



CONNECTIONS

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



Spiritual Growth and Rest

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.*

– Matthew 5:6

Our passage above talks about “...those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...” Often when we hear the word “righteousness” it has some negative connotations for us. We hear the word, but we either unconsciously add the word “Self” before it or we think of it as something impossible for us because of our personal histories and faults. Righteousness in Scripture, especially as it is used in the passage above, is not about something we attain. Instead, it is the way in which God is able to set things “right.” It is about the growth of our spiritual connection with God and how, in and through us, God is able to move in the world for change and transformation. That thirst and hunger is something many of us long for. We see so much in our world today which our hearts break because of. We experience hardships, pains, illnesses, and losses. Our hearts hurt because we are unsure of what we can do to even begin to heal or change situations. They are just too much for us. This becomes even more true as we struggle to maintain our own faith and hope in our personal and spiritual lives.

Over the years many of us have worked extremely hard to make a difference in the lives of our families, communities, and congregations and it almost seems as though things are going backwards rather than forwards. We are exhausted and spiritually drained. We have put our time in. One more long-term commitment is just one thing too many. We need rest and crave (thirst and hunger for) some spiritual growth.

About a year ago a group we have named the Church Board Team was formed for this very reason, to take a look at how we are organized and running as a congregation and see if there may be a way to restructure in order to better do the ministry God is calling us to. We have some pretty amazing ministries happening here already, but is there a way in which to do them better and give more opportunity for a greater participation in those ministries while allowing for that rest and spiritual growth which is desired and needed at the same time?

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Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ
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This group has worked diligently for the last year to pull together a framework which our congregation could now take and develop into a plan for transformation and growth for the future. It is not THE plan, and does not hold THE answers, but instead it is a model which we as a church family could build on and alter to fit the mission and vision God is calling us to. In some ways it is very different from how we are organized now. Yet, in many ways it is simply a set of small transformations to help us adapt to the realities of the world we live in now in order to become more streamlined and better stewards of the gifts and resources God has given us to do ministry today.

Here are some questions for you to ponder. Are there ministries you would like to be a part of, but time and commitment are an issue? Would you like to be more involved with the ministries of the congregation, but do not feel comfortable saying you will sit on a board for 3 years because things in your world have been changing so fast that you may not be able to fulfill the commitment? Have you put in a lot of time over the years and feel the need for some rest and yet miss the great feeling of being a part and helping? Have you spent so much time doing “things” in the church you just do not have time to spend on your own spiritual growth and practices and have a real longing for that? These are all real issues facing not only our congregation, but the greater church as well. These are the reasons these individuals on the Church Board Team have stepped up to do all of this research and lay out this framework. Now it is time for all of us to look at what they have to propose and come together as a congregation to see the possibilities for the future.

There will be a series of meetings: April 7 after service, April 11 at 7pm, April 13 at 10am, and April 14 after service, where they are hoping to present to you this framework so we can look at how we may move ahead for the future. This information packet is the precursor to that. Once this information is out and these meetings have happened, the team would like to get the congregation together to discuss and vote on the possibility of moving ahead to develop a detail model and plan of transition of what would work best for us as a church family for the future. Again, what is being presented is just a rough framework. There are many tweaks and possibilities which will need to be thought through to make it work specifically for us as a church family. That will be the next step. It doesn't pay to do that without the backing and support of our family though. Please plan to attend one of the meetings listed above, get informed as to what the possibilities are. Come and see where you may fit in and give your feedback so this can be something well-tailored to us and the mission and vision God has given us as a congregation. Maybe you are one of those in need of rest right now. We appreciate that more than most of you could know. Still, please come and join us. Please come learn about what is being discussed and how you may become involved in the future. The goal is to maintain the ministries we are already doing, while creating as much opportunity for growth and ministry to the community as possible in the future.

Let's come and work together as a church family to grow into God's calling for us into the future! Peace!

Ps. If you are not signed up for one of the meetings, please let us know through the church office and we can make that happen for you!

- Pastor Burt



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
March 7, 2024

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

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

Meeting opening was led by Duane. "Christian Dad Jokes."

Minutes: February updates were reviewed. Motion was made by Tony to approve the updates and seconded by Toni. Motion carried.

Christian Education:

- A noisy collection is being taken each Sunday during Lent by the youth. Proceeds from this collection will go to Feed My Starving Children.
- 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.
- The Annual Church Picnic will be held on August 4th after worship.

Deacons:

- Discussed Lent and Easter
- Begun a campaign to reach out to members, visitors, etc. Have started sending around the pew pads again to get information.

S.H.I.F.T

- No March meeting.
- Gerten's Spring plant fundraising sale will conclude on March 25th.
- Deb Phillips is holding a rock painting class at the church on March 23rd. Preregistration is required.

Trustees:

- "RISE" is coming in to complete some sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, and wiping off the tables. Their help is greatly appreciated.
- Patti, Dianne, and Tony are currently covering the responsibilities of the church treasurer. The trustees will be meeting with an outsourcing group to cover some of the responsibilities of a church treasurer.
- Brent Ackley donated a new wireless lapel mic and got it set up. A special thank you to Brent for this donation to the church and all that he does.
- Sidewalks will be raised to resolve some of the current issues.
- Lori expressed concern about the need for handicap access by the fellowship hall. Tony said that the trustees received a bid of \$6000.00 for such access. Lori then asked that the trustees discuss building a portable ramp that may be used when the need arises.

Church Board Team:

- Due to the leadership team meeting, additional questions came up that the church board team had not thus considered.
- For the small group meetings, more visual aids will be used to help all better understand the concept being studied. Dawn is preparing the visual aids.
- All church members are asked to attend one of the small group meetings.

Pastor's Report:

- Baptism for Barrett Larson was held on Feb. 4th. He is the son of Luke and Hailey Larson.
- Pastor Burt will be attending the ordination of his son, Uriah, on April 14th. Becky Davidson will be covering service on April 14th.
- Currently 18 people have signed up for the Lenten book study this year.

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March 7, 2024

- Pastor Burt will be taking his sabbatical from July 1st to September 30th. CE currently has signed up to cover August 4th and September 8th. Trustees will be covering July 28 and Sept. 1. Pastoral Emergency coverage during the month of September will be covered by Paul Backstrom from Gethsemane Lutheran in Baldwin
- Plans have been completed for the Good Friday Ecumenical Service being held at our church. A readers theatre will be done by 3 readers from our church and 3 readers from Cross Lutheran.
- Pastor is seeing a sharp increase for counseling, financial needs, etc. in the community.

Women's Fellowship:

- Spring Rummage Sale: April 19th and 20th, 2024. Please start setting aside donations.
- Fall Rummage Sale: September 13 and 14th, 2024.

Treasurer:

- See newsletter for report.

Meetings:

There will be no April meeting due to various conflicts. Please submit reports to Connie by April 3rd.
 Next meeting: May 2nd (6 P.M.) Tony will do the opening.

Respectfully submitted,**Connie Mueller, Church Clerk**

ALL CHURCH INVITATION

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. There are four small group meeting options 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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH
4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship



ADULTS \$7 | CHILDREN \$4
UNDER 5 FREE
***(TAKE OUT MEALS AVAILABLE
UPON REQUEST)***

**MENU: BBQ SANDWICHES, BAKED
BEANS, ASSORTED SALADS, DESSERTS,
& BEVERAGES**

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



RAISERIGHT **A GIFT CARD PROGRAM SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH**

IT'S EASY!

BROWSE RAISERIGHT ONLINE
<https://www.raiseright.com/>

Once you are ready to order, contact Dianne to
obtain a code & create an account:

Dianne Loewel: dianne.loewel@gmail.com

You can also contact Dianne for questions.

Or print out a form NOW!

**[http://www.robertsucc.org/mt-
content/uploads/2023/05/raiseright-form.pdf](http://www.robertsucc.org/mt-content/uploads/2023/05/raiseright-form.pdf)**

You can either drop off or mail your completed
form to church. Dianne will contact you when
your gift card(s) are ready.

NEED A CARD TODAY? We have
2-\$100 County Market Cards &
1-\$50 Walmart Card available now!

Do you or anyone you know need help with groceries?

The **Roberts Food Pantry** can help.

For those who would like to donate, the pantry could use the following items:

Jell-O, Pudding, Hamburger Helper, Egg Noodles, & Canned Chicken. We are also taking paper and plastic bags.

Thank You.



**ROBERTS
Food Pantry**
Giving hope to our neighbors

OPEN WEEKLY

Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:00am – 11:30am

Wednesdays
6:30pm – 8:00pm

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 29, 2024

Is currently unavailable.

Please be patient during our Treasurer transition.



**MANDALA ROCK
PAINTING CLASS**

On Saturday, March 23rd 15 people tapped into their creative side!

They explored how to find peace & relaxation while creating an intricate and original Mandala Rock.

Deb Phillips held the class. To find out more talk to an attendee you recognize here or contact the church office.



2nd ANNUAL



Our second annual church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, **August 4th** following worship, led by our CE team and RUCCUS kids! Watch for upcoming information.

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~





LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

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

Saturday, 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/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-48225159-feed#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EABA92AA3FAC61-48225159-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/>

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

RUCCUS

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Hey families! We are prepping and planning for this year's
Set Sail Vacation Bible School!

The dates have been set for

Sunday, June 23rd - Wednesday, June 26th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Once again this year, we will be holding a **family potluck on Sunday, June 23rd at 5:00 p.m.** If you plan to attend the potluck, please bring a dish to pass as well as your own plates, silverware, and drinks.

Registration forms and more details will be available soon!





**GERTENS SPRING
PLANT SALE**
Coordinated by SHIFT



The Gerten's Spring Plant Sale, a sale in which 30% of sales support our community outreach, ended March 25th.

I'm pleased to report that we had close to \$2500 in sales. We are so appreciative of everyone who supported our efforts! Once a decision has been made, SHIFT will update the congregation regarding where the proceeds will be distributed.

Thank you!

Plants will be delivered to the church April 29th. *A SHIFT team member will give you a call when they are ready to be picked up.*

Questions, please contact
Lori Jurek at 715-220-7432 or by email lorijurek@gmail.com.



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

FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 19 & 20

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

SATURDAY 8:00 am – 10:30 am

ITEMS
PRICED
TO GO!

Friday, April 19TH Unless otherwise marked, all items are .50 cents each!

Saturday, April 20TH Stuff a big garbage bag for \$2.00!

DROP OFF DATE

Monday, April 15th from 4pm – 7pm

Tuesday, April 16th – Thursday, April 18th 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.

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



PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER

Earl Pechuman
Tom Sullwold
Brian Wille
Krystal Hesselink-Gaustad

Linda Hall
Allison
Axel Fischbach

Terry McKinley
Terrill Florcyk
Sharon Johnson
Tony Jurek

Audrey Ackley
Joyce Johnson
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.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

April 4

Ken & Mary Fern

April 6

Hayley & Skyler Henley

April 8

Dave & Diane McKenna

April 24

Laurene & Roger Ray

April 29

Roxanne & Steve Nelson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 2

Laura Logas

April 3

Diane McKenna
Jerry Vasfaret

April 7

Skyler Henley
Alex Ray

April 8

Roxie Hatch

April 9

Sheryl Johnson

April 11

Callie Robelia

April 17

Debby Phillips

April 18

Maddy Dull

April 19

Brielle Hansen
Dylan Hueman

April 20

Noah Steinke

April 21

Tim Myer

April 22

Margo Schultz

April 23

Dan Rogers

April 24

Ron Boenish

April 25

Dick Colbeth

April 26

Dawn Budrow
Ryan Hansen

April 27

Ceola Lindquist

April 28

Ashlyn Hueman

April 29

Nancy Kirouac

April 30

Anna Lindquist

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6pm Deacons Meeting	3 5pm Council Reports due 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program 6:15pm Bell Choir	4 3:30pm Women's Fellowship (WF) Meeting 4:30pm Community Dinner	5	6
7 10am Worship w/Holy Communion 11am Church Board Team (CBT) Info Meeting <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	8 6pm Christian Education (CE) Meeting 6:30pm SHIFT Meeting	9	10 6:15pm Bell Choir	11 7pm CBT Info Meeting	12	13 10am CBT Info Meeting
14 10am Worship 11am CBT Info Meeting	15 4pm – 7pm Spring Rummage Sale Drop-Off 6pm CBT Meeting	16 1pm – 5pm Spring Rummage Sale Drop-Off 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	17 1pm – 5pm Spring Rummage Sale Drop-Off 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program 6:15pm Bell Choir	18 1pm – 5pm Spring Rummage Sale Drop-Off 5pm S.H.I.F.T. @ Grace Place	19 8am – 6pm Spring Rummage Sale w/Lunch	20 8am – 10:30am Spring Rummage Sale <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
21 10am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i>	22	23	24 6:15pm Bell Choir	25	26	27 8:30am FMSC Carpool Meet @ Church 9:30am – 11:15am FMSC Meal Packing
28 10am Worship	29 1pm Gertens Plant Delivery	30				



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