

If you don't know (then you probably haven't been around Nikky much) this Sunday marks Consecration Sunday for our congregation. We have been asking in the past few weeks that you be in prayerful consideration about what God is calling You to give in the year to come. Not just because it's Charge Conference time and we need to turn in a budget, but because this is an important part of our spiritual devotions. Just like prayer and Bible study faithful giving helps us grow closer to God. Paul tells us that we must turn away from the things of this world and trust completely in God this is the path to the freedom that Christ came to give us freedom not just from sin and death but from fear. This I believe is the true idol of money it's not that we think our wealth and what it can buy will make us happier than what God offers. It's that on a deep even unspoken level we trust in money not God for our security. Yet the thing that American's worry about the most is money. Clearly trusting in our 401ks isn't making us feel all that secure. If our trust for future security is in money giving is a hard thing to do, we are being asked to risk our future for the sake of others. If our trust is rooted fully in God however giving becomes a celebration of that freedom that God gives over the things of this world. Being called not to worry is one of the hardest calls that God places on us but once we can achieve it it is also one of the greatest gifts He gives. Let this week be one of prayerful consideration but this Sunday let us celebrate together the freedom and joy that God gives.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**If you would like to schedule an event at the church,** contact Steph at 309-848-4050 or [portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com). She will provide you with the building agreement, policies, and forms to book the date on the church calendar.

**MONTHLY DONATIONS BLESSED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: *Immediate Food Pantry Needs*** - The Upper Rock Island County Food Pantry at Messiah Lutheran Church has immediate needs for paper products: Paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper & laundry detergent. Also, salad dressing, boxed meals, spaghetti, ravioli, pancake mix and syrup. ***Be sure that your donations are within the "best by/best use" expiration date and that the item has not been opened. The food pantry cannot accept items that are expired.*** Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry!

**MONTHLY DONATIONS BLESSED ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: *Wish List for the Mission Welcome Kits***: The Mission Committee is preparing ongoing Welcome Kits for new residents at Whispering Hills. The following items are needed: shampoo, body soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dish soap, small laundry detergent, cleaning wipes, small all-purpose cleaner, single-roll paper towels, and a 4-pack of toilet paper. Thank you for your donations and support of this local mission!

**MORE LISTENING TOURS SCHEDULED WITH PASTOR KREY & KATHY MAHRAUN:** Now that we are getting back into the full swing of things we would like to invite everyone to join Kathy and myself in a series of listening tours. This is a chance for me to get to know all of you a little better and for us to talk about our vision for our shared ministry here in Port Byron. We are currently scheduling these meetings on: Sun., Sept 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm, Fri., Sept 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am & Wed., Oct 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. There will be a sign up sheet in the back.

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUP:** Have you ever been asked a hard question about your faith and struggled to come up with an answer? Or maybe you have some questions yourself? Why are there bad things in the world that seem to affect people indiscriminately? What about the authority of the Bible? Why doesn't God act in big obvious miracles so everyone can believe? I'd like to invite you to an Adult book discussion group with Pastor Krey at 9:30 Sunday mornings. Where theologian Dr. Gregory Boyd will answer these questions and more through a series of actual letters to his unbelieving father in "Letters from a Skeptic" if you are interested please sign up on the sheet in the back or let me know so we know how many books to order.

***Sign-up Sheets for GROW meals*** are on the Communication table in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed and appreciated.

**There has been an update on the GROW meals from Pastor Becky** (see below)

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to serve a meal for GROW! We have just four more dates to fill for first semester:

September 17

September 24

November 19

December 3

Check your calendars and come connect with this amazing mid-week faith community!

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Thurs. & Fri. – Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> thru Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>** – Except Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> . Traditions Cookie Making Committee will be making cookies at 9:00am.

**Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>** – Consecration Sunday.

**Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>** -Noisy Offering during worship after Children's Message

**Monday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>** – Steph will be out of the office.

**Tuesday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>** - Finance Meeting 7:00 pm

**Friday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>** - 5th Quarter after the home football game.

**Sunday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>** - P3 Registration Forms due

**Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>** – River Rats will be meeting at Jan Spier's for a bonfire at 5:00pm.  
Rain date will be the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Church Council Meeting 7:00pm

**Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**-United Women in Faith meeting at 1:30pm at the church. The program will be the Thank Offering led by Debbie Baker.

**Sunday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>** - Charge Conference 1:30pm at Colona UMC-All church council members and leaders of the church strongly encouraged to attend.

**Sunday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>** - P3 Kick off night! 3:30-8:30 pm

**Tuesday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** - Pastor Becky leaves for Continuing Ed-Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection, Leewood, KS

