

Welcome to Faith & First United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes - November 1, 2020 - Stewardship Sunday
Philippians Series: Chapter 1 - “Our Partnership With God”

Scripture: Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God. 12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

Life Application Questions:

- 1) What does it mean to be in a partnership with God?

- 2) Why is it so important to be connected with Christ and others in our ministry service?

Prayer: “Dear Lord we once again celebrate Stewardship Sunday and ask that you empower each one of us to join in with you in our ministry service. Please fill us with your Holy Spirit and sanctify our lives so that we can be effective in representing you in our world. May your love motivate us as we pledge to honor you every day with our actions and worship. As we also remember those sisters and brothers in Christ that have passed away this year help us to be reminded of how precious our time is in serving. May we make the most of the days that you have given to us. Amen.