

The Spirit

March 2015

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

RCLPC Receives Grant from Presbyterian Hunger Program

RCLPC recently received an award letter from the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) notifying us that we received an \$800 grant given to congregations that work to transform the food system. The PHP grants are given to congregations engaging youth and multiple generations, acting to increase healthy eating and local economic growth, supporting local farmers, raising awareness about local and global hunger and poverty, and encouraging a view of food as sacred and as a right for all people.

Year 'round we work to feed our neighbors and educate ourselves about hunger and poverty. Ongoing efforts include providing lunches for PADS clients, serving hungry neighbors at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry, and raising funds to meet those needs. We participate in the fall CROP Hunger Walk. This month, we hold our annual Offering of Letters on behalf of hungry people, asking our legislators to strengthen programs that feed hungry children. We can help change the statistic that nearly 10% of McHenry County's children live in poverty, which goes hand-in-hand with hunger.

Our food distributions bring RCLPC families, youth, seniors, and everyone in between to provide hospitality and food to McHenry County neighbors. When we offer local produce, we support McHenry County farmers and distribute healthy, fresh, sustainable food.

PHP grants are made possible by the generous giving of Presbyterians to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which RCLPC receives during the season of Lent and Easter.

~ Mission Outreach Ministry



Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 29th 9 & 11 am

“Requiem” by Bradley Ellingboe

Presented by the adult choir and guest musicians

Maundy Thursday— April 2, 6:30pm

Join us in Fellowship Hall as we feast and pray together, considering God’s promise and call to abundant life. We also remember Jesus’ commandment to us (“Maundy” comes from “mandatum”= commandment) that we love one another the way he love us—extravagantly and without reservation, even to the end. In Jesus’ redefinition of the Passover feast, we see God’s abundance, the joy God desires for us, and the true meaning of love—to be broken and poured out for others. We’ll share a simple meal of soup and bread and explore the story together.

Please sign up in the Connecting Link so we know how much food to prepare.

Good Friday—April 3, 7pm

We gather in the Sanctuary to remember that sometimes the world prefers darkness to light.

Easter Services, Sunday, April 5

8:00, 9:00, 10:15 and 11:15am

Hallelujah!

Easter Breakfast will be served by the Men’s Group
in Fellowship Hall from 8:30-11am.



Children's Sunday School Easter Basket Mission

Believe it or not, spring is just around the corner! So that means it is time for our wonderful church wide mission project of collecting donations for Easter baskets for families of Home of the Sparrow. The children need your help with filling the baskets. In addition to needing baskets, ideas for donations are: candy, snacks (peanut free), fast food gift cards, read-

ing/coloring books, markers/crayons, small stuffed animals, card games, puzzles, bubbles, jump ropes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. **No plastic eggs are needed.** The children's Sunday school classes will be helping to put the baskets together and fill eggs on Palm Sunday, so donations are needed **by Wednesday, March 25th.** With compassion and generosity RCLPC has always met the challenge.

There are approximately **17 children** and their ages range from two months to 16 years old. There are presently **14 moms** and I am sure they would love some lotions, bath gels, shampoo, etc., along with \$10.00 gift cards for (Target, Wal-Mart, etc.).

Thank you so much for your consideration in helping with this mission project and for helping to make a joy filled Easter for the Home of the Sparrow families. Donations can be dropped off in the box across from the office and gift cards can be placed in my mailbox near the stairs. Monetary donations can be dropped in the offering plate and marked "Easter Baskets" and will be used to purchase items for the baskets. Any questions, feel free to contact

Karen Nelson @ nelsvenska55@sbcglobal.net or 815/477-4862. On behalf of the children's Sunday school classes, thank you in advance for your generosity.

Men's Group Pancake Breakfast

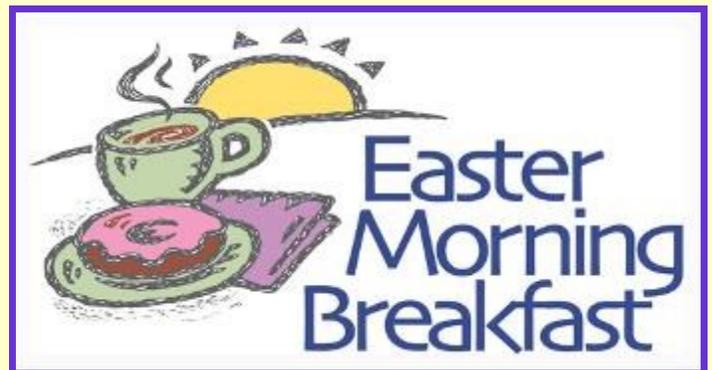
The RCLPC Men's Group wants to invite everyone to have breakfast at church on Easter Sunday. We will be serving in the fellowship hall beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m.

Of course, we will be serving the traditional pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage. But this year we are also featuring a "make your own yogurt parfait" table. Fresh fruit, granola and sweetener will be available to allow you to customize your bowl of delight.

Coffee, tea, orange juice and water will be on the beverage table.

This event raises money for our youth group's summer mission trip to the homeland of the Rosebud Sioux Nation. A freewill offering will be taken at the breakfast.

Come hungry! Leave happy!



Earth Care Classes

Several exciting learning opportunities have been planned for April 12 - May 3 during the 10:00 education hour. Wander the Green Living Fair. Attend a class about climate change in Alaska, restoring your backyard, or powering up with solar energy. Please join us if you are free at that time.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." Psalm 24: 1



Green Living Fair Sunday, April 12, 10-11am



Do you have a eco-friendly tip or activity that you want to share with your RCLPC friends? Some ideas for displays: trash-to-treasure projects, energy savings tips, how to attract more butterflies and birds to your yard, or how to extend the growing season.

If so, contact Pat & Terry Dieckhoff by March 29 to reserve a table for your "eco-friendly" product or service.

815-245-5658

tpdieckhoff@ameritech.net

Golf - coming soon?

Coordinator needed! What does it take to host the annual Jim Holder Golf Outing? Information on past events and help is available.

Date - Thursday, August 6, 2015 (reserved)

Location - Cary Country Club (reserved)

You can make the 4th annual Jim Holder Memorial Golf Outing happen by volunteering to LEAD. **Contact RCLPC office by March 15 to volunteer** as coordinator of this fun, profitable (fundraiser for RCLPC) and worthwhile event. A commitment is needed to confirm the date and location and to organize the details. Will you step up? Will you enable a lot of dedicated golfers to be in this picture?





The Easter Experience
Bible study
March 15 & 22 in the
Lounge

What have you done to prepare for Easter?...And, we're not talking about planning what ham to buy for Easter dinner or what candy to purchase for bunny baskets....Instead, we're talking about getting ready spiritually....To help set your mind and spirit on the proper course during Lent, we invite you to attend the two-week "Easter Experience" bible study. Watch absorbing and moving video episodes that recreate Christ's passion and resurrection. Begin to understand a key concept: "What if what happened then, changes everything now." Attendees will discuss what they saw and how the life-changing message of Easter can inspire. Where? *The Lounge*

Guide to Giving at RCLPC

At Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church (RCLPC), we live with a spirit of thankfulness. Whether it's serving, leading, sharing in fellowship, or placing financial gifts in the offering plate, the evidence is all around us. Time, talents, financial resources. All given freely in response to God's gift of grace.

A variety of avenues are available for giving to the General Fund:

Personal checks/cash directly to RCLPC



Online banking (bill pay) -- Your bank sends a check drawn from your funds.

Online giving through church website at www.rclpc.org -- Click on "Giving to RCLPC" to be directed to the General Fund through our partnership with Presbyterian Mission Exchange.

QR code -- Readable barcode directs givers to RCLPC's General Fund through Presbyterian Mission Exchange

Using Presbyterian Mission Exchange:

A receipt, which you need to keep for tax purposes, will be emailed to you directly by the Exchange.

When giving online, direct transfer is preferred.

If you are interested in giving online, look for a how-to handout on the ushers' tables. Contact the church office if you need more information. Whatever way you choose to give, please in-



Offering of Letters March 15, 2015

You are invited to join thousands of Christians from all over the United States as we focus on child nutrition programs. With a tradition of bipartisan support since the 1940s, child nutrition programs are seen as wise investments in the health and well-being of our nation's children.

These programs are more important than ever. As a result of persistent poverty and stagnant wages, one in five American children lives in a family that struggles to put food on the table. For these children, access to nutritious food throughout the year is essential to their health, learning, and growth--both now and in the future. This is the time to ask our nation's decision makers to protect child nutrition programs from cuts, while improving children's access to these programs.

Pray to orient our spiritual lives to encounter God and be ready to reach out to people who struggle with hunger and poverty. Pray for our nation's leaders.

Act to translate our faith into activities: the Offering of Letters, the Food Pantry work days, the PADS lunch assembly, the food distributions.

Give to end hunger through organizations such as PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, as well as local and international efforts.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall before or after the worship services on Sunday, March 15, for an opportunity to act. The most effective form of communication with our members of Congress is still a hand-written letter, and a few moments to pen a brief letter can make a difference for God's people in need. Stationery and sample letters will be provided, as well as bread on the tables and coffee brewing in the pots for all.



You may recall that last year's letters asked for the reform of U.S. international food aid. We can celebrate that 1.5 million more of the world's most desperately hungry people receive food aid now. Our letter writing makes a difference in their lives. Let's do this together for the sake of our children--and for the benefit of all of us. ~ Mission Outreach Ministry

Coming this Summer to RCLPC!

Eat, Play, Give!

Each Performance: A Different Charity!



RCLPC presents:

You Can't Take It With You!

www.rclpctheater.com

July 24 - Aug 2, 2015

8505 Church St.
Ridgefield, IL

708-267-2572

For Dinner Theater show times, visit the website or call.

Adult \$30

Senior (60+) or Student \$25 / Child (under 6) \$10

A Wacky, All-American Comedy: Fireworks, Taxes... and Apple Pie, of course!

“Fun, funds and fellowship!”

Dinner theater, AS EASY AS 1-2-3:

Come see it! We would love to have at least 60 in the audience for each of the 6 performances. Visit our website at www.rclpctheater.com

Help in the kitchen! The church members (group?) who decide to pre-prepare a meal will also determine which mission project gets the proceeds from that meal.

Join the group! We need help in casting, building the set, publicizing, running the show, etc. Although this will be a professional production, we can't afford to put on a show without many generous volunteers!



Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 – MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015
DOUBLETREE HOTEL, CRYSTAL CITY | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Come to Washington, DC, April 17-20, 2015, for the 13th Annual National Gathering of Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice titled, “Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation.”

Everywhere people are facing severe human rights violations for political and economic gain.

- The United States holding nearly a quarter of the world’s prisoners.
- Young children forced to work in mineral mines in the Congo.
- African Farmers forced off their land as part of corporate land grabbing.
- Low-income people in the United States whose education has been systemically neglected

How can we the church turn these tragedies into triumphs? Come to Advocacy Training Weekend to take a long hard look at these issues and seek solutions that are theologically and biblically based. Training will kickoff April 17, 2015 with Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day, a special pre-conference for Presbyterians. Learning will continue with our ecumenical sisters and brothers during Ecumenical Advocacy Days the remainder of the weekend.

“As people of Hope, we are reminded that Jesus’ radical message was one of liberation for all and restoration of right relationships. Through prayer, worship, advocacy training, networking and mobilization with other Christians, we will face the reality of mass incarceration and corporate exploitation, and call for national policies that bring liberation both to the prisoner and to a world in need of restoration – all culminating with EAD’s Congressional Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.”

For more information about EAD, visit <http://advocacydays.org/2015-breaking-the-chains/>

PCUSA Amendment 14-F Update

RCLPC's Compassion, Peace and Justice Team would like to share with the congregation the progress of Amendment 14-F to the Book of Order.

The 221st General Assembly took two steps toward honoring the covenant of marriage for all couples regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity – an authoritative interpretation (AI) of the current section W-4.9000 in the Book of Order, and a proposed amendment to that section.

The AI makes clear that the Book of Order as it currently stands does not prohibit a Presbyterian minister from officiating at the marriage of a same-gender couple in civil jurisdictions where such marriages are legal. Proposed Amendment 14-F revises the Directory for Worship to reflect the reality that marriage in a growing number of U.S. states is no longer restricted to “a man and a woman.”

The 221st GA approved Amendment 14-F by a 71% margin (meaning 71% of the commissioners voted for the measure) – thereby, expressing the strong desire to help the PC(USA) move beyond the decades-long conflict over human sexuality by ensuring that the Book of Order embraces the faithful views of a diverse church.

The amendment now has to be ratified by the presbyteries and prospects are looking good – you can follow what we know about presbytery votes here: <http://covnetpres.org/amendment-14-f-vote-chart/>. Accordingly it does seem likely that the amendment will pass. Our own Blackhawk Presbytery voted for the amendment with a vote of 63-53. If 86 presbyteries approve, the new language will become part of the Book of Order on June 21. Some websites with more information about this amendment: <http://covnetpres.org/2014/11/marriage-amendment-14-f-doesnt/> and <http://covnetpres.org/2014/09/marriage-matters-now-thoughts-church-talks-sex-marriage-2/>,

RCLPC is a member of Covenant Network (CN) of Presbyterians. The CN's mission is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC (USA). For more information visit their website: covnetpres.org

Session Highlights

February 23, 2015

Welcomed Rev. Phyllis Mueller as the meeting's moderator

Approved Session Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2015 and Congregation Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2015

Approved member status change to Active for Ann Vornsand

The 2014 Financial Audit Report was presented by Dan Schweers (Audit Team Lead).

Three motions approved from the presentation and discussion:

Approved that Personnel Committee to review and approve policies that ensure approval of Nursery Day Care staff actual work hours for payroll.

Approved that Personnel Committee to consult with Blackhawk Presbytery on the Director of Youth and Children Ministries job position being an exempt or a non-exempt position and revised position as needed.

Approved that Personnel Committee to find one or more persons to cross train with Treasurer and update procedures manual to reflect current processes Treasurer is using.

Reviewed Congregation Notification Plan for RCLPC church closures

Reviewed action from the February 10th Blackhawk Presbytery meeting. Presbytery approved:

Sabbatical Leave Policy for Churches

Confession of Belhar to be added to Book of Confessions

7 Amendments to the Book of Order

Reviewed the January 2015 Year to Date financial report – Income: \$21,521.72; Expenses: \$21,468.50; Income less expenses: \$52.92

Direction to obtain opinion on Insurance Policy coverage for an AED and the stage for Dinner Theater

Approved \$400 from Session account for hosting the April Presbytery Meeting

Next meeting March 23, 2015.