

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 670

March 16, 2022

## “War of the Heart”

War is a word that strikes fear in our hearts. We can become paralyzed by anxiety, terror, panic or dread over the thoughts of economic collapse, injury, destruction or death. It's been a long time since some of us have had to deal with the realities of physical war, while others have never seen it before in their lifetimes. The war in Ukraine is real and frightening for sure! But I would also like to remind you that we deal with a different type of war every day. A war of the heart. And I think how we deal with our daily wars will help us to at least better cope with the physical wars of this world.

On June 17, 2015, nine people were killed in Charleston, South Carolina, during a Bible study when a 21-year-old visitor attending the meeting for the first time decided to murder innocent Christian people. Out of this tragedy, however, came the type of forgiveness that we should all strive to attain. Some of the survivors and family members of those lost have such a love for Jesus that they were able to overcome the hatred towards a man rightly convicted and sentenced for his crimes. They do not carry that burden of hate in their hearts. What a wonderful testimony these people can show us. The strength that it takes to forgive someone is a powerful message to anyone who is experiencing a similar turmoil.

In Matthew 5:22, Jesus said:

“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing’, shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool’, shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.”

Jesus' words are powerful. He is saying that we should not only seek punishment for the outward behavior, in this case, for not following the Jewish laws, but also start to address the wickedness in our hearts. We should look at the anger we hold onto as the thing we should correct and not just the outward act of murder. Resentment can lead us to a hell on earth and maybe even an eternal hell. Of course, this does not in any way mean that we should not correct injustices

and hold people accountable. In this passage, Jesus is explaining that the small seeds of anger, resentment, bitterness and rage, can grow and fester into something so much bigger.

So how do we overcome this inward war of the heart? Jesus!

“So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free”  
(John 8:36).

Lay the burden of whatever is festering inside you at Jesus' feet. So many of the issues and problems that we hold onto are not our crosses to bear. Let Him be the judge. Be like those faithful Christians at Emanuel AME in Charleston, SC, when they released their sufferings to Him because He said,

“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” (Matthew 5:44).

So now in these troubling times, when Russia has invaded Ukraine, when we feel undervalued or overlooked, or when our jealousy and envy for something out of our reach is overpowering our thoughts, we must leave the darkness and step into the light, squash the evil presence dragging us down and we must step out of the muddiness of unforgiveness. You can easily turn to God in prayer to move past all these joyless thoughts. He will be there if you seek Him.

Because we are human, resentment, hatred, bitterness, jealousy, spite, envy and anger come easily for all of us. We are constantly at war in our hearts. But, if we absorb Jesus' instructions, we can overcome these feelings and the weight of this sin is lifted. With that forgiveness, we can have a peace that only Christians know because we no longer carry that heavy burden, and we can focus on the love that He truly wants in our hearts.

The Peace of Christ Be With You!

Blessings,

Elizabeth Floyd - Ruling Elder, HOPE Church Raleigh

# HOPE Calendar

## Wednesday, March 16

Wednesday Night Supper, Study, & Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

## Thursday, March 17

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

## Friday, March 18

The Church Development Team of the Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic Prayers over a New Church Plant in Myrtle Beach SC @ 10:00 a.m.

## Sunday, March 20

### Third Sunday in Lent

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.

## Monday, March 21

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.



## Sunday School for all ages This Sunday

### Our Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month” for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry. **March:**  
**Canned Vegetables and Canned Soup**  
We have a collection bin in the foyer

### Meal Ministry

**Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.**

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help prepare meals for others. See Christina Johnston with questions.

### WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, March 26th  
@ 1:00 p.m.

### The Computer Lab

To Resume on Saturday, April 16th

### MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, April 5th at 7 p.m.  
A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.  
Join us!

### Mark Your Calendars

#### Holy Week 2022

#### April 10

Palm Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

#### April 14

Maundy Thursday @ 7 p.m.

#### April 15

Good Friday

Sanctuary open for Prayer  
7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### April 17

Easter Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.  
(No Sunday School)

### Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Kyle Rohweder (Friend of Rich and Diane Williams), Chandni Haswell & family, Ken Guy (Lynn Joyner's brother-in-law), Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Renee Logan, Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brother), Becky Hale's mom in Wyoming, Gene & Becky Hale, The Baker family, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's daughter Haley, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), Brian Adam's dad, our Military, our Missionaries, our Nation, and the world. If you have those you would like added to our prayer concerns, please email me those names.

## Wednesday Night Supper, Tonight (3/16) @ 6:15 p.m.

### Menu:

Beef Roast, “Loaded” Potatoes,  
Butter Beans, Rolls, & Dessert

### Ephesians Study Continues

#### Schedule:

6:15 p.m. - Supper

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study

7:00 p.m. - HOPE4Kids

7:45 p.m. - Break

7:50 p.m. - Prayer Time

### Church Workday

**Saturday, April 2nd**  
**8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

## Great Opportunity

We have a family that would like to challenge the HOPE congregation to match their \$5000 contribution to the EPC World Outreach Disaster Relief Fund by the end of March 2022. This family would like to remain anonymous. The EPC World Outreach Disaster Relief Fund is currently helping with Ukraine relief. If you would like to contribute towards the “Challenge”, please mark your checks “EPC Relief Fund”. The Challenge ends at the end of March 2022.

## Helping Hands Ministries

### Fellowship Food - March 20

Church Will Provide

### Soundboard - March 20

Dave O'Dell

### Communion Steward - March

Sandra Pierce

### Greeter - March 20

Volunteer Needed

### Volunteer for the Nursery - Mar 20

Terry Duffell

This Sunday  
Scripture Text and Sermon

*Romans 8:28 - 30*  
*“The End Game”*

### Daily Devotions

#### For This Coming Week

Mar. 20	Numbers	16
Mar. 21	Numbers	17
Mar. 22	Numbers	18
Mar. 23	Numbers	19
Mar. 24	Numbers	20
Mar. 25	Numbers	21
Mar. 26	Numbers	22

### Quote of the Week

*“Hope can see heaven through  
the thickest clouds.”*

Thomas Brooks

## HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
4911 Green Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
919-508-6827

**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

[www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org](http://www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org)

[www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh](https://www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh)

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh”  
in the search box)