



CONNECTIONS

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Palm Sunday

March 24th
10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

March 28th
7:00 p.m.

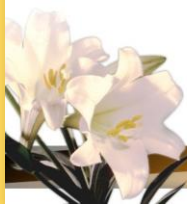
Good Friday

March 29th
7:00 p.m.

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Remember, Honor, or
Celebrate by Purchasing
Easter Lilies for our
Sanctuary

*\$13.00 with
Foil & Bow*



M
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H

12th

If you would like to order a Lily to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter, click on the link below. Lilies are yours to take home after the last Easter service.

Direct Link to order now:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-48258440-easter#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-48258440-easter#/)

There are also order forms at church.

If you need help or have any questions see Megan Frye or contact the church office.



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



SABBATICAL PLANS

Last month I began to write to you all about my upcoming Sabbatical. I began by outlining what a Sabbatical is. *In ministry, it is a period of time allotted to a Pastor every so many years (in my case it is supposed to be 3 months for every five years of service) designed to give time to specifically focus on spiritual growth and renewal, study, and professional development.* I wrote that it was also a time for churches to celebrate: *a time to celebrate the pastor-congregation relationship; a time to celebrate the gifts of the congregation; a time to celebrate our strengths and work on our growing edges as well; a time to celebrate our love and integrity as a congregation.* I also conveyed that over the next few months I would go into greater detail regarding what I would be doing on Sabbatical around the three purposes I listed in what a Sabbatical was.

All three areas for me are interrelated but have very specific roles over this three-month period. As I am planning out this Sabbatical, I am starting with looking at the *Study* portion first. I have three main items I am going to be looking at for Study. The first is two of the books I have spoken about over the last year which I want to go much deeper into study over this time away.

One is the book *Sacred Rest: Recover Your Life, Renew Your Energy, Restore Your Sanity* by Dr. Saundra Dalton-Smith. This will cross over greatly into both the *Spiritual Growth and Renewal* portion as well as the *Professional Development* portion of my plan. I will speak more to both of those in upcoming articles. The premise of Dr Dalton-Smith's book is that there are various types of rest needed to avoid burnout and remain effective to living your best life personally and professionally. She goes into various ways of identifying what types an individual needs and possible ways to better achieve the rest that is needed.

The second book I will be studying is *The 6 Types of Working Genius: A Better Way to Understand Your Gifts, Your Frustrations, and Your Team* by Pat Lencioni. Mr. Lencioni is the founder of *The Table Group* a consulting group for businesses around Team development and management. This is one of several books I may read by him over the time I am

away, but this one is of particular interest to me for looking much deeper into. It deals with primarily how to help best structure teams to meet their greatest potential without burning out leadership. This is of particular interest to me as we move into the future and looking at the many changes our world has undergone and is going through and its effects on our leadership as a congregation. It also ties in with Dr. Dalton's book as well. Again, I will speak more to how there is crossover to the other two areas in upcoming articles.

My final point of study will be around technology. We currently have several software platforms we are using in the church office, and we are using them to only a minute fraction of their capabilities. I would like to be able to use them to a much greater extent to streamline what is happening at the church and better advance us into the future. In order to do that I need to learn a great deal more about the capabilities and procedures of these platforms (Microsoft Teams, Exchange, Outlook; our Breeze Church Management Software; Ministry Designs Website Development Software). All of these are at our disposal through things we are already paying for. All of them have online coursework which can be taken. All of them are extremely powerful tools we could be using in order to communicate better with our current members as well as reaching out into our greater community for our future development and ministry.

As I stated last month, Sabbatical is not a three-month vacation, but a serious matter and opportunity for us as pastors to be better equipped for helping our congregations to be the best that they can be. Just the study of these three areas could easily fill up a three-month period and there is more to come yet. So, as I continue planning this sabbatical, I am going to need to manage my time well and focus on those things which are most important. The other point is with the way I am planning it there is purposely a great amount of overlap in all three areas so as to make the most of this time I am being blessed with.

The point of conveying all this to you is to hopefully help you all to see the benefit of this Sabbatical time for both myself as a pastor and us as a congregation. I am extremely grateful you are

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allowing for the time to do this. Please watch for the articles to come to see more of what will be happening for me over my Sabbatical and some of the great things which will be happening here at the church over that time as well!

Peace and God's blessings on you all,
-Pastor Burt



Our offering date is March 10, 2024

How do our offerings help video:

https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/oghs_share_the_lig ht_ucc_v3-1080p.mp4

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.



MANDALA ROCK PAINTING CLASS

Saturday, March 23rd

1:00pm – 3:30pm

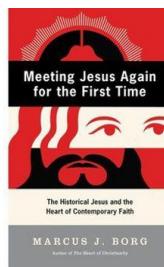
Have you ever wanted to tap into your creative self? Join us in exploring how to find peace & relaxation while creating an intricate and original Mandala rock.

\$25 includes all materials & instructions. Early sign up is preferred but not required.

You may contact the church office to register:

(715) 749-3225 or

email secretary@robertsucc.org.



LENTEN BOOK STUDY REMAINING DATES

This short study is meant to challenge us to grow our understanding and images of who Jesus was as a person and what that means for our ministries today.

Hopefully, everyone who signed up is being challenged and at the same time, enjoying the study.

Here are the few remaining dates. All studies are after worship.

March 3rd 3rd Sunday of Lent – Chapters 2&3

March 10th 4th Sunday of Lent – Chapter 4

March 17th 5th Sunday of Lent – Chapter 5

March 24th Palm Sunday – Last Study
Chapter 6



GERTENS SPRING PLANT SALE

Coordinated by SHIFT

- **Sale ends March 25th**
- Order Online
- Use Code 744
- 30% of Sales supports our community outreach.
- Delivery to the church April 29th.
- Order NOW for a wider selection.



To see some of the available plants, there is a packet with photos & pricing in the narthex.

Or go to this link to view and order

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

If you need help ordering or for questions please contact

Lori Jurek at 715-220-7432 or by email

lorijurek@gmail.com.



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
February 1, 2024

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

Update Reports:

Christian Education:

- For Lent, RUCCUS families will each have a container to collect loose change in. There will be an additional container at church. The monies collected will be given to Feed My Starving Children.
- The next date for volunteering for Feed My Starving Children is April 27.
- Valentine's Dinner Roulette is being planned. Tickets may be purchased in advance. Fourteen tickets have been sold so far.
- Vacation Bible School will be held on June 23-26th from 6-8 P.M. The first evening will begin with a potluck at 5:00 P.M.
- CE will cover 2 services during the pastor's sabbatical. August 4th will be led by the children. Sept. 8th will be a music Sunday.
- The Annual Church Picnic will be held on August 4th after worship.

Deacons:

- Church Board Team: Laura reviewed what the Church Board Team has been accomplishing. On Feb. 25th, all past and new board members will hold a meeting after church regarding governance proposal.
- Mission to reach out to new and existing members. Beginning next month, the board will begin generating ideas how this can be done. We will begin by sending out notes to people, maybe thank you and/or missing you notes.
- Pastor Burt presented an outline for Lent 2024. "Going Home"
- Pastor Burt discussed the increasing number of requests for financial help assistance from the area and what he is currently doing.
- Discussion was held regarding Pastor Burt's sabbatical. It was decided that communion would be served throughout that time.

S.H.I.F.T

- Next meeting on Feb. 12
- Serving dinner at Grace Place on Feb. 15
- Seeking a group of volunteers for Feed My Starving Children on April 27
- Gerten's Spring plant fundraising sale will begin soon. Online site should be open mid-February.

Women's Fellowship:

- The Financial Records were submitted for audit and were found to be in good order.
- Spring Rummage Sale: April 19th and 20th, 2024. Please start setting aside donations.
- Kitchen ovens have been cleaned and dishwasher maintenance completed.

Trustees:

- An annual audit was completed and all accounts were found to be in order.
- OCWM was discussed. After discussion, it was pledged to raise \$250 quarterly.
- The grand piano and the upright piano need tuning. The grand piano also needs repairs and a humidifier.
- Tony, Diane, and Patti have received training to cover the treasurer position until someone else is able to take over or another solution is found.

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CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES*Continued from Previous Page*

- Quick Books program will continue to be used. By purchasing the program through Sonya, the church should be able to use this program for the next four or five years.
- Continued work on weather stripping the doors. Hopes are that this will be completed within the next month.
- The kitchen vent, the low drain, and the dishwasher check were completed. All are in good order.
- Following discussion, it was decided that an additional bank account would be necessary in order to contain monies donated specifically for those in need. The funds generated will then be available from which the pastor can not only use for such purposes but it will also have documentation as to how the monies have been distributed.

Treasurer:

- See newsletter for report

Pastor:

- Barrett Larson, son of Luke and Hailey Larson), will be baptized on February 4. He is the grandson of Joe and Cindy Schultz.
- Work has begun on preparing for pastor's sabbatical. Newsletter articles will be published to explain what a sabbatical is and online services are being prepared for the period of time that pastor will be gone. CE has agreed to cover August 4 and September 8. Coverage for emergencies is also being arranged. Paul Backstrom from Gethsemane Lutheran has agreed to cover during the month of September thus far.
- A book study will be held during Lent. The book is called "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Christianity" by Marcus Berg. The study will be held following church services beginning on Feb. 18.
- Having completed the theme of "Coming Home" during Advent. The theme for Lent will be "Going Home." To culminate on Easter with "New " home Easter morning.
- Year-end statements are out.
- Cody Plumbing was in to repair the men's bathroom urinal.

Next meeting: March 7th (6 P.M.) Duane will do the opening.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Mueller, Church Clerk

ALL CHURCH

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND A SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
ON FUTURE CHURCH BOARD GOVERNANCE**

As shared at the annual meeting, a new Church Board Team made up of members from each board has been meeting to talk about creating a framework for launching our church governance into the future.

The Church Board Team would like to **invite you** to sign up to **join us for a small group meeting** where additional information will be shared and you will be invited to share your thoughts and ideas.

All meetings will be held at the church. Several small group meeting options are available:

- **Sunday, April 7th** at 11 A.M.
- **Thursday, April 11th** at 7 P.M.
- **Saturday, April 13th** at 10 A.M.
- **Sunday, April 14th** at 11 A.M.

A sign-up sheet can be found in the church narthex, or you can sign up by emailing info@robertsucc.org. The meeting will take approximately 1 hour.

If you have questions, please ask any member of the Church Board Team: Duane Loewel, Dawn Budrow, Jenny Korn, Laura Logas, Connie Mueller, Patti Robertson, and Pastor Burt.

Emergency Blood Shortage

Blood donors are urgently needed now to help ensure patients at hospitals across the country continue to receive critical medical care.

**Roberts Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**1001 Birch Dr.
Roberts, WI 54023
715-749-3225**

To Schedule an appointment:

<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

Friday

March 22, 2024

9:00am – 3:00pm



**American
Red Cross**

**Blood
Services**



**Tuesdays & Thursdays
9am – 11:30am**

**Wednesdays
6:30pm – 8:00pm**

OPEN WEEKLY

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:

Jell-O, Pudding, Hamburger Helper, Egg Noodles, & Canned Chicken

Thank You!



MARCH 10th

2024 Registration is now open for Outdoor Ministry

What is Outdoor Ministry?

Outdoor ministry is where community, nature, and faith intersect and interact. Moon Beach, Daycholah Center, and Cedar Valley each have a long history of providing meaningful camps, retreats, and events that nurture connections.

UCCI is pleased to offer a variety of sessions including family camps, youth camps, workshops, retreats, and more. Everyone is welcome and invited to explore the events offered or create a retreat that fits your needs.



If this fits what you are looking for this year, go to <https://ucci.org/>. Everyone is Welcome~

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Fund Financial Summary as of January 31, 2024

<u>Statement of Activity</u>		<u>Statement of Financial Position</u>	
Income/Contributions \$	14,330.33	Assets	
Fundraising Income	590.00	General Accounts \$	9,658.10
Facility Use	0.00	Other Bank Accounts	53,891.09
Interest	<u>0.00</u>	Fixed Assets	<u>1,874,642.28</u>
Total Income	14,920.33	Total Assets \$	<u>1,938,191.47</u>
Expenses	16,959.56		
Transfers from other Accounts	<u>0.00</u>		
Net Activity \$	(2,039.23)	<u>Liabilities & Equity</u>	
		Accrued expenses \$	3,445.50
		Bank mortgage balance	559,155.26
		Member mortgage balances	<u>150,000.00</u>
		Total liabilities	712,600.76
		Equity	<u>1,225,590.71</u>
		Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>1,938,191.47</u>

Community Dinner**Sponsored by Women's Fellowship****Thursday, March 7, 2024****4:30—6:30pm**

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**Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ**

1001 Birch Drive, Roberts, WI 54023

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month
****October through May**

R UCCUS

Roberts UCC Understanding Scripture

Join us! All are Welcome!

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

Let us know if you have any questions!

drtonide@gmail.com.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with and attended our **Valentine's Roulette Dinner** on February 17th.

While our goal was not necessarily to raise funds, we sure did raise a lot of FUN! We've already been asked to do it again and hope even more of our church family and friends can join us next time.



LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

Kids will gather loose change in a second "noisy" collection during church each Sunday of Lent. This is for a donation to **FMSC** when **RUCC** volunteers pack meals.

April 27th

Time: 9:30am to 11:15am

Where: Eagan FMSC



*We can carpool - meet at church at 8:30am

Sign up in the narthex at church or click on the direct link:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAB_A92AA3FAC61-48225159-feed#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAB_A92AA3FAC61-48225159-feed#/)

Questions: Michelle Hansen
shell_329@hotmail.com; (715) 377-8887

To find out more about Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) go to: <https://www.fmsc.org/>



GIFT CARDS SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

BROWSE RAISERIGHT FIRST

<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 your completed form to church. Dianne 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

***We have 2-\$100 County Market Cards &
1-\$50 Walmart Card available now!***

PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER

Earl Pechuman
Audrey Ackley
Terrill Florcyk
Axel Fischbach
Tony Jurek

Linda Hall
Tom Sullwold
Joyce Johnson
Sharon Johnson
Crystal Hesselink-Gaustad

Terry McKinley
Allison
Brian Wille
Lowell Johnson

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.

If you have any prayer concerns, please let us know.

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

March Birthdays & Anniversary



March 1
Gracie Delander
Hailey Larson
Dan Nelson

March 2
Whitney Adrian
Bill Snoeyenbos

March 3
Faron Fuller
Margie Ricci

March 7
Chris Bohl

March 8
Mary Thorsen

March 9
Jeff Hinkel

March 10
Logan Nelson

March 12
Mary Grupe

March 13
Pat Colbeth
Daryl Jones

March 17
Avery Rogers

March 20
Sally Fields
Rick Risberg

March 25
Cheryl Cowles

March 26
Brita Lindquist

March 27
Betty Schultz

March 29
Michelle Hansen

March 30
Cheryl Lindquist

March 5



Emma &
Uriah
Williams

Baptism

February 4, 2024
Barrett Edward Larson
Welcome to God's Family!

CONGRATULATIONS**Parents**

Luke Edward & Hailey Erin
Larson

Grandparents

Mark & Lyn Larson

Joe & Cindy Schultz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
3 10am Worship with Holy Communion 11am Book Study Chapters 2&3	4	5 6pm Deacons Meeting	6 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program 6:15pm Bell Choir	7 3:30pm WF Meeting 4:30pm – 6:30pm Community Dinner 6pm Council Meeting	8	9
10 10am Worship 11am Book Study Chapter 4 <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i> <i>Clocks Spring Ahead 😊</i>	11 6pm CE Meeting	12	13 6:15pm Bell Choir	14	15	16
17 10am Worship 11am Book Study Chapter 5 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 6pm Church Board Team Meeting	19 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	20 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program 6:15pm Bell Choir <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21	22 9am – 3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	23 1:00-3:30pm Mandala Rock Painting
24 PALM SUNDAY 10am Worship 11am Book Study Chapter 6 <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	25	26	27 6:15pm Bell Choir	28 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 7pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service @ RUCC	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 7am Sunrise Service 10am Worship Service	1 WELCOME APRIL	2 6pm Deacons Meeting	3 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program 6:15pm Bell Choir	4 3:30pm WF Meeting 4:30pm – 6:30pm Community Dinner 6:00pm Council	5 	6 <i>Spring Forward</i>



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Pastor: pastor@robertsucc.org | Office: secretary@robertsucc.org

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

Don't forget to move
your clocks ahead on
Sunday, March 10th.