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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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The Joy of Working Together
(for the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors)
Philippians 1:1-11
Series: The Joy Factor

Central Passage

Philippians 1:3–5 (ESV) — **3** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **4** always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (See also Acts 16)

Central Thought: There is no higher calling and no greater joy than to work together in the cause of Christ for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors.

The Joyful Nature of Christian Partnership "In the gospel."

- ❖ Our work together for God flows out of his work in us through Christ.

Philippians 1:6 (ESV) — **6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV) — **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- ❖ Our work together for God is richest when the work is hardest.

Philippians 1:7–8 (ESV) — **7** It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, **for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.** **8** For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

- ❖ Our work together for God is based on self-sacrificing love.

Philippians 1:9 (ESV) — **9** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment...

Romans 5:8 (ESV) — **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 13:34–35 (ESV) — **34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- ❖ Our work together for God is about transformative righteousness.

Philippians 1:10–11 (ESV) — **10** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV) — **13** "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. **14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.