



Connections

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

Here at Roberts UCC

We are a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church united in Spirit to love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all.

Your Presence is Requested!

A special All
Congregation Meeting
Sunday, May 19th

(see page 5 & 6)

Come & Join Us!

Match Game celebration

June 9th

11:00 a.m.

To follow worship.

(see page 6)



Right Around the Corner!

Twelve very short weeks is all there is left before I start Sabbatical and there is so much to get done. It doesn't seem possible that it is almost here. I know for many of you twelve weeks seems like a lot of time, and in some ways it is. I have spent the better part of a year though designing, planning, and editing what will happen and be done over the three months I will be out of the office. I have also been approached by some who have read the previous articles asking if I have any time planned for rest and family. I do and I will outline in this article how all of this will work together.

First, the matter of family, I am guessing just having me around so much is going to be an adjustment for us all. We have already begun to work out logistics of things like a space to work in the house, getting used to routines they have which I am generally not a part of, and talking about various things we will have the opportunities to do together. Although we have not yet made any plans for specific events, we will be getting away for a little bit during this time as well. Most importantly, I will be there and can take time as their schedules require rather than them constantly adjusting to mine. I am looking forward to that. Especially with the ages the boys are. I will have to set some work time specifically, but the flexibility I tend to use here at the church around worship prep, meetings, visitations, programs, etc. I will be able to share with them for this period. I am intending on intentionally building some better work/life balance habits during the sabbatical as well to be worked into the schedule when I get back in Fall.

Continued next page.



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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Second, is rest. Funny little word, rest. For many people it is about downtime, naps, time on vacation (although I very rarely have found vacations as restful as I intend them to be), and plain inactivity. Rest, however, is actually about refilling and rejuvenating. Do not get me wrong, there is a need for the rest of inactivity (naps and sleeping, lounging, etc), but sometimes it is in the activities we do we find the most refilling and rejuvenating.

For instance, removing the stress of having to choose between family and work and being able to spend the time without that guilty feeling in the back of my mind of the many things I “should” get done for the next meeting, event, or service will be very refreshing and rejuvenating. Also, being able to get to focus on projects I am passionate about and pick and choose what I will do in any particular moment without the list of items needed to be done first. Quite often the things I am most passionate about have to be put at the end of the list in order to keep things running smoothly. Finally, I will have the opportunity to worship in various other places with my family. This is a wonderful gift which will allow me some time to rest and participate with my family in worship rather than leading it. It also gives me the opportunity to see what others out in the world are doing in worship...new inspirations, ideas, and trends.

As each of these rejuvenate and refill my Spirit I will find a type of rest even in the work. It is similar to the idea of a good workout. I have found over the years I feel better and more rested when I am able to get out and walk/exercise a bit. Even though it drains (or maybe better put, uses up some of the excess) energy I can have, it gets the blood flowing, the mind working, and rejuvenates me in wonderful ways.

So, that is what is going to happen over the three months I will be on Sabbatical; development, work, study, rest, family, and some time to just get the spiritual batteries refilled. I truly appreciate the time you all allotted within the contract for this and more than that look forward to seeing what all of you do while I am away. What growth will there be? Where and what will you celebrate as a church family? What new things will you discover? May God bless us all over the time we spend apart!

-Pastor Burt



**Friday, May 17th
9:00 a.m. to 3:00pm**

BLOOD DRIVE
ROBERTS COMMUNITY
Roberts Congregational UCC
1001 Birch Dr.
Roberts, WI 54023

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



CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
April 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
 No meeting was held due to various conflicts. Updates were submitted by those listed above.

Christian Education:

- April 17: RUCCUS celebration and awards night for the kids
- May 1: Last night of RUCCUS for this year
- VBS: June 23rd to the 26th
- August 4: CE leading worship followed by the Annual Church Picnic
- September 8: CE hosting breakfast, followed by morning worship being led by CE.
- October 2: First night of RUCCUS
- Dec. 7: Tentative date for the next Mystery Dinner

Deacons:

- Begun a campaign to reach out to members, visitors, etc. Have started sending around the pew pads again to get information and sending notes to visitors and members.
- Sabbatical Coverage: Pastor Burt will have all of the services prepared. Additional speakers may be sought for this period of time.
 - July 7: Connie Mueller
 - July 14: Megan Frye
 - July 21: Duane Loewel
 - July 28: Trustees
 - Aug. 4: Christian Education
 - Aug. 11: Brett Budrow
 - Aug. 18: Megan Frye
 - Aug. 25: Connie Mueller
 - Sept. 1: Trustees
 - Sept. 8: Christian Education
 - Sept. 15: Brett Budrow
 - Sept. 22: Duane Loewel
 - Sept. 29: Megan Frye

S.H.I.F.T

- Gerten's Plant Sale has closed. There was close to \$2500 in orders. Plants will be delivered to the church on April 29. Those who ordered will be called to arrange pick up.
- The Mandala Rock painting class led by Deb Phillips was a success. They had 15 participants.
- Serving Grace Place on April 18.
- Openings are still available for volunteers to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children on April 27.

Trustees:

- Trustees did not meet this past month due to members not being able to attend.
- Met with and still waiting for a proposal from an outside accounting firm to handle the church treasury role. Patti and Diane have been keeping up with treasurer duties to date.
- Sidewalk lifting and repairs approved by the Trustees, proposal signed and a check for 50% down is being issued so we can get this work done asap. Total cost of repairs: \$1300.00.

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CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
April 2024

Church Board Team:

- Church Board Team update: Duane reminded all to be at a congregational small group meeting. They will be held on April 6th and the 14th following worship. There will also be meetings on Thursday, April 11th at 7 P.M. and Saturday, April 13th at 10 A.M. Tentatively, a congregational meeting will be called in May to vote on proceeding with the process.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Burt will be attending the ordination of his son, Uriah, on April 14th. Becky Davidson will be covering service on April 14th.
- There was an average of 12 people attending the book study during Lent.
- 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. Becky Davidson will be available to help with funerals.
- The Boy Scouts food drive will be happening April 26th and 27th. There is a possibility they will be camping inside the evening of the 26th.
- Good Neighbor Days: Cross Lutheran has inquired about changing the Ecumenical Good Neighbor Day Service. One year to be held at our church and the next year at Cross. A motion was made by Brett and seconded by Duane that the Ecumenical Service for Good Neighbor Days should remain in the park. Motion was carried by the Board of Deacons.
- Pastor Burt has become part of the On-call Chaplaincy program at the River Fall Hospital. He will be on an 8 week rotation, covering nights and weekends.
- The Rise Organization has been coming in and doing some sweeping, mopping, washing of tables, vacuuming, and dusting for us. Thank you to the volunteers who continue to come in and help keep our facility clean and upkept.
- Pastor Burt renewed the floors in the Fellowship Hall and the hallway between the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. The Narthex and the Sanctuary need to be done yet. Pastor Burt also got the vacuum cleaner in the Sound Room running again.
- Pastor Burt is requesting all groups to think of ideas for making our church more visible in the community. Possible suggestions: 1) Organized group of volunteers, wearing a shirt with our church name on it, cleaning the ditch for the mile in front of the church. 2) Restoring the equipment in the park to make it more inviting to families.

Women's Fellowship:

- Fall Rummage Sale: September 13 and 14th, 2024.
- We've had some people ask to be removed from our Community Dinner teams which leaves a few months short-handed. If anyone is not on a team, or wishes to serve an additional month, please let Judy Snoeyenbos or Lori Jurek know.

Treasurer:

- See newsletter for report.

Meetings: Next meeting: May 2nd (6 P.M.) Tony will do the opening.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Mueller, Church Clerk

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED!**Special Congregation Meeting****Sunday, May 19th**

Please mark your calendars to join us on Sunday, May 19 following worship for a special meeting of the congregation. The Church Board Team will share their recommendations for evolving our church governing boards to a Teams-based approach. They will ask for a congregational vote to support further exploring this model and developing a plan for moving forward.



“Many hands make light work”
Any amount of time you could help
would be greatly appreciated!

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

MAY 18th
(9:00 am – 12:00pm)

SMALL GROUP CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS HELD IN APRIL.

The Church Board Team would like to thank everyone who participated in one of the small group congregational meetings held in April. We shared information about the team’s mission and our vision for moving from a board-based church governance approach to a teams-based approach. We asked you to share your thoughts, questions, and opinions. A summary of these discussions and the common questions are shared below. Many positive comments and thoughts came out of the discussion of teams-based governance, including:

- This is a positive change toward future growth.
- The model is designed with the idea of revitalizing us and getting more people involved.
- It offers better opportunity to include non-members in our activities and fosters outreach.
- It allows for “Team-Hopping” to find my best fit.
- It gives people the opportunity to try something different without committing to a long-term board commitment.
- This approach would not require me to commit to a specific term or amount of time.
- The boards that are already taking a team approach are having great success with it (i.e., VBS, food pantry, women’s fellowship, SHIFT).
- It will get more people involved.

There was a common theme to the questions and discussion. We have tried to address these below:

- **Who will be making the decisions?**

Our vision is that a Leadership Board made up of 6-10 members of the church would be elected by the congregation at the annual meeting as our boards are elected currently. This board will be responsible for working with the various teams and for making decisions. Each member of the Leadership Board will be a “representative” for various teams. Teams will be fairly autonomous but will be accountable to the Leadership Board and the congregation. There will be term limits for service and new members will be elected as old members’ terms are over. The Leadership Board will legally represent the congregation. All financial decisions would go before the Leadership Board much as they go before Trustees today. More information will be provided to further define the roles and functions of the Leadership Board in advance of the May 19 congregational meeting.

- **Will current teams like VBS, food pantry, women’s fellowship, or SHIFT be disbanded?**

No, there is no plan to disband any existing teams. These teams will actually be used to demonstrate how well the teams-based approach works. We will be evolving the Deacons, Trustees and CE boards to explore and create new teams to fulfill our ministries. For example, we may evolve the CE board to not only include a team for VBS, but also teams for RUCCUS, adult education, Bible Study, teen fellowship, etc. Rather than having a CE board that has responsibility for all

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SMALL GROUP CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS HELD IN APRIL

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Christian education, each separate team could be made up of people who are excited about further developing the various ministries.

- **When will the process start if we vote to move forward and how will it work?**

Once we have had the vote to move forward, a new team consisting of 6-8 congregation members will be formed immediately. The new team will work in tandem with the existing Church Board Team for a period of time for further discussion of the teams-based process and planning. The new team will then begin working on the detailed structure of the Leadership Board and they will develop a plan for evolving the current boards into the teams-based model. Eventually, this team will also work to rewrite the by-laws and church constitution to reflect the changes in our governance.

This process will not happen all at once; it will occur very gradually and the congregation will be looked to for input, decision-making, and further voting prior to changes occurring.

On Sunday, May 19 following worship, we will be holding a special meeting of the congregation where we will ask for a congregational vote to support further exploring the teams-based model and developing a plan for moving forward. Assuming the vote passes, we will be looking for a representative from each current board and 2-3 congregation members to be a part of a new team that will lead this effort.

MATCH GAME 2024

In 2019, our congregation was challenged to raise additional money to cover our budget requirements. This program proved to be very successful, raising over \$19,500 for our Church. It's 2024, and a new challenge has been issued! Welcome to Match Game 2024!!!

Here's how it works.

1. During April and May, your church leadership is asking you to donate a little extra to the general fund to cover our current budget shortfall & support the ongoing ministries we provide. There's no set amount. Anything you can spare would be appreciated!
2. For these "extra" donations, be sure to direct it towards Match Game 2024, either via the memo line of your check, on a giving envelope in the event you're giving cash, or as a note sent to any Trustee indicating your donation goes to the Match Game.
3. We have donors who volunteered to match your extra donations up to \$8000! For example, if you give an extra \$100, it will be matched with another \$100 by these members.
4. Our goal is to exceed our 2019 Match Game amount of \$19,500. Once we achieve our goal, we plan to celebrate the achievement with a potluck where we will play a *RUCC version of the famous Match Game.*



It's that simple! Please join us in making Match Game 2024 a huge success. Your faithful support of Roberts UCC is always appreciated!

Questions may be directed to any of our Trustees:
 Tony Jurek, Patti Robertson, Dianne Loewel,
 Roger Ray, Don Graf, Dylan Hueman

Match Game Celebration
June 9th 11:00 a.m. (following worship)



Thank you to all who donated their "loose change." The children donated your generous giving to FMSC on April 27th.

Please watch for updates.



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScript

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>

You can either drop off or mail your completed form to church. Orders are placed the 2nd and 4th week of each month. Dianne will contact you when your gift card(s) are ready.



Thank you for the combined efforts of everyone who helped to make this year's Spring Rummage Sale a huge success!

Between lunch & the sale we took in \$1,569.80!

Our Fall Rummage Sale will be
September 13, 8am – 6pm
September 14, 8am – 10:30am

We look forward to seeing you there!



ROBERTS
Food Pantry

Giving hope to our neighbors

Do you or anyone you know need help with groceries? The **Roberts Food Pantry** can help.

OPEN WEEKLY

Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:00am – 11:30am

Wednesdays
6:30pm – 8:00pm

We thank you for the support we are receiving. **For those who would like to donate**, the pantry could use the following items:

Jell-O, Noodles, Pudding, & White Rice. We are also taking brown paper and white plastic bags.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Hey families!

Sunday, June 23rd – Wednesday, June 26th

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Family potluck on

Sunday, June 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

Registration & More Details Coming Soon!



BUCCUS

Roberts **UCC** Understanding Scripture

Join us! All are Welcome!

5:30pm Potluck meal

It's hard to believe that May is here. *The 15th of this month will be our last gathering until October.*

We look forward to seeing you then!

6:00pm – 7:15ish Program

Music, Discussion Groups, Worship & Prayer

Let us know if you have any questions!

drtonide@gmail.com.



If you attend the potluck: Please bring a dish to pass, as well as your own plates, silverware, and drinks.

Missing Notes from the Treasurer for last April's Newsletter – Thanks for your patience.

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

General Fund Financial Summary as of February 28, 2024**Statement of Activity**

Income/Contributions	\$ 13,659.19
Facility Use Income	600.00
Fundraising Income	0.00
Interest	0.07
Total Income	14,259.26

Expenses	17,293.01
Transfers from other accounts	2,500.00
	<u>\$ (533.75)</u>

Statement of Financial Position**Assets**

General Accounts	\$ 3,751.18
Other Bank Accounts	11,299.22
Fixed Assets	1,874,642.28
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,889,692.68</u>

Liabilities & Equity

Accrued Expenses	\$
Bank Mortgage Balances	558,085.93
	150,000.00
Total Liabilities	708,085.93
Equity	1,181,606.75
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$ 1,889,692.68</u>

Notes from the Treasurer

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

General Fund Financial Summary as of March 31, 2024**Statement of Activity**

Income/Contributions	\$ 17,058.81
Facility Use Income	600.00
Fundraising Income	0.00
Interest	0.14
Total Income	17,658.95

Expenses	21,885.68
Transfers from other accounts	2,500.00
	<u>\$ (1,726.73)</u>

Statement of Financial Position**Assets**

General Accounts	\$ 2,022.45
Other Bank Accounts	12,721.75
Fixed Assets	1,874,642.28
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,889,386.48</u>

Liabilities & Equity

Accrued Expenses	\$ 0.00
Bank Mortgage Balances	556,708.13
	150,000.00
Total Liabilities	706,708.13
Equity	1,182,678.35
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$ 1,889,386.48</u>

PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER

Earl Pechuman
Tom Sullwold
Brian Wille
Tony Jurek
Family & Friends of Mary Wolf

Linda Hall
Allison
Axel Fischbach
Lawrence Flowers

Terry McKinley
Terrill Florcyk
Sharon Johnson
Krystal Hesselink-Gaustad
Family & Friends of Robbie Kamm

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.

**May 2**

Gail Cotterman

May 3

Wayne Hadley
Terry McKinley

May 4

Mary Frederick

May 6

Marilyn Hayes

May 7

Rachel Ackley

May 8

Melissa Delander

May 9

Eric Fisher
Roene Frederick
Kevin Robelia

May 10

Krew Logas

May 13

Uriah Williams

May 15

Saige Logas
Roxanne Nelson

May 17

Duane Loewel

May 20

Liz Croes
Haylie Hansen

May 21

Jeff Haas

May 22

Patti Robertson

May 24

Andrew Korn

May 25

Cindy Schultz

May 26

Ann Ostendorf

May 29

Riley Hansen

**May 7**

Carol & Mark Morgen

May 9

Lori & Anthony Jurek

May 10

Kevin & Melanie Robelia

May 15

Al & Christine Bohl

May 25

Glenn & Sheryl Budrow

May 28

Dan & Jaque Nelson

May 29

Dianne & Richard Loewel

May 31

Carrie & Eric Fisher

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

May the GRACE of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and the LOVE OF GOD, and the FELLOWSHIP of the HOLY SPIRIT be with YOU ALL.

**Thursday
May 2nd
4:30pm – 6:30pm**

**Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Cheesy Potatoes
Cole Slaw, Pickles
Assorted Desserts
Coffee & Milk**

Adults \$7 | Children \$4
5 & Under – FREE

Take Out Meals Available Upon Request

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14



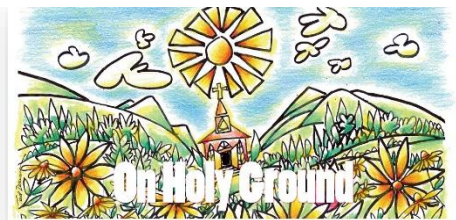
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program 6:15pm Bell Choir	2 3:30pm WF Meeting 4:30pm – 6:30pm Community Dinner 6:00pm Council	3	4
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday				
5 10am Worship with Holy Communion	6	7 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	8 6:15pm Bell Choir	9	10	11
12 10am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders</i>	13 6pm CE Meeting 6:30pm SHIFT Meeting	14	15 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS Program	16	17 9am – 3pm Red Cross Blood Drive	18 9am – 12pm Spring Clean-Up of RUCC
19 10am Worship 11am All-Church Meeting & Vote re: Church Governance	20	21 6:30pm Trustees	22	23	24	25
26 10am Worship <i>RaiseRight Orders</i>	27 Memorial Day <i>Church office closed</i>	28	29	30	31	



Your First Quarter Giving Statements have been made available at church to pick up beginning 4-28-24. Any remaining statements will be mailed May 6th.

If you did not get a statement, please contact the church office.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH MAY 19TH



Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ

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