of a soul other than my own) God moved me one step closer to salvation along the way. Just like all of you, my faith wavers at times. I have doubts, fears, angers, and heartaches. I can be overly passionate or zealous for a mission or ministry. I can completely miss the point of what God is doing in a specific moment. Looking back though...What a ride!

So, it is with all honesty and sincerity that I say, “Thank You!” to each of you. Thank you to those who have been vulnerable enough to share their darkest places with me. Thank you to those who have shared their greatest joys with me. Thank you to those who have been angry and overzealous, who have help me to realize my own shortcomings to work on. Thank you to those who have supported me in my most depressed, angry, and anxious moments, who listen patiently as I ranted and raved about whatever was on my soul at that moment. Thank you to all those who have stood faithful and held me up when my own faith was weak. You see, whether or not you realized it, God was working in and through you, a miracle was happening, and a soul was being saved. Thank you! I look forward to continuing our journey together as we experience not how we can save souls, but how God is saving souls in and through us as we journey and support one another in the ministries God calls us to!

Peace,
Pastor Burt



1st ANNUAL ALL CHURCH PICNIC

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

Hot dogs & buns will be provided.
Please bring a dish to share.

WATCH FOR UPCOMING DETAILS

FEEL GOOD KITS

It's coming soon...the school year is just around the corner.



"Our SHIFT group puts together Feel-Good Kits which include hair care and toiletries for school age children. I have been delivering them to area schools. Some children do not have access to many of these items. The schools are so appreciative to receive the bags and I always walk away feeling so blessed that we can supply this need."

Sincerely, Nancy Kirouac

The purpose of this project is to help youth in our community feel good about themselves as they start their day. Each kit includes a card reminding the recipient they are loved and offers them blessings!

If you can donate items or financial support for this project, please contact Lori Jurek at aljurek@telecom.net



**UPCOMING 2023 FALL
MUM FUNDRAISER**
Coordinated by SHIFT
Site opens on August 7th

You are invited to shop for your Fall plants through our online fundraising site. Simply visit

<http://www.gertensfundraising.com/>

ENTER ID: 744 to order

The site will open August 7th and close August 28th at 10:00 pm. No orders can be accepted after the site has closed.

Place your order early for best availability! Garden mums, hanging baskets, autumn combination planters, tulip & daffodil bulbs are available.

NEW: If you cannot find your plants or bulbs through the selection available, consider purchasing a Garten's Gift Card.

All purchases will be delivered directly to the church on September 22nd between 1:00pm and 5:00pm. One of our volunteers will call you to let you know when your order is ready to be picked up.

If you have any questions or need help placing an order please contact: Sonya Jansma
ruccfinancial@gmail.com or Lori Jurek
lorijurek@gmail.com

**A NEW
PROGRAM**

In place of collecting receipts to help raise additional funds to support our ministries at RUCC, we have a new program, ***DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS***, in which we clip and save the UPC barcode from Our Family brand products.

These products can be found at Family Fresh stores in New Richmond, River Falls and Somerset, at Nilssen's in Baldwin and even at Byerly's in Woodbury. Watch for their products wherever you shop.

Just clip the UPC barcodes and place them in the designated collection box at church or mail them to: 1001 Birch Dr., PO Box 116, Roberts, WI 54023.

For every bundle of 500 UPC codes collected, we will earn \$25.00. With more than 1,800 stores in 22 states and Puerto Rico, guests can give back to their favorite nonprofit organizations with each trip to the grocery store.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Fund Financial Summary as of June 30, 2023**Statement of Activity**

Income/Contributions	\$ 94,505.49
Facility use income	2,525.00
Fundraising income	12,775.67
Interest	.73
Total income	109,806.89
Expenses	122,124.84
Transfers from other accounts	11,725.03
Net Activity	\$ (592.92)

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
General Accounts	\$ 3,476.15
Other Bank Accounts	54,896.70
Fixed assets	1,874,642.28
Total Assets	1,933,015.13
<u>Liabilities & Equity</u>	
Accrued expenses	\$ 4,474.43
Bank mortgage balance	567,563.01
Member mortgage balances	150,000.00
Total liabilities	722,037.44
Equity	1,210,977.69
Total Liabilities & Equity	1,933,015.13



RaiseRight supports RUCC while you do your everyday shopping. Physical, eGift, or Reloadable gift cards are available.

THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS TO ORDER:

Print out a form NOW! <http://www.robertsucc.org/mt-content/uploads/2023/05/raiseright-form.pdf> OR

www.robertsucc.org, Giving, RaiseRight, order form, & print.

Either way, drop off the completed form in the box at church. We will 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 County Market gift cards available for purchase at church.**

**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 summer wish-list is ***garden vegetables***.



CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
July 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

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

Opening devotion was led by Toni: "Jonah"

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

Old Business:

Christian Education:

- Great Vacation Bible School experience for all
- Will contact Deacons about a joint meeting regarding the All Church "*Fun-Raiser*" Picnic

Deacons:

- Deacons are working on testimonials for the remaining Stewardship Campaign services.
- Began planning Final Stewardship Event for November.

S.H.I.F.T

- Meeting on August 14th
- Will have a food stand at the auction
- Serving Grace Place on August 17th
- Will discuss another Gerten's fall fund-raiser. Mums the word.
- Will hold a cake/bake good walk during the All-Church Picnic
- October 14th is the next Feed My Starving Children event

Pastor:

- Good attendance at VBS. Many of the youth stepped up and took leadership roles during the course of VBS. A special thanks to the volunteers, to those who donated, and to the parents who attended.
- 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. Next meeting is July 10th.
- Pastor's Scheduled 2023 Vacation: July 12 – 18, Aug. 2 – 8, Aug. 21 – 24, and Sept. 1-13. Need coverage for July 16 (Duane will contact Becky Davidson) , August 6, Sept. 3, and Sept. 10.
- All Church Picnic will be held on Sept. 17th. Hot dogs and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Found a place to rent a dunk tank for the event. Tony will talk to Glenn about the possibility of the fire department coming out to fill the tank.

Trustees:

- Planning a BINGO fund-raising event at the park building. They are checking into the licensing for such event.
- Given the fact that two parties are using the church kitchen, Patti is going to check into liability coverage regarding this.

Continued on Next Page

Continued from Previous Page

- Discussed the facility use policy. Everyone must complete the proper paperwork to use the church and get it approved by the trustees.
- East entrance needs to be made accessible to all.

Women's Fellowship:

- Meeting and meals resume in August.
- Will hold a bake sale during the auction. Baked goods are requested.

New Business

- "Direct Your Labels." Start collecting proof of purchase labels on Our Family products and bring them to the church. Our church will be paid for every 500 labels collected. One collection site is in the narthex and the other is located by the food pantry.
- New website has been launched
- Everyone: please download the church app.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, please submit your August report by the 2nd and your September report by the 6th to Connie.

Next meeting: September 28th Duane will do the opening.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Mueller, Church Clerk

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE SALE!

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

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 15 & 16**

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

SATURDAY 8:00 am – 10:30 am

PLEASE SEE WWW.ROBERTSUCC.ORG CALENDAR FOR DROP-OFF
DATES & TIMES

YOU WILL FIND:

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

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



LOOKING AHEAD

HUNGER IS REAL

DID YOU MISS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO PACK MEALS?

We will have another chance on
Saturday, October 14th
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Sign-up Genius is available to sign up
early by going to:

www.signupgenius.com

Meet at church to carpool at:
8:00am.

To learn more about FMSC, go to:
<https://www.fmsc.org/>

For questions, please contact Michelle
Hansen at: 715-377-8887 or
shell_329@hotmail.com.



**AUGUST 2nd**

Emmett Fern

AUGUST 5th

Jenny Korn

AUGUST 6thDonna Hadley
Lilyana Steinke**AUGUST 8th**

Levi Johnson

AUGUST 10th

Jacque Nelson

AUGUST 11th

Connie Mueller

AUGUST 12th

Dean Hansen

AUGUST 13th

Luke Budrow

AUGUST 15thJean Johnson
Sharon Johnson**AUGUST 17th**

Elijah Williams

AUGUST 18th

Al Bohl

AUGUST 19th

Asher Robertson

AUGUST 20th

Tim Ronnander

AUGUST 21st

Glenn Hall

AUGUST 22nd

Brenda Poulin

AUGUST 24th

Mary Fern

AUGUST 23rd

Beth Rogers

AUGUST 28th

Nicole O'Connell

AUGUST 29th

Cody Ronnander

AUGUST 30thBrynley Dittman
Carter Dittman**AUGUST 31st**

Bill Schultz

AUGUST 1st

Dean & Glenda Hansen

AUGUST 8thRon Boenish &
Betty Schultz**AUGUST 20th**Lowell & Sharon
Johnson**AUGUST 4th**

Jerry & Sheryl Johnson

AUGUST 15th

Connie & Russell Cox

AUGUST 23rd

Mandy & Mark Clay

AUGUST 5th

Meghan & Pete Ament

AUGUST 17th

Bill & Judy Snoeyenbos

AUGUST 27th

Christie & Rick Risberg

AUGUST 6th

James & Sonya Jansma

AUGUST 19th

Dennis & Mary Thorsen

AUGUST 30th

Dick & Pat Colbeth


**PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER:**Brian Wille
Mary Frederick
Audrey Ackley
Missy Reed
Terrill Florcyk
Family & Friends of Gary AffolterTracy Grabau
Linda Hall
Tom Sullwold
Jean Lindus
Forman Family
Family & Friends of Gary AffolterEarl Pechuman
Terry McKinley
Allison
Maggie Olson
Family & Friends of John Schultz
Family & Friends of Grant JensenEric Wangen
Walt Lamson
Glenn Hall
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 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	2	3 3:30pm Women's Fellowship 4:30pm Community Dinner	4	5
6 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:00am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders</i>	14 6:30pm SHIFT Meeting	15 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	16 Church Auction 4:00pm Food Stand & Bake Sale 5:00pm Live Auction	17 5:00pm SHIFT @ Grace Place	18	19
20 10:00am Worship	21 6:00pm CE Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:00am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders</i>	28	29	30	31		


Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ

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