

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 673

April 06, 2022

## “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!”

**12 “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do what I command you.”**  
**John 15:12 - 14**

A little boy was told by his doctor that he could save his sister’s life by giving her some blood. The six-year-old girl was near death, a victim of disease from which the boy had made a marvelous recovery two years earlier. Her only chance for restoration was a blood transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the illness. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

“Johnny, would you like to give your blood for Mary?” The doctor asked. The boy hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled, and said, “Sure, Doc. I’ll give my blood for my sister.”

Soon the two children were wheeled into the operating room. Mary was pale and thin; Johnny was robust and the picture of health. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny grinned.

As his blood siphoned into Mary’s veins, one could almost see new life come into her tired body. The ordeal was almost over when Johnny’s brave little voice broke the silence. “Say Doc, when do I die?”

It was only then that the doctor realized what the moment of hesitation, the trembling of the lip, had meant earlier. Little Johnny actually thought that in giving his blood to his sister he was giving up his life! And in that brief moment, he had made his great decision! Yes, I am willing!

I used this passage above from John 15 in my sermon on Sunday relating it about friendship. Jesus tells us He is our friend, and He is, but He is much more than just a friend. We know that Jesus did exactly what He declared here, He laid down His life for us, His friends. This is why He came. This was His purpose for leaving heaven. **“Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness” Hebrews 9:22.**

The Lenten season started on Ash Wednesday. For the church, it is a 40-day period of self-examination and self-denial. A period of prayer and fasting. A period of preparation in one’s faith. Some observe Lent, others do not.

The fact is, the Lenten season is about over. Easter is coming. But to get to Easter and Christ’s resurrection, you first have to go through Good Friday. There had to be sacrifice. There had to be the shedding of blood. And not just anyone’s blood. This blood had to be perfect. This blood had to be the right match. For as Hebrews 9 tells us, if it had not been Jesus Christ’s blood, there would still have to be sprinkling of blood year after year. But with Jesus shedding His blood on the cross, **“...so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many...” Hebrews 9:28**, what He did once, the shedding of His blood, covered all who would believe! Only His blood is the perfect match for salvation! The Cross of Jesus is the Cross of Redemption.

So when God the Father said to God the Son, “Son, it’s time for You to go and give your life so that all who believe may be saved”. Jesus said, “Sure Dad, I will give my blood for them.” And as one famous hymn states, “What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!”

Folks, we are like the sister in the story before salvation. We are diseased, very sick in our sin, dying. Then Jesus calls to us and in our response in faith, believing in Him for our salvation, He performs a transformation washing us clean from the inside out with His blood. Thank you Jesus for dying for me so that I can live and have eternal life with You.

How about you? Want to give shout out to Jesus? If you are saved, He certainly deserves it.

Blessings,  
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh

Worship . Grow . Serve

# HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, April 6**

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

**Thursday, April 7**

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 9**

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 10**

**Palm Sunday**

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.

Session Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.

**Monday, April 11**

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - April 10

*Church Will Provide*

Soundboard - April 10

*Sherif Mikhael*

Communion Steward - April

*Elizabeth Floyd*

Greeter - April 10

*Volunteer Needed*

Volunteer for the Nursery - Apr 10

*Terry Duffell*

This Sunday  
Scripture Text and Sermon

*John 12:12 - 19*  
*"A Momentary Moment"*



## Sunday School for all ages This Sunday

### Our Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month" for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry. **April:**

#### Boxed Cereal

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, April 9th  
@ 1:00 p.m.

### The Computer Lab

To Resume on Saturday, April 16th

### MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, April 19th 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)

## Quote of the Week

**"To gather with God's people  
in united adoration of the Father  
is as necessary to the Christian life  
as prayer."**

Martin Luther

## Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Lori Estelle, Mark Drylie, Kyle Rohweder (Friend of Rich and Diane Williams), Chandi 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 (4/06) @ 6:15 p.m.

### Menu:

Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,  
Pintos, Corn, 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

## Blooming Cross

HOPE Family

On Easter Sunday, we would love for you to bring in some cut flowers (any variety) and place on the cross BEFORE Easter Worship begins.

## Disaster Relief Fund Update

We received \$6700 in the Challenge to go to the EPC Disaster Relief Fund. Thank you for sharing your resources to help others.

**HOPE Church Raleigh**  
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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**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)

## Daily Devotions

### For This Coming Week

Apr. 10	Deuteronomy	1
Apr. 11	Deuteronomy	2
Apr. 12	Deuteronomy	3
Apr. 13	Deuteronomy	4
Apr. 14	Deuteronomy	5
Apr. 15	Deuteronomy	6
Apr. 16	Deuteronomy	7