



# CONNECTIONS

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

## Old Fashioned Church Picnic Thank you.

Thank you to all who helped with and all who attended our *1st Annual Church Picnic* on September 17th! We had a great time of food, fun and fellowship. We had 32 in attendance as well as good food and good times. Here are some photos to help you see:



*More Old-Fashioned Church Picnic on page 8*



*"Through volunteering at FMSC, you'll get the chance to impact hundreds of kids in just two hours per packing shift. You'll experience what it's like to make a tangible difference today," It is fun and easy!*

## Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Feed My Starving Children, 990 Lone Oak Rd., Suite 136, Eagan

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Carpool:** Meet at church at 8:00 a.m. if you would like to carpool.

**How to Sign Up:** On the sign-up sheet in the narthex, OR Sign-Up Genius at:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-44405018-](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-44405018-2023#/)

[2023#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-44405018-2023#/). You can also contact Michelle to sign-up or for **Questions**

at: [shell\\_329@hotmail.com](mailto:shell_329@hotmail.com) or her Cell #: 715-377-8887 or the church office.

*"Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food."*

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



**5-13-2023 – FMSC 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](mailto:pastor@robertsucc.org) | Office: [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org)

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



### *What Is Next?*

***“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”  
– Isaiah 43:19***

Much of what I read as of late is either talking about how to do things in a new way or about how quickly things have changed over the last few years and what those “new things” might mean for us as a society and church. It can be both inspiring and deflating all at once. Things have changed so quickly that we are still reeling from those changes and trying to adjust while getting our footing back. Meanwhile, things continue to change. In the circles I travel, most of the discussion centers on our churches and how pastoring is changing. Much has changed for us as well in just a short period of time and we are still trying to grow into many of these “new” things. There is something which has not changed though. Something very important!

### **GOD!**

God’s gospel and mission for us has not changed. God is still there guiding and upholding us...working in and through us. We are still to take the message of hope and forgiveness out into the world. We still are to work at creating communities where even the least of these are accepted and cared for. We are called to join as the family of God and hold each other up as we journey together in this new and foreign terrain. Regardless of how much the world around us has changed, this has not. Our dilemma then is to figure out how to listen for God’s guidance and find new and wonderful ways to let all of this spring forth. Our God is walking with us, guiding us. God is about to do something new.

All of this seems very vague, so let’s get something concrete to work with. Things have changed very rapidly over the last few years. We are learning to reach out in new ways. We have more of an online presence now than we have ever had and are using our technology to advance God’s message. From our online worship services to our website to Facebook to how we are doing our Children’s Education, we have had to make some serious changes. More and more people have turned to giving their pledges/donations electronically and through automatic withdrawals. Our communications have increasingly become electronic (email, text, messenger, etc). Even our in-person worship is using more and more technology-based items (Video, PowerPoint, and hopefully soon more audio/visual things).

There has been a lot of change in a short period. There have also been some growing pains as we learn to use this technology and find best practices for it. We have struggled with our email system and developing how we will communicate and respond. It doesn’t always work like we think it should. Worship can sometimes seem interrupted and disjointed when technology doesn’t work as we expect it to.

This can be very difficult for some of us. So, the question arises, “Why not just do it the old way? That worked just fine!” And it did in its time. But if we are going to reach the next generation, we are going to need to go where they are at. This seems foreign and wrong to many of us when we look at how things used to be. That is a phenomenon of our last few generations though. In the times of the Disciples and Paul, they had some of the very same struggles we are having. How do we reach others? What traditions and trials might that disrupt and bring? Paul and the Disciples didn’t sit around waiting for people to come. They went to where the people were and used the technology and societal norms of the time to bring God’s message that Jesus had given them

*Continued on next page.*

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...***Continued from previous page.*

to the masses. The world changes and evolves as God created it to. We are going to need to evolve and change with it if we are going to stay true to our mission and calling from God. This is never comfortable.

The bigger problem is the rate at which all of this is changing. It is not the first time in our history with God which this is the case though. It happened for the Israelites during the Exodus. In just a short period of time, without a lot of noticeable guidance or chance to adjust, they went from being slaves (mistreated, but taken care of) to being free and on their own wandering in the desert responsible for themselves. It sounds very much like today. Only we are not wandering from place to place as they did. Many of us feel like strangers where we are though. It just doesn't feel the same as it once did. We are wandering in new times and technologies.

How then do we cope with this breakneck rate of change? I believe our answer rests in the stories of the Old Testament, the Disciples, and Paul. We band together! We rejoice at each individual who comes to, and accomplishment we experience with, God. We hold each other up in prayer and be as forgiving as we are able. We struggle through in faith even when we are not able to see God's plan fully. We search for the new things God is doing in order to continue bring that gospel message of hope and salvation in and through our journey with God. We watch in wonder and amazement at the changes we see and the fruits they bear. We try new things while practicing our faith, being willing to be transformed and made new. Remember these words from Paul and truly believe they are true, not only for others, but for us as well:

*"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,  
in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,  
we too might walk in newness of life.*

*— Romans 6:4*

As we head into the future, know that God is about to do something new, and it is going to be in and through us. We can journey and witness to that newness of life brought through Christ, or we can fight to hold on to all the old ways. I meant what I said, the answers lay in the scriptural accountings of change from our past. Through all those changes some traditions have been kept and some let go of. Some traditions have long been lost and others revived as God saw fit. Above all else, we know that our God is with us and has a plan:

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.  
Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.  
When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart... "*

*— Jeremiah 29:11-13*

The Peace of Christ be with you!

Pastor Burt

**OPEN WEEKLY**

***Tuesdays & Thursdays***

9:00am -11:30am

***Wednesdays***

6:30pm - 8:00pm



**Thank you for your support!**

**ITEMS NEEDED**

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

We are also accepting  
brown paper bags & white  
plastic bags.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**September Updates, 2023**

Lori Jurek (Moderator, S.H.I.F.T. and Women's Fellowship), Tony Jurek (Trustees), Toni Williams (CE), Duane Loewel (Deacons) Sonya Jansma (Treasurer), Pastor Burt Williams, and Connie Mueller

**September Updates:**

**Christian Education:**

- RUCCUS will be held on October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15, December 6, and December 13.
- Christmas program will be held on Saturday, December 16.
- CE will help with rummage sale clean-up followed by picnic set up
- Bible Sunday is October 8. Any 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and older not having received a Bible will be given one.

**Deacons:**

- Stewardship 2023 Campaign: Final Event
  1. Wanda will confirm music with Dennis and Mary
  2. Laura will contact Katy about the menu. At this time, it was suggested that a free will offering be collected on that Sunday. Will also ask Katy what the approximate cost per plate would be.
  3. Megan will come up with an invitation that will be sent out to all members, which will request an RSVP (in order to plan the amount of food needed). This needs to go out 4 weeks prior to the final event.
  4. Duane will talk to Kim about how to best deal with the RSVP's. Suggested a sign up genius and a clip board in the back of the church for people to fill out
  5. Updates about the final event need to be included in the October newsletter.
- Advent: The first Sunday of Advent is Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Begin thinking of ideas. Church will be decorated on Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 A.M. Contact Pastor with any ideas you might have. The children's program is Saturday, Dec. 16. There will be 3 services on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**S.H.I.F.T**

- With 11 orders, they raised \$220.00 from the sale of mums. This will go toward the general fund. Mums will arrive at the church on Sept. 22.
- Will coordinate a Bake Walk at the church picnic
- Next Feed My Starving Children packing session is scheduled for Oct. 14

**Pastor:**

- Pastor updated progress of transition to One Board Governance. The September meeting will focus on finalizing the group's mission statement and clarifying details of the purpose of the team.
- Pastor's Scheduled 2023 Vacation: Sept. 3, and Sept. 10. Megan is covering Sept. 3 (5 for 5) and Duane is covering Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.
- With memorial monies given, a new soundboard has been installed.

**Trustees:**

- Targeting late October, working on a date for Bingo
- Having found a venue, a date needs to be set up for a meat raffle

*Continued on page 5.*



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

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

Income/Contributions	\$ 124,558.88
Pick Up Your Pebble	6,005.00
Facility Use	1,120.00
Fundraising Income	11,647.77
Interest	1.00
Total Income	143,332.65
Expenses	127,990.33
Transfer from other accounts	10,000.00
Net Activity	\$ 25,342.32

**Statement of Financial Position**

<b>Assets</b>	
General Accounts	\$ 5,050.88
Total General Accounts	5,050.88
Other bank accounts	50,406.28
Fixed assets	1,874,642.28
Total Assets	\$ 1,930,099.44
<b><u>Liabilities &amp; Equity</u></b>	
Accrued expenses	\$ 750.19
Bank mortgage balance	565,309.48
Member mortgage balances	150,000.00
Total liabilities	716,059.67
Equity	1,214,039.77
Total Liabilities & Equity	1,930,099.44

**CHURCH COUNCIL | CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST |**  
**September Updates, 2023 ...Continued from page 4.**

- Coffeemaker was put on the auction
- Discussed going paperless for third quarter statements
- Kitchen vent has been checked
- Patti is working on finding someone to do the handicapped spot on the east side of the building

**Treasurer**

- Auction resulted in raising over \$8,000.00. Used some of the auction funds to pay our 2023 NW Association dues.
- General fund is behind

**Women's Fellowship:**

- Fall rummage sale is September 15 and 16. Refer to the church calendar for donation dates/hours.
- Annual kitchen license fee has been paid (\$441.50)
- Spring Rummage Sale has been set for April 19 and 20.

**Next meeting:** September 28<sup>th</sup> Duane will do the opening.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Mueller , Church Clerk

**Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

*Sponsored by Women's Fellowship*



**MENU**

- Baked Spaghetti
- Lettuce Salad
- French Bread
- Relish Tray
- Assorted Bars
- Beverages

Adults: \$7.00 | Children: \$4.00

Under 5: FREE

*Take Out Meals are Available  
Upon Request*

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

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 or have any questions, please contact: Judy Snoeyenbos: [jsnoeyen@gmail.com](mailto:jsnoeyen@gmail.com), Lori Jurek: [lorijurek@gmail.com](mailto:lorijurek@gmail.com), or the church office at the number listed or [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org). We'll find a spot that works for you!

**A Day to Celebrate**

***Thank you to all who support the ministry at the Roberts UCC Church in so many ways.***

On **November 19**, we celebrate this support by gathering as a church family.

Lunch, along with live music, will be provided, and there will be an RSVP for you to complete so Katy will know how many to plan for. There will be a free will offering to assist in offsetting the cost of the meal.

We ask that pledge cards be returned by that day at the latest so the trustees can begin planning for 2024. Come celebrate who we are, and who we will be. Together we are blessed,

Warmest Regards,

The Deacons Board





**Blood Drive**  
**Roberts Community**  
**Roberts Congregational United**  
**Church of Christ**  
 1001 Birch Dr  
**Wednesday, November 22, 2023**  
**8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



**For an appointment, please go to:**

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/dri-ve-results?zipSponsor=Roberts> | Download the Blood Donor App | or Call: 1-800-RED-CROSS  
 (1-800-733-2767)

**Questions, please contact Lori Jurek:**  
[aljurek@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:aljurek@baldwin-telecom.net)

Please check the church calendar for early 2024 dates.



**ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMMUNITY**  
**FALL RUMMAGE SALE**

The Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who donated, helped set up and/or take down, or shopped at our recent **FALL RUMMAGE SALE**. A special thanks to those who loaded their trucks to take all the leftovers to Goodwill or Treasures of the Heart.

We had a wide selection of clothes, holiday decorations and household goods donated. Thank you all so much.

We made \$1,320.50 which will go to the church to help where needed.



**RaiseRight** supports RUCC while doing 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**

Drop off the completed form in the box at church. We will contact you when your gift card(s) are ready.

**Existing Supporters**-sign on as usual.

**New Supporters** can browse available retailers without an account.

Go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/>. Once you decide which cards, create an account.

To obtain a CODE for ordering, or with questions:

Dianne Loewel: [dianne.loewel@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.loewel@gmail.com) or the church office at: [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org), (715) -749-2335.

**ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OF FUNDS**  
**FROM YOUR BANK**

Did you know we have a way you can have funds automatically withdrawn from your checking account each month?

All you need to do is fill out a short form and provide a canceled check. Then on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month the amount you designate will be withdrawn from your account.

If you would like to try this option, please contact the church office and we will get a form to you.

Email: [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org)  
 or call: 715-749-3225



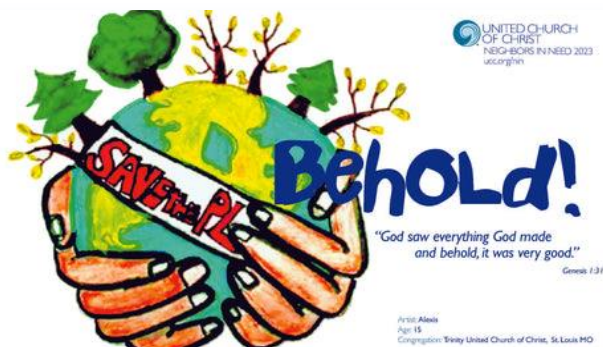
*Continued from page 1.***Old Fashioned Church Picnic****Thank you!**

The unanimous vote from the kids is that we do it again next year and we hope you'll join us then!



For more photos, please visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RobertsUCC>



**NEIGHBORS IN NEED  
SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING  
OCTOBER 1, 2023**

"In 2023, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" theme continues. This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!"

For more information:

<https://www.ucc.org/neighbors-in-need-special-mission-offering/>.

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2023  
uccn.org/nin

"God saw everything God made  
and behold, it was very good."  
Genesis 1:31

Artist: Alexis  
Age: 15  
Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO

# RUCCUS

Roberts *UCC* Understanding Scripture  
**STARTING UP OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>**

Join us! All are Welcome!

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

**\*\*October thru May**

**5:30pm Potluck meal**

All are invited to come and join us as a church family for this meal together. Please bring a dish to pass, beverages for your group/family, and plates/utensils to use. We look forward to seeing you there!

**6:00pm – 7:15ish Program**

Music, Discussion Groups, Worship & Prayer

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

\*\* Please see the church calendar for any date & time changes during the Christmas season.







**October 1**  
Wanda Hopkins

**October 4**  
Steve Nelson

**October 5**  
Jerry Mueller

**October 6**  
Maggie Olson

**October 9**  
Kate Kapaun

**October 10**  
Gordon Gallati

**October 11**  
Dennis Thorsen

**October 12**  
Tori Williams

**October 14**  
Camille Budrow  
Bentley Muller

**October 15**  
Hayley Henley

**October 16**  
Sharon Pizzi

**October 21**  
Carrie Fisher

**October 22**  
Brent Ackley

**October 24**  
Donna Ray

**October 26**  
Darrell Nelson

**October 29**  
Sheryl Budrow  
Kamaria Stone



**October 2**  
Keith & Danielle Logas

**October 3**  
Carol & Terry Dull

**October 10**  
Brent & Rachel Ackley

**October 14**  
Barb & Jeffrey Haas

**October 24**  
Brett & Dawn Budrow

**October 27**  
Andrew & Jennifer Korn

### **PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER:**

Brian Wille  
Mary Frederick  
Audrey Ackley  
Missy Reed  
Forman Family

Tracy Grabau  
Linda Hall  
Tom Sullwold  
Jean Lindus  
Niki Freeman

Earl Pechuman  
Terry McKinley  
Allison  
Maggie Olson

Eric Wangen  
Walt Lamson  
Glenn Hall  
Terrill Florcyk

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.





## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL COOKIE SALE

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00 a.m.**

*More Details Coming Soon!*



## October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10am Worship w/Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6pm Deacons Meeting	<b>4</b> 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6:00pm RUCCUS Program 6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>5</b> 3:30pm Women's Fellowship 4:30pm Community Dinner	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10am Worship <i>RaiseRight</i> <i>Orders Due</i>	<b>9</b> Columbus Day 6:30pm SHIFT Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8am FMSC Carpool from RUCC 9am-11am FMSC in Eagan
<b>15</b> 10am Worship	<b>16</b> 6pm CE	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Trustees	<b>18</b> 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program 6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>19</b> 5pm SHIFT @ Grace Place	<b>20</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10am Worship <i>RaiseRight</i> <i>Orders Due</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1 NOVEMBER</b> 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program 6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>2</b> 3:30pm Women's Fellowship 4:30pm Community Dinner	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



### 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](mailto:pastor@robertsucc.org) | Office: [secretary@robertsucc.org](mailto:secretary@robertsucc.org)

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