



Connections

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

From the
Pastor's
Desk



More than a decade ago, I wrote the following devotional based on Matthew 18:4
*Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of
heaven. - Matthew 18:4*

Just before this passage in Matthew Jesus is asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" and he calls a child to him and sets the child among them. We often assume that it's the innocence of the child Jesus is referring to when he speaks of humility. Yet it may be much simpler than that. Jesus called the child to be an example and teaching tool and the child came.

The little one did not ask why or for an understanding of the overall plan. It simply did as it was asked without hesitation, complaint, or bargaining. It did not question what others would think or if the ones receiving the message were worthy. It did not give a list of things that it was busy with or wanted to get done first and then it would be able to do as it was asked. It did not weigh out what it would get in return or how it would feel about things after serving. The one called simply submitted to the will of the one calling.

Lord, please help me to be a child. Help me to willingly submit without need of all the answers. Help me put aside my judgments, fears, and desires when I hear your call. Help me to release my greed of wanting something in return for what I do. Help me submit myself to your will for the good of others with joy upon my heart at simply being called.

I came across those words again recently, and what struck me is that I still believe much of what I wrote. I still believe there are times when God calls us without giving us all the answers. I still believe there comes a point when discernment has to become action. I still pray for the willingness to follow without knowing exactly how everything is going to work out.

But more than a decade of life and growing in my relationship with God has changed the child I see standing beside Jesus.

Back then, I think I saw that child as the perfect example of what faith was supposed to look like. Jesus called and the child came. There were no questions, no hesitation, no argument. Somewhere inside that understanding was the idea that faithful people should do the same. If God calls, you follow.

Today, I see something more in that child.

There is an important difference between the child in this story and us: the child had the physical Jesus standing right there. The child knew who was calling. For us, one of the hardest parts of faith can be discerning whether what we're hearing really is God.

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W O R S H I P

OCTOBER SUNDAYS

4, 11, 18, 25

10:00 a.m.

4th - Communion

ONLINE WORSHIP

<https://www.robertsucc.org/media/>

October 1

Community Dinner

October 7, 14, 21, 28

*All-Church RUCCUS Potluck
& RUCCUS*

October 15

*SHIFT! Prepare & Deliver a
Meal to Grace Place*

October 24

Trunk or Treat, Hammond

October 25

Chili Cook-off & Bake Sale

October 30

Trick or Treat on Main



Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ

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From the
Pastor's
Desk



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Is this me, or is this really God calling me to do something? Is this about my pride, my desires, the things I want, or do those things simply happen to line up with what God is asking me to do?

Those aren't necessarily unfaithful questions. I've come to believe they can be an important part of faith. Those questions help us better understand the one we're in relationship with, and as that relationship grows, they can also help us better understand what we're being asked to do.

I don't need all the answers before I follow. I may not know how something will happen, who will be involved, or what it will eventually look like. But I do need to discern enough to trust that this really is where God is calling me. Then comes the difficult part: stepping forward without demanding the rest of the answers first.

Even then, discernment doesn't end. We continue listening and learning. Sometimes we discover that our original understanding needs to change. We continue to move forward, but we also continue to discern and evaluate, **ADAPTING** as our understanding grows.

Maybe that's because trust itself is relational.

Children don't simply trust everyone. I've seen that countless times. For years I've had one of those voices that can sometimes calm a crying baby or help a little one relax enough to fall asleep. But not every child responds to me that way. Sometimes something as simple as whether I have a beard or goatee can make a difference. For one child, facial hair might remind them of someone they trust and make them more comfortable with me. For another, it might remind them of someone they've learned to be wary of. The difference isn't really the beard. It's the relationships and experiences that child brings with them.

We aren't so different.

Our ability to trust God is affected by what we've experienced, what we've been taught, and even what Christians have shown us about God. Sometimes those experiences need healing. And telling someone, "This is what God is really like," isn't necessarily going to accomplish that.

Perhaps our responsibility is first to accept where someone is and what they're experiencing. We don't need to judge them for their experiences or their understanding or walk away because they aren't responding the way we think they should. We can simply walk with them. We can share who God has been for us and, through our lives, offer another picture of God while giving them room to discover God within their own relationship.

As I look back, I realize that is much of what God has done with me.

My understanding of God hasn't always been as mature as it is today—and I imagine someday I'll say the same thing about what I believe now. God has allowed me to make decisions, experience their consequences, learn, question, wrestle, and grow. When I've misunderstood, God hasn't disappeared. When I've made the wrong decision, God hasn't stopped calling.

God has continued to give me opportunities to grow, to serve, and to become more fully the person God sees in me even when I haven't been able to see that person myself.

And maybe that's where I've discovered something else in the prayer I wrote all those years ago.

Worth.

There really can be joy simply in being called.

Not necessarily because the thing God is asking me to do is joyful. Sometimes it isn't. Sometimes God's call is uncomfortable and carries responsibilities I would rather avoid.

The joy is in realizing that God still sees worth in me.

In a world that can be remarkably good at telling us we're worthless, God continues to call. God continues to have patience. God continues to give us opportunities. There is something powerful in realizing, "God still sees something in me. God still trusts me with something. God sees value in me that neither I nor the world may see."

Maybe I don't need to tell you what that means about your worth to God. Too often, I think we as Christians try to tell people who God is and what God is rather than showing them who God has been for us.

Continued page 4.

HAMMOND TRUNK OR TREATSaturday, October 24th

10am-12pm

Heartland Park in Hammond

*(Set up at 9:30am)*TRICK OR TREAT ON MAINFriday, October 30th

2-4pm

On Main Street in Roberts

*(Set up at 1:30pm)***It's the spookiest time of the year! CE has signed up to be a part of 2 Trunk or Treat events this year!**

Our theme this year is "Come As You Are" and we'd love to have you join us to represent Roberts UCC in our community! We'll provide the trunk, you just come hand out candy in whatever "costume" you would like! And if you can't make it but still want to help, we are expecting 500-600 kids between the two events and would love some help with candy donations! We plan to bag the goodies along with a little flyer with Roberts UCC information. Please have all candy donations to the church by **Sunday, October 18th**.

See Toni Williams for any questions.OKTOBERFEST
CHILI COOKOFF

&

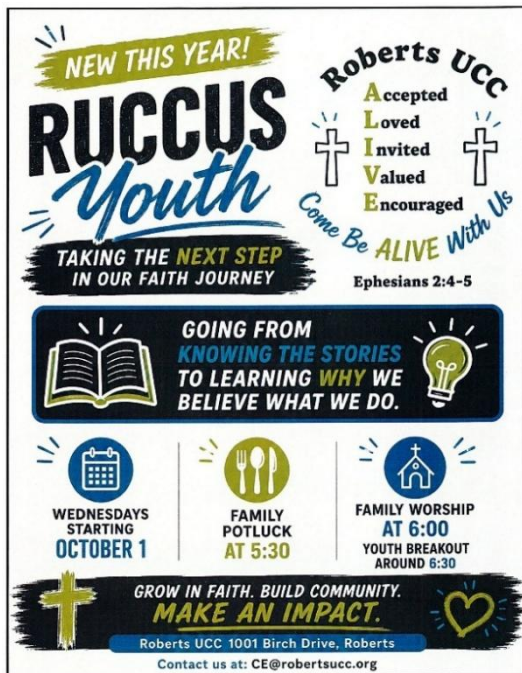
BAKE SALE*Hosted by the 2026 confirmands!*

Sunday, October 25th

11:30am - 1:30pm

Join us for a Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale. This event is to raise money to support Safe Haven Foster Shoppe, an organization that supports foster children and their foster families.

If you'd like to sign up as a chili contestant or volunteer to make treats for the bake sale, please talk to **Toni Williams (563) 379-0786** or CE@robertsucc.org for rules and sign-up list.



NEW THIS YEAR!! RUCCUS YOUTH

The CE team has decided to add a RUCCUS Youth portion to our weekly RUCCUS gatherings. This will be open to anyone in **5th grade or older**. While we will continue to have our potluck and family style worship at the beginning of RUCCUS nights, we feel it's time some of our big kids are offered the chance to take a deeper dive into their faith and begin to discuss not just the stories, but why we believe what we do, and how we can apply that to our daily lives.

If that sounds like it might be important to you, well, you're never too old to be a RUCCUS kid and we'd love to have you join us!

If you have any questions about RUCCUS, please contact Toni Williams at ce@robertsucc.org.

RUCCUS IS GOING WEEKLY!

RUCCUS is moving to weekly events! Starting **Wednesday, October 1st**, RUCCUS will be held every Wednesday until the Christmas program. We hope you join us this fall to study *The Messengers*, those who have gone before us spreading God's word and love to the world and how we can do the same!

We start with a **family potluck at 5:30**; please bring a dish to pass and plates, silverware, and drinks for your crew. At **6:00 (ish)** we start our family worship where we learn a Bible story together, sing some great songs, and spend time together with God. **At around 6:30 we split into groups for adults, kids, and new this year RUCCUS youth for grades 5 and up.**



Instead, maybe I can simply invite you to look.

Where have you seen God at work in your life lately?

Is there something you sense God calling you toward?

How do you imagine God sees you?

And perhaps most importantly, as you look back over your own journey, where has God remained with you while you questioned, struggled, misunderstood, learned, and grew?

More than a decade later, I still find myself praying the prayer I wrote back then. I would just add something to it now:

Lord, help me discern what you are calling me to do rather than simply following my own desires. Give me the freedom to question, wrestle, listen, and grow in my relationship with you. And when I have discerned enough to recognize your call, help me trust you enough to follow without needing all the answers.

Help me remember that you are still with me as I learn along the way.

And help me find joy in knowing that you still find me worthy to be called.

Yours in the Family of Christ,

Pastor Burt

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COMMUNITY DINNER

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

Thursday, October 1, 2026

4:30pm – 6:00pm

Baked Spaghetti & French Bread

Lettuce Salad & Relish Tray

Assorted Bars

Beverages

Adults: \$7 Children: \$4 Under 5: FREE

Take Out Meals are Available Upon Request

Dinners are served on the 1st Thursday of each month & offer a wonderful way to connect with others in the church and the surrounding community. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, contact Judy Snoeyenbos at 715-410-1909.



Thank you to the small group who packed meals at Feed My Starving Children on September 12th which will be distributed to hungry kids around the world.

Our small and mighty team's table packed 28 boxes of healthy meals!



🌲 **SAVE THE DATE & SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS CHEER!** 🌲

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

2nd Annual Christmas Craft Sale

SHOP • CRAFT • GIVE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

ROBERTS UCC CHURCH

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

KIDS' CRAFT SALE AREA!

More information & registration

Please contact **Danielle Johnson**

jdd.johnson08@gmail.com

or **Jane Bond** jhn.bond@gmail.com.



Please log on <https://www.raiseright.com/> to find instructions for setting up an account with *RaiseRight* to benefit Roberts Congregational UCC. Our Participant code is **24AA8C4E36429**.

There are many effortless ways to earn funds for our church.

Purchase Gift Cards from the many brands found on the site: Traditional, Reloadable, and E-gift cards are available.

Shop Online – See specific brands listed on the website.

Now Available – Earn 5% on local dining with rebates from local restaurants. **How it Works** - it's as easy as "set it and forget it"—simply link a credit or debit card once, and you'll earn 5% every time you use it to dine at 20,000+ participating restaurants nationwide. All rebates are electronically deposited to our Roberts UCC SCRIP bank account.

RaiseRight also offers a **Mobile App**.

There are so many possibilities, and it is an effortless way to raise funds for our church.

Please go to the *RaiseRight* site and explore.

If questions, please ask **Dianne Loewel**, (651) 343-7614 or gmaloewel@gmail.com.



ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER & ONLINE GIVING

TIRED OF WRITING CHECKS? We offer an easier way to donate without having to write checks (*especially if you are out of town or cannot come to church*).

WE OFFER EFT – The withdrawal date is the 15th of each month. Complete "Recurring ACH Payment Authorization Form" once/year and don't worry about getting your monthly contribution to the church. The form is available on our website https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:9ada88c3-f4c2-4589-9783-ef2cb325e98b?x_api_client_id=chrome_extension_viewer&x_api_client_location=share.

If you do not have website or internet options, please contact the office secretary@robertsucc.org and I would be happy to get one to you.

ONLINE - You can also give directly through our website, <https://robertsucc.org>. In the menu, select "Giving," then "Give Now." It will take you to the donations page or go directly to: <http://robertsucc.org/giving> where you can use your PayPal account or credit/debit card.

**October 1**

Wanda Hopkins

October 4

Steve Nelson

October 5

Jerry Mueller

October 9

Katy Kapaun

October 11

Dennis Thorsen

October 12

Tori Williams

October 14Bentley Muller
Camille Budrow**October 15**

Hayley Henley

October 16

Sharon Pizzi

October 21

Carrie Fisher

October 22

Brent Ackley

October 26

Darrell Nelson

October 29Kaiden Hueman
Kamaria Stone
Sheryl Budrow**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

**PRAYER LIST**Earl Pechuman
Kinsley Bruun
Jason Muller
Amber Hollo
Chalie KammLowell Johnson
Nikki Freeman
Krystal Gaustad
Tom HessWanda Hopkins
Todd Graf
June Melloy
James Schnacky

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, or anyone you know, would like to be added to the prayer list, please let us know. If you have added someone to the prayer list, please keep us updated.

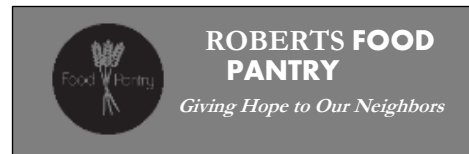
Do you or anyone you know need help with groceries?

The Food Pantry is available to help.

We thank you for your continued generosity in serving our community.

Your prayers & support mean so much to so many!

We are low on: Paper products, laundry soap, dish soap, cake frosting, Jell-O, canned chicken, and pudding.



OPEN WEEKLY

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00am – 11:30am

Wednesdays

6:30pm – 8:00pm

715-749-3478

We also accept brown paper & white plastic bags.

Thank you for providing us with egg cartons! We are well stocked!

**Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ
Council Report
September 2026**

No meeting was held this report is done from board reports.

Trustees

The church has been approached by a Christian School about using our facility; we are looking into this as it fits our mission with the community.
The auction was successful and evolves.

CE

Family game night is September 16.
RUCCUS goes weekly starting October 7.
Working on bringing in community helpers for some of the nights depending on the theme of the night, EMT, Police, School counselor.
Christmas program currently planned for December 12.
Talking about doing Trunk or Treat.
Checking with confirmands to see if they are going to get the chili cook-off going.
Looking to host an author presentation for the book Beautifully Over It.

S.H.I.F.T.

Did the food stand for the auction and provided dinner for Grace Place.
Reached out to the schools to determine the need for Feel Good Kits.

Women's Fellowship

Fall rummage sale is approaching fast.
Old service cart has been replaced.
Discussion held on the proposed use of the church facilities for the Christian school.

Deacons

Pastor on vacation November 9-23.
Discussed the visitation team.

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**Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ
Council Report
September 2026**

Stewardship Sunday is November 8. Presentations will be given in church to make the church aware of more ways in which they may get involved.

Pastor

August began with a discernment service at our annual picnic and ended with our congregation appreciation service.

CE team making preparations for fall, plans for meeting weekly with a greater attention to the different needs of younger and older children.

Pastoral care continues to represent a significant portion of my ministry.

Reconnect with CBT team, continue congregational study, moving the visitation team process forward, support CE and other ministries teams, and maintain a steady pastoral care presence.

Submitted by

Laura Logas, Church Clerk

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

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

General Fund Financial Summary as of August 31, 2026

Statement of Activity			Statement of Financial Position		
			Assets		
Income/Contributions	\$	26,727.29	General Accounts	\$	13,543.62
Interest		<u>0.20</u>	SCRIP Account		2,167.82
Total Income		26,727.49	Memorial Accounts		16,979.09
Expenses		17,809.45	Fixed Assets	\$	<u>1,855,473.62</u>
Transfers from other accounts		<u>-</u>	Total Assets	\$	1,888,164.15
Net Activity		8,918.04			
			Liabilities & Equity		
			Accrued Expenses	\$	-
			Bank Mortgage Balances		517,867.61
			Member Mortgage Balances		<u>150,000.00</u>
			Total Liabilities		667,867.61
			Equity		<u>1,220,296.54</u>
			Total Liabilities & Equity	\$	<u><u>1,888,164.15</u></u>



Dates & times of worship, meetings, and events could change. Please check the website www.robertsucc.org for the "real time" calendar.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3:30pm WF Meeting 4:30pm Community Dinner 6pm Council Meeting	2	3
4 10am Worship w/Holy Communion	5	6 6pm Deacons Meeting	7 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS 6:30pm Bell Choir	8	9	10
11 10am Worship	12 6:30pm SHIFT! Meeting <i>Columbus Day</i>	13 6:00pm CE Meeting	14 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS 6:30pm Bell Choir	15 5pm SHIIFT! Prepares & delivers a meal to <i>Grace Place</i>	16	17
18 10am Worship	19	20 6:30pm Trustees Meeting <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS 6:30pm Bell Choir	22	23	24 10am – 12pm Hammond Trunk or Treat
25 10am Worship 11:30am – 1:30pm Chili Cook-off & Bake Sale	26	27	28 5:30pm RUCCUS Potluck 6pm RUCCUS 6:30pm Bell Choir	29	30 2-4pm Trick or Treat on Main	31



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