



CONNECTIONS

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

Christmas Pageant Update

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Two thousand years later we still celebrate the birth of this tiny child in Bethlehem, Jesus the Christ.

Who else in all of history is having their birth celebrated around the world 2000 years later?

This tiny child and the story of his birth, life, death, and resurrection, have changed the lives of so many people over those 2000 years, and continues to yet today.

Here are photos sent to us recapping the RUCC youth telling the story.

If you were not able to join us for the pageant, here is the link to watch.

<https://youtu.be/Xt0AGTJiJ-k>

ENJOY!



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

*And Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
—Luke 2:19*



As I sit here this morning preparing services for Christmas Eve, I am also pondering upon all the words I have heard and things I have seen. I am reflecting upon the years of ministry and what it all means. I have had the opportunity to sit in so many places in people's lives. From their darkest times to their most joyous. It has been a colorful journey to say the least. And so it is with Scripture. All of us get to sit in the most intimate of places in the lives the Bible speaks about. We get to sit where those who knew them best probably did not. But do we stop to ponder in our hearts?

By the time you are reading this, Christmas will have passed, and you will probably be preparing to put away the treasured decorations until it is Christmas time again next year. As we read the story, which is still the same some 2000 years later, we sit in the most intimate spaces with Mary, Joseph, and the baby, Jesus. We get to be a part of what were huge events in their lives. Yet to the world it was just another birth, another child, another day when the sun will rise and set. Most of the world went on as if nothing had happened. What an amazing day it was though, and we get to experience it and celebrate with them all.

Let's remember the story and ponder in our hearts for a while what it could mean for each of us. It starts with a young woman and her husband-to-be being visited by angels with this message of great hope for the world. To the world it was just one more pregnancy out of wedlock. It was one more couple who didn't wait and now were going to have to suffer the consequences. How torn they must have been. On the one hand here is this message of great hope and joy. On the other hand, is the world which would have been being harsh and judgmental...uncaring.

How often does this happen in our own lives? Events which are life changing for us, full of hope and joy, yet the world beats us down until there is no hope again. The event, though significant to us, is just another life lived, breath taken, and it passes as quickly as it came. Yet, as our scripture above tells

us, Mary treasured each word of what was told to her...all that had happened.

So, the story continues, Mary and Joseph make the best of a bad situation and move on with life. Journeying from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where all that was spoken to them comes to life in the birth of a tiny child. How amazing those births are to families. Just seeing a mother hold a newborn child for the first time warms the heart in ways words cannot express. To the world though, it was just another child. People didn't even notice it happened. The world's apathy was so great this child had to be born in a stable and laid in a manger. There in the cold and the dark of night Mary held this great gift for the first time.

How often does this world not even notice these great gifts and milestones in our lives? We struggle to celebrate because for others this is just another day in life, and we are just insignificant beings - simply nothing special. Yet, we sit here in this most intimate moment in the life of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. God is giving us the chance to be a part of something so amazing. God is saying to us, "Come in and share because you are important to me." And so, we ponder...

Notice as the story goes on, it is not the child's grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins who come to celebrate this birth first. It is a group of lowly shepherds whom God invites into the story, "Come to Bethlehem and see this wonderful thing! Come help them celebrate this child who will change the world!" To the world, insignificant people, to God and the story they come with great joy and to tell of all the angels had told them, and Mary ponders...

Who is it God sends into your life to celebrate the amazing things with you? Who is it that is with you when the tears fall or laughter rolls, whom you do not expect to be there? Ponder a moment at the way in which God reminds you and the world around you that you are important to the Story of Life. The shepherds came and they celebrated first with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, and then went out in the world to

tell of this amazing thing they got to be a part of. Ponder a little longer on the situations God has placed you in where you get to see great moments in the life of another. Did you celebrate with them and then go out to tell of the event, however small it may have been to the world? I think of attending my son's kindergarten graduation. When I first heard about it, it was some foolish thing I had to attend. Oh, the look of pride on his face though when he could say he graduated. To the world all he had done was survive a year of school, just one more kid doing what all kids do. To him though, that was the most important day of his life thus far...and I got to celebrate it with him...and ponder...

So, as you are putting away the decorations and preparing to move on with life, ponder in your heart and celebrate what God is giving you. It is more than a 2000-year-old story. It is a momentous gift in the life of a young couple as they become parents and of a child who would change the world. Scripture lets into these places so that we would learn to look for them in our daily lives and the lives of those around us.

I imagine that as Mary pondered all these things in her heart, there was great joy, concern, fear, excitement, dreams of what the future might hold. That is life. We are never sure what the next breath will bring. But we can ponder, wonder, observe, celebrate, and live each moment God shares with us as our own story unfolds for the world to see.

As I sit here this morning, pondering...

— Pastor Burt



R UCCUS

Roberts UCC Understanding Scripture

Join us! All are Welcome!

(Whether you have children or no children – whether you are single or married & from the youngest of us to the oldest of us)

1st & 3rd 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

Have some friends who you think might enjoy this time of family worship and learning?? Invite them and their family along!

Let us know if you have any questions!

drtonidc@gmail.com.



God bless,
Toni

Please note, due to the winter season, the calendar on our website will have any cancellations or changes to our regular meeting dates and times. If you are already on our email list, you should receive an email with any changes.

PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER



Earl Pechuman
Audrey Ackley
Missy Reed
Cecil Brighton

Linda Hall
Tom Sullwold
Terrill Florcyk

Terry McKinley
Allison
Niki Freeman

For 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.

Thank you for helping to keep the prayer list up to date.

CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
December 7, 2023

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

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

Opening devotion was led by Duane: Christmas Traditions

Minutes: November 2nd minutes were reviewed. A correction to the minutes: In Shift report, Feel Good Kits, not Feed Good Kits. Motion was made by Duane to approve the minutes with the correction, and it was seconded by Tony. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Christian Education: (Report was given by Pastor Burt)

- Flyers regarding RUCCUS are being prepared to go into the school newsletter.
- Changed the meeting night to the second Monday of the month.
- Reviewed planning for the RUCCUS program on December 16th.
- Silly Supper will be held on Feb. 17th. All are welcome to this "Fun-Raiser."

Deacons: (Duane)

- Grand Finale for the Stewardship campaign was held on Nov. 19th. Thank you to those providing live music and to Katy for the excellent meal.
- Following worship on Jan. 7th, the Christmas decorations will be taken down. All are welcome to help.
- Nominating committee is seeking volunteers for Church Treasurer, Clerk, Deacons, Trustees, and Board of Christian Education.

S.H.I.F.T (Lori)

- Reminded group of upcoming cookie sale
- Will be serving Grace Place on Dec. 21
- This group will be meeting on the second Mondays of the month.

Pastor:

- Pastor Burt explained the services being held on Dec. 24th. Volunteers will be needed for the Live Nativity
- Tentative plans for the pastor's sabbatical are July, August, and September 2024.
- Advent has begun with a great start due to our RUCCUS kids who played an important part in the first Sunday of Advent
- Archer Anderson was baptized on Nov. 12th. He is the son of Darin and Nora.
- Annual reports are due by December 15th.
- In regards to our Stewardship Campaign, it is believed that more pledges are coming in.
- Watch for Pastor Burt's devotions on the church's Facebook page.

Trustees: (Tony)

- Security lights need replacing.
- Fall clean-up was completed.
- The proposed budget is almost ready to be submitted for the annual report.

Church Board Team: Duane

- Annual report is completed.
- Tentative schedule: February 25th after church (all church leadership meeting), early March (communication to go out to all), April (small group meetings in church and/or homes to discuss the possible changes in the governance of the church, and May 19th (congregational meeting to discuss and vote on potential changes being recommended)

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CURCH COUNCIL
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
December 7, 2023

- All boards and committees need to submit a list of all things that they do and when in the year it is generally completed. This is needed by the annual meeting.

Women's Fellowship: (Lori)

- Officers will remain the same for 2024.
- Reviewed the monthly dinner committees.
- Updating signage in the kitchen

New Business:

- Connie asked if reflectors could go around the driveway for winter.

Next meeting: January 4th, Toni will do the opening.

Respectfully submitted,
 Connie Mueller

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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

Income/Contributions \$	174,919.59
Fundraising Income	22,755.22
Facility Use	5,525.00
Interest	<u>1.59</u>
Total Income	203,201.40
Expenses	207,184.47
Transfers from other Accounts	<u>21,725.03</u>
Net Activity \$	17,741.96

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
General Accounts \$	5,005.90
Other Bank Accounts	55,214.43
Fixed Assets	<u>1,874,642.28</u>
Total Assets \$	<u>1,934,862.61</u>
<u>Liabilities & Equity</u>	
Accrued expenses \$	1,119.58
Bank mortgage balance	561,677.23
Member mortgage balances	<u>150,000.00</u>
Total liabilities	712,796.81
Equity	<u>1,222,065.80</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>1,934,862.61</u>



2ND ANNUAL COOKIE SALE UPDATE

SHIFT would like to thank all those who helped make our 2nd annual Cookie Sale a huge success!

Fifteen talented volunteers donated 25 types of cookies/goodies for our sale. We didn't count the number of boxes we sold but your purchases added up to \$500 in sales! Your generosity allowed SHIFT to donate \$250 to T.H.U.G Life Ministries and \$250 to the church's General Fund. We also voted to donate \$100 to the Food Pantry in gratitude for their ongoing support of the meals we provide to Grace Place.

We look forward to continuing this delicious event next December!



VALENTINE'S ROULETTE DINNER

Feb 17th at 5 pm

- Select your mystery three course dinner.
- Only four items at a time.
- Was your course a winner?
- Or a soup served with a fork and lime?

Tickets are \$10 each.

Seating is limited so contact a member of CE to purchase yours by February 1!



The Hudson Rotary Club is once again hosting the premiere winter fundraising event in the St. Croix Valley during the **6th Annual St. Croix River Dunk**.

They are helping others raise funds for the area's favorite non-profits on Saturday February 3rd, 2024. All you must do is raise the funds and take the leap!

Last year our goal was \$3500, and because of the success of that event, we're aiming for a \$2500 (we know times are tight right now) to impact our community this year! Help us reach that goal by raising funds for the Church!

Please note: On the day of the event, the team will meet for adult comradery and beverages. Feel free to join us and cheer us on even if you didn't sign up to participate!

To register as a team member, please go to <https://secure.frontstream.com/2024-st-croix-river-dunk/>, click Register next to the Polar Bear, select Join a Team on the next screen and fill out the information. And thank you in advance for being a part of the team this year!!!

To donate to the team, please go to: <https://secure.frontstream.com/2024-st-croix-river-dunk/team/1007424>. We will also take donations at church.

Those who don't want to jump, can still participate in the fun by donating and/or coming out on Feb 3rd to cheer on those who are jumping.

For any questions regarding this event, please contact:

Tony Jurek

tjurek@baldwin-telecom.net (715) 531-5170

Lori Jurek

lorijurek@gmail.com (715) 386-3214

Dunk times are between 1pm-2:30pm and will be posted by Wednesday January 31, 2024.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

Thursday, January 4, 2024
4:30p.m.- 6:30 p.m.



ROBERTS Congregational United Church of Christ
1001 Birch Drive Roberts, WI 54023 715-749-3225



MENU

Meatloaf & Baked Potatoes
Green Beans, Rolls, Pickles
Angel Food Cake with
Strawberries &
Whipped Cream
Coffee & Milk

Adults: \$ 7.00 Children (5-13) \$ 4.00
Under 5 \$ FREE



Blood Drive

RUCC CHURCH
Friday, January 19, 2024
11am – 5pm

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

See Lori Jurek with questions: lorijurek@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS CLOTHESLINE

Christmas Clothesline began
November 19th, and all the tags were
taken!

Your generosity has blessed so many
individuals through the St. Croix
County Mental Health Social
Workers.

All your wonderful gifts have been
picked up.

Thank you for your support!

Nancy Kirouac

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER COMMITTEES FOR 2024

Women's Fellowship meetings are open to all and held at 3:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, except for June and July.
The monthly Community Dinner follows from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Chairperson of the committee needs to be REIMBURSED for expenses beyond any food donated.
All (hot) main entrees are to be dished up from the service window. Sides can be on a self-serve table.

Each committee determines their menu and needs to take home everything they bring. Nothing should be left in the refrigerator.
If you cannot serve at your appointed time, please notify your chairperson. If you are not listed and would like to serve, please contact one of the Executive Committee members.

Serve dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Plan food for 50-75 people

Note: All food must be made at the church –STATE LAW!!

January 4, 2024

Nancy Kirouac **Chairman
Mary Grupe (furnish only)
Carol Dull
Terry Dull
Roene Frederick
Mandy Clay
Betty Schultz
Mary Schultz

February 1, 2024

Lori Jurek **Chairman
Jacque Nelson
Sheryl Budrow
Roxy Nelson
Dawn Budrow

March 7, 2024

Dianne Loewel *Co-chair
Katy Kapaun *Co-chair
Cheryl Lindquist
Brenda Poulin
Audrey Ackley
Gail Cotterman
Natilee McDonald

April 4, 2024

Margie Ricci **Chairman
Mary Thorsen *Co-chair
Laurie Monteith
Sheryl Johnson
Sharon Johnson
Danielle Johnson

May 2, 2024

Judy Snoeyenbos **Chairman
Mary Schultz
Cheryl Cowles
Betty Schultz
Jane Bond
Lori Jurek

June and July 2024

We will not serve a meal in
June or July due to Good
Neighbor Days and July 4th
celebrations.

August 1, 2024

Kathy Johnson **Chairman
Megan Frye
Jan Kuschel
Trudy Hinkel
Elizabeth Croes
Renee Gullixson
Chris Bohl

September 5, 2024

Katy Kapaun **Chairman
Dianne Loewel *Co-chair
Laura Logas
Wanda Hopkins
Ann Ostendorf
Sonya Jansma

October 3, 2024

Lori Jurek **Chairman
Nancy Kirouac *Co-Chair
Darla Ramberg
Toni Williams
Beth Rogers
Deb Phillips
Duane Loewel

November 7, 2024

Michelle Hansen *Co-Chair
Laurene Ray *Co-Chair
Pat Colbeth
Glenda Hansen
Suzie Lange
Nancee Hurlburt
Mary Jo Ball
Brenda Poulin
Sally Mahlstadt

December 5, 2024

Tracy Ronnander **Chairman
Sharon Pizzi
Lori Gulich
Patti Robertson
Judy Snoeyenbos
Sharon Johnson

January 2, 2025

Nancy Kirouac **Chairman
Mary Grupe (furnish only)
Carol Dull
Terry Dull
Roene Frederick
Mandy Clay
Betty Schultz
Mary Schultz

Executive Committee

President: Judy Snoeyenbos 715-410-1909
Vice President: Lori Jurek 715-386-3214
Secretary: Nancy Kirouac 651-269-6103
Treasurer: Judy Snoeyenbos 715-410-1909

On-Call List (Will serve additional months if needed.)

Lori Jurek	Judy Snoeyenbos
Dianne Loewel	Mary Thorsen
Laura Logas	Laurene Ray
Connie Mueller	



Do you or anyone you know need help with groceries? The Roberts Food Pantry can help. Or if you are looking for a way to donate, the pantry could use the following items:

Hearty Soups, Bear Creek Soups, Soup Crackers, Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles, Pudding, Jell-O, Hot Chocolate, Paper Bags, & White Plastic Bags. Thank You.

OPEN WEEKLY

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9:00am – 11:30am

Fridays

6:30pm – 8:00pm



January 1

John Bond

January 7

Duane Hall

Natilee McDonald

January 9

Danielle Johnson

January 10

David Fisher

January 23

Tyson Ferrick

Mackson Stone

January 31

David Hansen



DID YOU KNOW GIFT CARDS SUPPORTS OUR CHURCH?

Just buy a card as a gift or use it where and when you already shop.

BROWSE RAISERIGHT FIRST

Go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/>. Once you find your shops, create an account.

OR

Print out a form NOW!

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

And either drop off or mail in your completed form to church. We will contact you when your gift card(s) are ready.

To obtain a CODE for ordering, or with questions:

Dianne Loewel: dianne.loewel@gmail.com

There are several gift cards available on site available for immediate purchase.



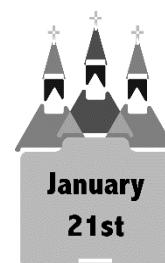
January 1

Bill & Margo Schultz

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL 2023 MEETING & POTLUCK

Will be held on January 21, 2024 following our worship service.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 6pm Deacons Meeting	3 5:30 RUCCUS Potluck 6:00pm RUCCUS Program 6:15pm Bell Choir	4 3:30pm WF Meeting 4:30pm Community Dinner 6pm Council Meeting	5	6
7 10am Worship w/Holy Communion 11am Church Undecorating 4pm SHIFT Social Gathering	8 6pm CE Meeting	9	10 6:15pm Bell Choir	11	12	13 9am Church Audit
14 10am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	15 Luther King Jr Day	16 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	17 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6:00pm RUCCUS Program 6:15pm Bell Choir	18	19 11am – 5pm Red Cross Blood Drive	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
21 10am Worship 11am Annual Meeting Potluck	22	23	24 6:15pm Bell Choir	25	26	27
28 10am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	29 6:30pm Church Board Team Meeting	30	31 6:15pm Bell Choir	1 3:30pm WF Meeting 4:30pm Community Dinner 6:30pm Council Meeting	2	3 1pm-2:30pm 2024 6 th Annual St. Croix River Dunk (RUCC Jump time to be determined on 1-31-2024)



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