



First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

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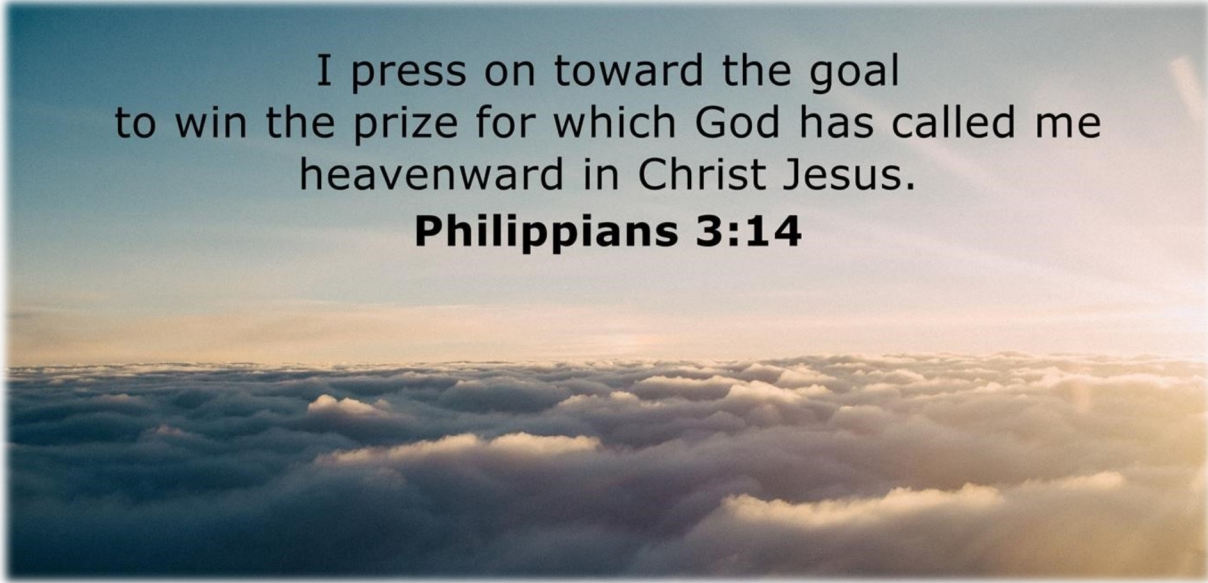
Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

Rev. Kara Hillhouse, Interim Pastor
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Week of October 8, 2023



I press on toward the goal
to win the prize for which God has called me
heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

Public Worship will be held at 10:30 am Sunday morning.

Community Prayer

Holy God, you love justice and hate oppression; you call us to righteousness and not to exploitation. Give us generous and loving hearts, and eyes to see the splendor of your reign, that we may live in truth and honor, and praise you for the transformation of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Worship

Feel free to follow along with our Call to Worship from the live-streamed worship service on Sunday.

One: From north and south, from east and west, we come:

Many: God's people called to the table where simple grace nourishes us.

One: From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:

Many: God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse
“Press On, Beloved”

Paul's last "prison epistle"--his letter to the Philippians--is one filled with words of encouragement for his friends in Philippi. He's very real in this letter, and vulnerable. He confesses that he once felt pride in all of his accomplishments, as if these achievements were what made him worthy of others' respect and his success in his community. But after Paul's encounter with Jesus on that fateful Damascan road, everything changed for him. Paul realized that what really matters in his faith journey are his relationships not his "acts." A relationship with God and a relationship with our fellow humanity are what matter most, not anything we might do or achieve. To attain this, Paul encourages his friends to just keep going--to press on for the prize, which is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. What are we supposed to take away from this all these years later? Join us for worship this Sunday where we'll be fed by God's Word, filled with beautiful music, and rejuvenated by a time of fellowship. We'll see you at First!

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God
and to celebrate Rich and Connie Calver's 55th
wedding anniversary.



Scripture Reading

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Philippians 3:4b-14

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Prayers & Praises

October 8th, 2023

Song of the Week

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Mildred Brockemeyer
- Vic Burgess
- Bobbi Carlin
- Mike Carlin
- William Deterding
- Joan Dietrich
- Sharon Hile
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney

Our Sympathy is extended to the family of Tony and The Rev. Kara Hillhouse in the passing of Tony's father, Glenn Hillhouse, on Saturday, September 23, 2023. The Celebration of Life will be October 9th at 10am., North Pointe Community Church, Lincoln, NE.

Friends:

- **The Rev. Ellie Thober.** Ellie passed away September 14, 2023. Her Memorial Service will be October 20th @ 10 am at St. Martha's Episcopal Church - Papillion, NE.
- Tammy Foral, healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Ccc Burkhart
- Carson Mousel, grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer

Our Timothy's:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE

In the Nebraska Region:

- Verdon Christian Church with Rev. Daniel Spencer

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission Partners in Nepal

“Gracious God, our father and mother, we come before you and do lift our brothers and sisters in Nepal. We give thanks to you for its beauty and resources.

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit www.globalministries.org



When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my
God! All the vain things that charm
me most, I sacrifice them through
his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his
feet, sorrow and love flow mingled
down. Did e'er such love and
sorrow meet, or thorns compose so
rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature
mine, that were a present far too
small. Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.