



The SPIRIT of the season of **Harvest**

Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church
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QUEST

Definitions:

Noun: Investigation, pursuit, search; a search or pursuit made in order to find or obtain something; a long search for something that is difficult to find.

Verb: to go on a quest; to search for; to ask for.

Examples of use: Setting out on a quest for the meaning of life. Nothing will stop them in their quest for truth. She went on a spiritual quest.

These are a few of the dictionary definitions for the word **Quest** and I am sure you can see their immediate application to our faith journey. Over the next few months “Quest” will be the unifying theme of our worship, learning and service.

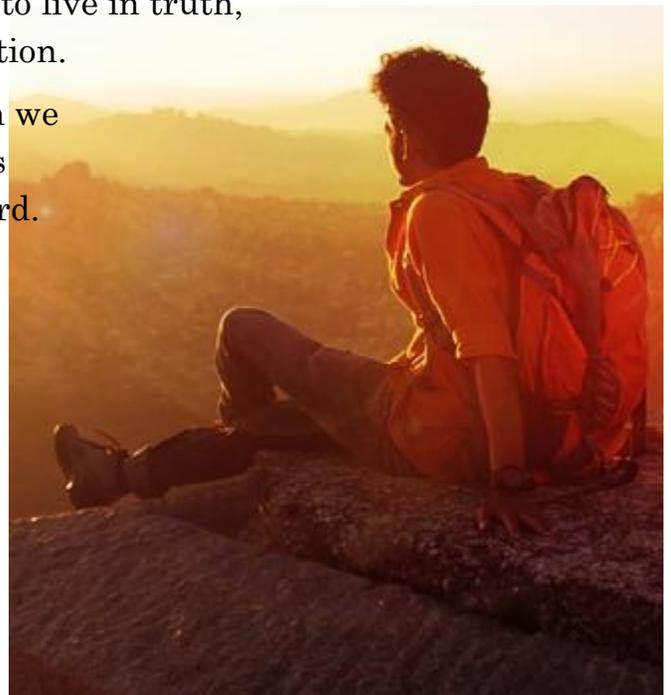
In worship we will be exploring many different situations and people in scripture who are searching for truth, trying to live in truth, looking for meaning in their life and their situation.

In Faith Encounters and all our Youth outreach we will be exploring how God through Jesus fills us with Spirit to fuel our search and lead us forward.

In service we will be doing all we can to put our words and thoughts into practice... becoming the hands and feet and word of God on earth.

You can be part of this Quest. You are part of this Quest! Please join us and participate, and together we shall continue the Quest that is RCLPC, part of God’s people in this place and time.

Your pastor and friend, John.



How Can YOU Keep from Singing?

Calling all adult choir members and high school aged singers to choir rehearsal, **Wednesday, September 4, from 7:15 to 8:45pm.** Our fall kickoff begins with preparations for 11:00 worship on September 8. Are you new to RCLPC? Maybe you've been worshipping with us for quite some time and would like to check out the cool choir scene. We are a singing community of believers which enjoys a wide range of abilities and experiences. Everyone is welcome. Our Christmas cantata this year is ***A Day for Dancing*** by Lloyd Pfautsch.

PLEASE join us for singing and fellowship on September 4.

"Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can we keep from singing?"

Please direct questions to Sherri Dees, sherri@rclpc.org.

from Fellowship Team...

The theme for this year's harvest season at RCLPC will be "The Quest." The deacons will be planning a fellowship activity based on this theme. Watch for announcements for a fun, exciting activity during this season that will be challenging the members of RCLPC to make a personal quest for growth. Fun for all! ~ The Fellowship Team



MISSION

What is God Calling You to Do?

Mission Team believes we are all seeking to find ourselves as people of God. In so doing we seek to understand how God is calling us to live. The task of the Mission Team is to help members on their quest to find where God is calling them and how they are called to serve their neighbors. The Mission Team has more opportunities than we have the talent to do. We want to invite each member to see what part he/she can play in how we, as a church, do mission.

Perhaps you feel called to help in local mission. We invite you to consider on-going missions such as Crystal Lake Food Pantry, PADS, SCRIP Cards, and volunteering at the Old Firehouse Assistance Center. Upcoming special opportunities in the next few months include Compassion for Campers on Monday, September 23, Crop Walk on Sunday, September 29, and our Cookie Walk in December.

Perhaps you feel called to help with global mission. We invite you to consider on-going missions such as Living Waters for the World, the Kenya Project, and supporting children in Colombia and at Fairhaven. Upcoming opportunities include the visit of the mission co-worker from Colombia on September 14 and 15, help with the Presbytery school and hygiene kits, the Global Gift Shop on November 24, a Living Waters special fundraiser in November, the Giving Tree in December, and the PCUSA Special Offerings in October and December.

If mission is your passion, please consider joining our Mission Team. We are a very active team with lots of opportunities to serve. Also, **come and spend some time with us on September 29 at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall** where we can better explain our opportunities and answer any questions you might have.

Earth Care Team -

Quest to be Good and Faithful Caretakers of God's Creation

A story may be defined as a character coping in terms of a quest, a search for something, a goal to strive toward, or simply as a question to answer. Earth Care Team is on a continuing quest, and our story is about our goal of discerning God's hope and will for our efforts to be caretakers of God's creation and all within it.

How have we fared on our quest to date? First, our church once again has been certified by PC(USA) as an Earth Care Congregation, having accomplished the actions toward caring for God's earth in the categories of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Other stops along the way in our quest include the annual Green Living Fair held in April in Fellowship Hall. The Fair highlighted ways we could be good stewards of the planet through recycling, becoming informed about water issues in our county, and learning about actions we can take to address climate change, just to name a few.

We maintain an earth care link on our RCLPC web page. Currently, it includes information about Blackhawk Presbytery's Action for Climate, photos from the Green Living Fair, Green Living Tips, and new information about recycling. A Prayer for the Earth is always included on our web page.

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MISSION

Earth Care Team - (continued)

Energy-saving steps we've taken this year in our quest include installation of vinyl shades for the library/lounge, a remote controller for the coffee-maker, and a bottle-filling station maintained in Fellowship Hall.

Our quest for care of creation in the coming months will investigate new energy-saving priorities. Our bottle-filling station has saved over 5000 plastic bottles, and we would like to consider installing a second station in the Gathering Place, not only for convenience, but because it provides safer, filtered water while saving the use of disposable plastic bottles.

Our quest for earth care outside the church building will take us to meeting with a Land Conservancy staff member to survey the church grounds to find out what we need to do to receive the Land Conservancy Conservation at Church certification. This certification is awarded for being environmentally responsible land stewards through incorporating native plants, landscaping for wildlife, conserving water, and using eco-friendly lawn care products.

Our quest will take us on the journey of offering two adult education classes this fall. The classes Earth Care has planned include learning about the current policy proposals at the national level to address climate change. PC(USA) 223rd GA statements in support of climate change proposals are a just and effective response within a framework of faithful stewardship of God's creation. A second class will be offered on updated recycling efforts and what to do with what's not recyclable, also as part of our faithful stewardship.

Last, but never over, on our quest to be God's caretakers of creation, Earth Care Team would like to assist RCLPC in exploring and perhaps pursuing community solar as an energy source and means for the church to save money and care for God's earth.

The next meeting of the Earth Care Team will be October 3, 7:00 pm in the library/lounge. Any and all are welcome to attend and join our quest to be good and faithful caretakers of God's creation.



MISSION

from the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Team (CPJ)

A side theme of this fall's "Quest" is inviting extended congregational participation in the life of RCLPC. CPJ's invitation, and quest, is simply a call to dialogue, no matter your political persuasion, background, age, social status, and so forth.



"Dialogue"? For starters, there are CPJ meetings, where participants discuss social justice issues such as poverty, immigration, gun violence, hunger. We welcome a diverse group to include different experiences and views. Other "conversations" take place at CPJ presentations between services. Several of these this fall will focus on immigration – please come to learn and more importantly, to contribute.

Rev. Deanna Hollas, PCUSA's newly installed minister of gun violence, speaks to the issue of diverse opinions. She recognizes the many sides of debates about guns, but she wants to "bring conversations about gun violence out of the shadows...to shine light into darkness."

We should do this for all CPJ conversations – it just takes participants with varied viewpoints and experiences and yes, civil discourse.

It is our sincere hope that increased dialogue and participation will enable greater understanding of topical issues and enhanced engagement in the works of Christ.

John Winthrop's words are appropriate here. Winthrop, a Puritan who emigrated to Massachusetts in the 1600's, is perhaps best known for his sermon "A Model of Christian Charity" and its exhortation that the colony his fellow Puritans were to soon build would be like a "city upon a hill." The "city upon a hill" phrasing is borrowed from Matthew 5:14 (and I'll defer to Pastor John for that interpretation), but Winthrop meant that the result of the Puritans' efforts would be visible to all – either successful or, as Winthrop put it, a "shipwreck." To paraphrase Winthrop, if the efforts of the Puritans focused on mercy, kindness, sharing, and other selfless qualities (such as no one should live in luxury while others starve), their "city upon a hill" would only be viewed favorably.

RCLPC may not be a "city upon a hill" but we are a congregation on a ridge...in a field. May we all practice mercy, kindness, sharing, and other Christian qualities. May our combined efforts be viewed favorably by our neighbors, near and far.