

September 2014

The Spirit

Of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

A Celebration of Life

Birthdays should be a celebration of life and thanksgiving! I know that is exactly how we will celebrate our 175th. RCLPC is full of life. From our dedicated staff to our wonderful volunteers to our quiet but always faithful members. From our worship to our service, from our prudent financial approach to our magnificent generosity. All of it is so full of life and done with a great sense of thanksgiving.

We have been blessed in our faithful following of Jesus for nearly two centuries. We will continue to be blessed as we work to remain relevant, useful and faithful into tomorrow and all the days to come.

When I tell people where I serve as a pastor, the reaction to RCLPC is always positive. Our place in the community and Presbytery is respected and valued. We are alive in Christ! Let us be thankful!

I regret that I am not going to be able to join in the celebrations due to my recent accident. However, celebrating life and thanksgiving is not just for special occasions. We should do it every moment of every day. With fractures in my neck and spine, every the doctor I have seen has told me I am fortunate to be alive and even more fortunate to not be in a wheelchair. Although my recovery will be slow, I will recover and for that I am truly thankful.

I am also thankful, almost beyond words, for the love, support and care I have received from Louise and my children and from the many cards, calls, visits, offers of help, gifts and, of course, prayers which you RCLPC have showered upon me.

175 Blessings to one and all!
John Dillon, Ridgefield-Crystal Lake PC(USA)

Psalm 100—A Psalm of thanksgiving.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the LORD is God.

**It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pas-
ture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

**For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**



WE'RE HAVING A PARTY!

RCLPC is turning 175 years old this year, and we are having a great big party for this special occasion. On Sunday, September 21, the congregation will worship together at 10:00, followed by a special program that tells the story of our church highlighted by wonderful music. Following the program, we all meet in Fellowship Hall for a good old-fashioned potluck. All are invited, so be sure to RSVP by signing up in the Connecting Link now.

Fair Trade Coffee Cart



The fall fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate order will be placed soon. We are always glad to order your favorite products. Check the Equal Exchange website, <http://www.equalexchange.coop/>, Products tab, to see what they have available. Keep in mind that the wholesale prices for interfaith partners are lower than what the website lists. And if you wish to order your own 6-package case of tea or coffee, or a 12-bar chocolate box, additional savings are yours. Let us know before September 29 if you have a request (lois-rick@comcast.net).

By purchasing fairly traded products through the Presbyterian Coffee Project -- the products you find on the Coffee Cart in Fellowship Hall, you are directly supporting the Presbyterian Hunger Program's essential relief and development work around the world. Thank you!

Jewel Stamps Drive!

Jewel food store is giving out stamps now for a new set of pots and pans. (Last year they were giving out dishes.) If you shop at Jewel, please save the stamps and bring them to the RCLPC office and put them in the specially marked container. Mary Finch will get them to Home of the Sparrow.



Blackhawk Presbytery “Kits Challenge”

Each year Blackhawk Presbytery asks all churches of the Presbytery to contribute kits for Church World Service. We have been challenged to assemble at least **35 School Kits** and **1 Emergency Bucket** this year.

Look for the school desk in the Gathering Place. On it you will find small notes that name specific items needed for the kits and bucket. All items need to be new and in exact sizes and quantities.

Return your items by September 28 so they can be assembled into kits, delivered to Presbytery, and sent on to people in need here and around the world.

In gratitude for the life of ministry we share,
the Mission Team



What is Scrip Fundraising? It's Fundraising While You Shop!

Purchase gift cards from America's most popular retailers and use them for your everyday purchases. Our Mission Fund will receive the benefits! Scrip gift cards are the same gift cards you purchase from retailers, the only difference is when we order them through the Scrip program, the Mission Fund receives a cash rebate from each retailer card purchased. Choose from over 300 retailers including grocery, home improvement and department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, theaters and more. By planning ahead on everyday purchases such as your groceries, gas, and dining out you can help raise funds that are needed for Missions. Pick out the retailers you use and order your Scrip gift cards today! Ordering is easy! Just go to the bulletin board in the Connecting Link, fill out the order form, write your check to RCLPC, place the order in the office, in the basket on the desk and within a week or so of the deadline your cards will be here. We order Scrip gift cards each month and when the cards are in, they will be placed in Joan Jensema's mailbox and we notify you by e-mail. Orders for this month are due by Sunday, Sept. 28th, by 11:00 am. The church is in need of gas cards in the office if you would like to purchase one. Questions... call or e-mail Joan Jensema or Nancy Blakely.

Plan Ahead for Adult Ed

Living the Gospel beyond the US while in the US

An exciting Adult Education series is coming to RCLPC this fall.

Beginning September 14, Ann Legg will present a 3-week series on Colombia, Venezuela and El Salvador, three countries to which she has recently traveled. On September 14, Ann will show a brief video that gives a historical background of the country, share what she observed on a recent trip to Colombia and give an update on the peace process currently taking place between the government and the main rebel group. On September 28, she will tell about her experiences in El Salvador which she visits every year to teach English to adults, study Spanish and visit with Chilama, the sister community supported by Friends of Chilama, a McHenry County group affiliated with US-El Salvador Sister Cities. On October 5, she will share her impressions of Venezuela after a trip there in July of this year.

Beginning October 12, Alice Haznedl will facilitate a class using Zionism Unsettled, a study guide prepared by the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA).

What role have Zionism and Christian Zionism played in shaping attitudes and driving historical developments in the Middle East and around the world? How do Christians, Jews, and Muslims understand the competing claims to the land of Palestine and Israel? What steps can we take to bring peace, reconciliation, and justice to the homeland that Palestinians and Israelis share?

Zionism Unsettled embraces these critical issues fearlessly and with inspiring scope. The booklet and companion DVD draw together compelling and diverse viewpoints from Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Israel, Palestine, the US, and around the globe. By contrasting mainstream perceptions with important alternative perspectives frequently ignored in the media, Zionism Unsettled is an invaluable guide to deeper understanding.

Note: Participants in this class are informed that the Zionism Unsettled study guide, prepared by the Israel Palestine Mission Network (a PCUSA Mission agency), was the subject of a PCUSA General Assembly resolution this past June, well after the publication and distribution of the study guide. The resolution declares that Zionism Unsettled does not represent the views of PCUSA. If you have questions, please contact Alice Haznedl or Mike Rugh, Compassion, Peace and Justice Team facilitator.

Come and see what the fuss is all about.

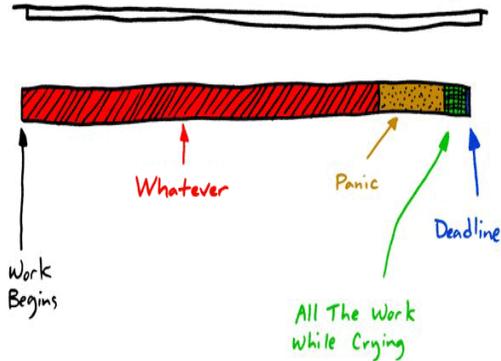


Children's Sunday School, preschool through high school, is off and running!

Last week, for Kick-off Sunday, the kids had fun going around the neighborhood on a mission outreach to our neighbors, inviting them to our 175th anniversary celebration. Regular Sunday school begins on September 14th at 10:00 during the education hour. RCLPC is blessed to have such dedicated Sunday school teachers who will be in the classroom every Sunday to help our children on their faith journey. Parents, please stop by your child's classroom to check over and sign off on the registration spreadsheet. The Bible verse bookmark reward program for preschool through fifth grade is new this year. See your teacher for more info. It is going to be a great year in Sunday school! Hope to see you there.

***START THE PROCESS NOW!
OCTOBER SPIRIT ARTICLES
DUE OCTOBER 3RD!***

THE CREATIVE PROCESS



Toothpaste For Dinner.com

10 AM Sunday Adult Education Offerings.....

Focus on Colombia --

Stop in the *Lounge*....Ann Legg will show a brief video that gives a historical background of the country, share what she observed on a recent trip to Colombia and give an update on the peace process currently taking place between the government and the main rebel group.

Need a Christian perspective on the news? Mosey over to *Pastor John's office*. Bring your coffee. Discuss a stimulating "Wired Word" news topic and how it touches your faith.



Time and Talent Stewardship Survey 2014-15

We are thankful for each of you who does God's work and shows God's love. Thankful for the life of ministry we share. Thankful for 175 years of God's grace and generosity. Join us as Ministers of RCLPC on this continuing journey by completing the Time and Talent Stewardship Survey. It is available under the Giving button at the rclpc.org website, or you can pick up a paper copy from the ushers' tables. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by September 28 and return it to the church office--electronically, by mail, or by placing it in the envelope on the office desk. The gifts you share serve God's people within RCLPC and beyond its walls and ourselves. ~ Thank you, Stewardship Team



A David Sington/Simon Lamb Film

THIN ICE

THE INSIDE STORY OF CLIMATE SCIENCE

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7pm-9pm

Thursday, Sept. 18, 3pm-5pm

MCC Luecht Conference Center

Thin Ice follows Dr. Simon Lamb, geologist, around the world to explore what is really happening with global warming, through filming of scientists at work. The event is sponsored by Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, and co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters and Citizens Climate Lobby. Join us to see this award-winning film! ~ Earth Care Team