



CONNECTIONS

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



From the Pastor's Desk...

*My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*

-Psalms 51:17

The story I am relaying to you in this article is one I wrote some years back and as I came across it, I found it very fitting for this month's article. It was something I needed to hear once again as I sat reflecting on the last six years we have shared together. Our God has placed many little tasks in the way of the things we may have wanted to do, and yet, look at all he has done! What an amazing and patient God we have!

A boy sat at the table a ragtag pile of crookedly creased and crumpled up pieces of paper in the center. A beautiful, clean white sheet sat before him waiting for him to try again. This time he cautiously made each fold. With each crease meticulously made and rechecked the paper slowly took shape. In his eyes this piece of paper was becoming the world's fastest fighter jet. It would fly higher, faster, and longer than any plane had flown before. His excitement was visible in every movement he made. There! Finished!

The boy ran outside with lightning speed to try out the plane he worked so hard to create. He checked the wind with his finger. He turned to just the right angle and sailed it into the air. As it climbed, soaring to a height he was sure was at least a mile high, he ran below it to measure how far and fast it flew. He was amazed! His plane...HIS PLANE...in his mind he believed it had just broken all the world records!

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Join Us For An Old Fashioned Church Picnic

Sunday, September 17
Roberts UCC 1001 Birch Drive

See page 3 for more information.



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

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He raced back into the house, carefully placing the plane on the counter and went to find his father. He searched the garage and then the basement. He went upstairs to the attic, but dad was nowhere to be found. When he walked back through the kitchen, he saw his plane flattened out with writing scrawled on it! It was ruined! All that work and time and it was ruined. He read the message so recklessly written on his beloved life's work.

"Ran to the store. Please take care of the dog while I'm gone. I love you, Dad!"

How could his father be so heartless? Nothing more than a list of chores scribbled out on HIS plane! The boy was devastated and angry. It just wasn't fair!

When the father returned home the boy wouldn't even talk to him, other than to call him a "big meanie." The father simply smiled and said, "I'm sorry you're upset. When you calm down and are ready to talk, come downstairs and find me." With that he left the boy to sulk and waited out his tantrum.

After a while, the boy came downstairs.

The boy flopped down into the chair by his dad, hoping to receive an apology. Instead, his father turned to him and asked, "Did you take care of the dog like I asked you to."

"Yes, but I'm still mad because you ruined my plane!"

"Well, maybe this will help," and the father handed him a book full of paper airplane designs. The boy was ecstatic. Now he could make all sorts of planes and this book would show him how. He thanked his father and giving him a hug ran off to start his new adventures.

So, it is with all of us. We become so proud of the lives we lead and the things we work for. Then, when God writes a command on our hearts, we get so angry and brokenhearted. We turn away from God and sulk like little children. Yet, our God waits for us...waits for us to turn around, talk to God, and receive something so much better than what we have.

May you seek God when you're brokenhearted. May you find your spirit mended when it hurts the most. May you find today, what it is God has for you!

Happy Anniversary to you all!

Pastor Burt



American Red Cross Community of Giving

ROBERTS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**September 18th
12:00pm – 6:00pm**

For an appointment please visit:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Roberts>

or call: 1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767).

Please see Lori Jurek with questions.

lorijurek@gmail.com

Sunday Minister Volunteer Sign-Ups are now available on Sign Up Genius.

This makes it possible for anyone to sign up for ushering, greeting, reading, coffee fellowship, being an acolyte, or snow shoveling as needed, even if you are away from the building. The office will be notified upon sign up and you will receive a confirmation email. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

If you would like to sign up now, here is the direct link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4eaba92aa3fac61-gods#/>

*Thank you for faithfully serving in
worship!*



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Join Us For An Old Fashioned Church Picnic

Sunday, September 17
Roberts UCC 1001 Birch Drive

Schedule of Events

10:00 AM Worship led by Pastor Burt Williams

11:30 AM Potluck Lunch

Hotdogs and lemonade provided

Please bring a dish to pass

After Lunch Fun and Games to include:

Egg relay race

3 legged races

Gunny sack races

Pie eating contest

Cake/baked goods walk

PIE THE PASTOR – raffle tickets \$5

10 lucky winners will be drawn to

Pie Pastor Burt and/or Toni



PIE THE PASTOR
(And Toni)



TICKETS ON SALE NOW:

It's your turn to get back at Pastor for picking on you during his sermons, hehehe. Join us on **Sunday, September 17th** at our 1st Annual Old Fashioned Church Picnic for your chance to pie Pastor Burt (or Toni)! **Tickets are only \$5 each and are on sale now.** Ten (10) random tickets will be selected. Must be present to win (no throwing pies during worship).

All proceeds will go to the general fund.

See a member of the CE Team to purchase your tickets.

Food Pantry Update: The number of families is really increasing. During the week of August 7th, 26 families came in for assistance. Our friends at Cross Lutheran have a list; they are going to help to replenish the pantry.

The pantry is also asking our church family to help in stocking the above **ITEMS NEEDED**.

We could also use your help to supply brown paper bags and white plastic bags.



ROBERT'S
Food Pantry

Giving hope to our neighbors

ITEMS NEEDED

Small Shell Noodles
Rotini Noodles
Ring Noodles
Penne Noodles
Elbow Noodles
Chunky Soups

OPEN WEEKLY

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9:00am - 11:30am

Wednesdays

6:30pm - 8:00pm



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



YOU WILL FIND:

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

Friday, September 15TH Unless otherwise marked, all items are .50 cents each!

Saturday, September 16TH Stuff a big garbage bag for \$2.00!

DROP OFF DATE

Monday, September 11th from 4pm – 7pm

Tuesday, September 12th – Thursday, September 14th 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



THE 2023 AUCTION RESULTS ARE IN
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS EVENT SUCCESSFUL!



Bake Sale:	\$ 591.00
Raffle:	\$ 470.00
Food Stand:	\$ 315.00
Auction:	\$ 7,042.50
Donations:	\$ 412.50
TOTAL:	\$ 8,591.00

Thursday, September 7th
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship



MENU

Roasted Turkey & Ham
 Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
 Dressing, Vegetables
 Dinner Rolls & Butter
 Desserts
 Beverages

Adults: \$7.00
 Children: \$4.00
 Under 5: FREE

*Take Out Meals are Available
 Upon Request*

COME ONE, COME ALL – BRING A GUEST – ALL ARE WELCOME!

Dinners are served on the first Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30pm and provide a wonderful opportunity to build connections with one another. If you would like to serve, please contact Judy Snoeyenbos, Lori Jurek or the church office. We'll find a spot that works for you!



**HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING
 AHEAD FOR A WAY TO
 SERVE OTHERS?**

HUNGER IS REAL

DON'T MISS THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO PACK NUTRITIOUS MEALS

Saturday, October 14th

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Sign-up Genius is available for early sign up by going to: www.signupgenius.com

We have **fourteen** (14) volunteer openings.

To carpool, meet at church:

8:00 am

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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

Income/Contributions	\$ 108,884.54
Facility use income	3,125.00
Fundraising income	12,817.67
Interest	.86
Total income	124,828.07
Expenses	137,180.95
Transfers from other accounts	12,225.03
Net Activity	\$ (127.85)

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
General Accounts	\$ 4,122.27
Other Bank Accounts	49,003.85
Fixed assets	1,874,642.28
Total Assets	1,927,768.40
<u>Liabilities & Equity</u>	
Accrued expenses	\$ 3,880.17
Bank mortgage balance	566,337.31
Member mortgage balances	150,000.00
Total liabilities	720,217.48

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION
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.



2023 FALL MUM FUNDRAISER



Thank you to everyone who placed orders.

Delivery Date: September 22nd.

Afternoon – 6pm (WF will call when they arrive)

September 24th

11:15pm – 12:15pm

Contact: Sonya Jansma sonyajansma@gmail.com or

Lori Jurek: lorijurek@gmail.com



CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
August Updates 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

Due to the number of people unavailable in August and September, a decision was made to provide updates for both months.

Christian Education:

- Held a joint meeting with the Deacons regarding the All Church "*Fun-Raiser*" Picnic. Tents will be set up. Potluck will include hot dogs and drinks. Activities suggested were egg roll, 3-legged race, cake/baked goods walk hosted by SHIFT, pie eating contest, and "Pie the Pastor".
- FUND raiser: Pie the Pastor. Raffle tickets will be sold from now until Sept. 17. A five-dollar ticket will earn a chance to be one of the 10 people selected to Pie the Pastor or Toni.
- CE will cover fellowship on August 13.
- RUCCUS will start October 4.
- Christmas program will be held on Saturday, December 16.
- CE will help with rummage sale clean-up.

Deacons:

- 2023 Stewardship Campaign update. Testimonials will be given for each Sunday dedicated toward the 2023 Stewardship Campaign: Aug. 13, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Nov. 12. The final event will be held on Nov. 19th. Ideas for testimonials are Aug. 13 (Narrative Budget), Sept. 3 (Megan will cover Five for Five), Oct. 1 (How our congregation reaches out: Lori Jurek will cover), and Nov. 19th (Laura has contacted Katy about a meal and Wanda contacted Dennis and Mary about special music following the meal). Final Event planning: How do we draw people in? How do we acknowledge all of the good work being done in the church and in the community?
- Burt Vacation: August 6, Sept. 3, and Sept. 10.

S.H.I.F.T

- Will have a food stand at the auction on August 16
- Serving Grace Place on August 17th
- Will be holding a Mums sale through Gerten's. Online orders may be submitted from August 7 to August 28.
- Will hold a cake/bake good walk during the All-Church Picnic

Pastor:

- Pastor updated progress of transition to One Board Governance. The next meeting will be August 14th. During this meeting, a mission statement will be created and will start clarifying details of the purpose of this team.
- Pastor's Scheduled 2023 Vacation: Aug. 2 – 8, Aug. 21 – 24, and Sept. 1-13. Coverage is needed for September 10th.
- Additional help is needed in cleaning the church.
- All Church Picnic will be held on Sept. 17th. Hot dogs and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.
- A Bunn Coffee Maker was given to the church. The coffee maker needs electrical line to the box, looking for options for installing it in the kitchen so it is to code Electrical and plumbing work needs to be done.

Trustees:

- Fundraising: Lori Jurek called Jonesy' about a meat raffle possibility.
- Sound Board has been purchased. Need to work with Brickhouse Music to get all items going.
- More help is needed with the church cleaning.
- Will contact Tom Peterson about winter snowplowing.

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- Fire inspection results: Due to number of inspections needed, Kim will be asked to set up a calendar to keep track of all of them.
- AED pads need to be replaced and paid for.
- The coffee maker needs electrical line to the box, looking for options for installing it in the kitchen so it is to code.
- Trees by shed and East side need trimming.
- Vents in kitchen need checking. Tony and Patti will do it.
- Need to contact Don Graf about the low drain on the sprinkler system.

Women's Fellowship:

- Meeting and meals resume on August 3.
- Will hold a bake sale during the auction. Baked goods are requested. Items do not need to be priced.
- Fall rummage sale is September 15 and 16. Refer to the church calendar for donation dates/hours.
-

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

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Mueller, Church Clerk



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

Print out a form NOW!

<http://www.robertsucc.org/mt-content/uploads/2023/05/raiseright-form.pdf>

OR

If you are on the website you can go to: <http://www.robertsucc.org/> Giving, RaiseRight, order form, & print. Drop off the completed form in the box at church. We will contact you when your gift card(s) are ready.

Existing Supporters can sign on as usual.

New Supporters do not have to have an account to view the extensive selection of retailers.

Go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/>. Once you decide which cards, 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, (715) -749-2335.

**FALL
WOMEN'S
GATHERING
INVITATION.
ALL ARE
WELCOME!**



***Blessed Be* featuring Kelly Minter
Saturday, November 11, 8:00am-1:00pm**

Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? --Matthew 6:26

I am thrilled to announce that we have the extraordinary privilege of welcoming acclaimed author, speaker, and musician **Kelly Minter** to lead this year's ***Blessed Be*** fall women's gathering.

"By listening to His words, we will gain the most practical insights into our relationships, our possessions, our purpose, and the way God intends for us to live most freely and abundantly. My hope is we'll learn more about how to live the life Jesus says is blessed."

Please join us for this impactful morning of teaching and fellowship:

Saturday, November 11, 2023 | 8am - 1pm
Shepherd of the Valley Church
14107 Hudson Road S | Afton, MN 55001

Register now using this link:
[Blessed Be feat. Kelly Minter](#)

**Early bird registration \$45 thru September 30;
\$50 after.**

**September 1**

Dave Hatch
James Jansma
Lori Morris
Sue Wille

September 2

Earl Pechuman

September 3

Audrey Ackley

September 5

Toni Williams

September 7

Tricia Dull
Terra Jansma

September 8

Steven Hansen

September 10

Dennis Nelson

September 11

Glenda Hansen

September 14

Walt Lamson

September 15

Christie Risberg

September 16

Renee Gullixson
Annika Hanen

September 18

Zachary Williams

September 20

Silas Rogers

September 21

Mary Schultz

September 23

Kathy Johnson

September 26

Janny Muller

September 27

Kiley Ament
Brandon Dull

**September 2**

Glenn & Linda Hall

September 7

James & Lynn Cave

September 10

Brandon & Shelly Dull
Jeff & Trudy Hinkel

September 14

David & Michelle Hansen

September 16

Nicole & Tom O'Connell
Tim & Tracy Ronnander

September 18

Cynthia & Steven Hansen

PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER:

Brian Wille
Mary Frederick
Audrey Ackley
Missy Reed
Terrill Florcyk

Tracy Grabau
Linda Hall
Tom Sullwold
Jean Lindus
Forman Family

Earl Pechuman
Terry McKinley
Allison
Maggie Olson
Nike Freeman

Eric 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	2
3 10:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	4 Labor Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>	5	6	7 3:30pm WF Meeting 4:30pm Community Dinner	8	9
10 10:00am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	11 4:00pm-7:00pm Rummage Sale Drop-Off 6:30pm SHIFT Meeting	12 1:00pm-5:00pm Rummage Sale Drop-Off	13 1:00pm-5:00pm Rummage Sale Drop-Off 6:30pm Bell Choir	14 1:00pm-5:00pm Fall Rummage Sale Drop-Off	15 8:00am-6:00pm Fall Rummage Sale w/Lunch Available	16 8:00am-10:30am Fall Rummage Sale
17 10:00am Worship 11:00am Church Picnic	18 12:00pm-6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	19 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	20 6:30pm Bell Choir <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21	22 Sometime between 12:00pm- 6:00pm Gertens Flowers Arrive	23
24 10:00am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i> 11:15am- 12:15pm Gertens Flower pickup	25 6:00pm CE Meeting	26	27 6:30pm Bell Choir	28 6:00pm Council Meeting	29	30
1 10:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	2 <i>Welcome</i>	3 6:00pm Deacons Meeting <i>October</i>	4	5 3:30pm WF Meeting 4:30pm Community Dinner	6	7

**Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ**

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