

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 682

June 08, 2022

“Dealing With the Highs and Lows of Life”

2 John 1:8 ‘Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.’

This past weekend was the USGA’s (United States Golf Association) Women’s US Open. It was held this year in Southern Pines (Pinehurst area) at Pine Needles Lodge and Country Club. Professional golfers from around the world descended on Southern Pines. The President of the USGA stated that they had 1500 volunteers from the area helping with this tournament along with the staff of Pine Needles. Pine Needles has been closed to the public for weeks getting ready for the world to come to, watch on television, live stream, etc. this golf tournament. From what I saw in watching some of the tournament and knowing about Pine Needles (riding by it all the time) and from all the golfers and commentators, the course was in fabulous condition. Several golfers said that this was the best course and in the best shape of any Women’s US Open course that they had played. Pine Needles has hosted the Women’s US Open 4 times, more than any other course in America.

Now, my guess is that many of you reading this have never played golf or have any interest in watching men or women chase a little white ball around 7,200 yards of grass. I love to watch and used to love to play, well, until my shoulders said, “Enough!” But, if you have gotten this far in reading this article, you might as well continue and see where I go with this.

I won’t share names here, but as I was watching some of the tournament on Saturday afternoon, one of the golfers was playing a par 4 hole. A par 4 means it should take 4 strokes (hits of the ball) to make it from the tee into the hole several hundreds of yards away. She hit a beautiful tee shot. It landed in the middle of the fairway about 290 yards from the tee. She had about a 140 yard second shot into the green. She took a pitching wedge and hit it perfectly. The ball landed about a foot from the hole. Great right??? Well, it would have been if the ball stopped there, but it didn’t. The ball began to roll and rolled off the green about 40 yards from the hole. She was now hitting her third shot to the hole and it ran pass the hole into a bunker on the opposite side of the green. Long story made short, she finished the hole 2 over par (6 stokes instead of 4) for a double boggy. She was not happy because she had been in contention.

A few holes later this same golfer was on the tee hitting into a par 3 hole around 190 yards away. She hit the ball and again the ball landed about a foot away from the hole. But, this time the ball stopped on a dime. It hit the green and stopped dead. She was able to come up and tap it in for a 2 which was 1 under par for that hole. Now there were smiles and high fives with her caddie.

If you were to watch golf much, you will see the highs and the lows in just one 18-hole round of golf. You would expect it with the everyday golfers, but it also happens with these professionals, some of the best men and women golfers the world. And what every golfer will tell you, you have to play through the highs and the lows. To get caught up in either can spoil your round of golf. You have to watch yourself that you don’t lose what you have accomplished, for if you do, your reward will be affected.

The Apostle John tells us this in his second letter. We know our lives are going to have ups and downs. Successes and losses. Triumphs and heartaches. Wellness and sickness. We all have them. Whether we are rich or poor, have a lot or very little, live in a huge mansion or a small apartment or any where in-between, we all have highs and lows. The question for us all is, how will we handle it?

John says, “watch yourselves”. In this world we have to watch ourselves. Jesus said trials and temptations would come, watch yourselves. Paul acknowledges that persecution and trials would come, but you can overcome. He tells us to stay strong in the faith, don’t lose heart.

As we grow in our faith with Christ, the more our faith in Him will keep us firm, constantly holding on as the highs and lows come at us. And as we hold firm emotionally and spiritually through these highs and lows of life, our reward is peace.

For these professional golfers the more lows, the less reward (prize money) they get. The more highs, the more reward for them. Many of them have learned to manage that to maximize their rewards. We too, Believer, need to learn to manage the highs and lows of life to maximize the peace God wants for us as we walk with Him. Ok, enough on my golf analogy. But I would encourage you to think about it.

Blessings friends,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 08

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer
@ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 09

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 11

The Computer Lab @ 9:00 a.m.
Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 12

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.
Stated Session Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.

Monday, June 13

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.



Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry
Pull Top Canned Vegetables
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.

The Computer Lab

Saturday, June 11th
@ 9:00 a.m.

(Last one until September)

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer Tonight @ 7 PM

In person or by Zoom

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, June 11th
@ 1:00 p.m.

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, June 21st at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

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, Diane 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.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - June 12

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - June 12

Sherif Mikhael

Communion Steward - June

Sandra Pierce

Greeter - June 12

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - June 12

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

Romans 11:1 - 24
“There's Hope Ahead”

Save the DATE Vacation Bible School 2022

Kingdom Chronicles
Standing Strong in the
Battle for Truth

Dates:

July 5 - 9

Tuesday - Friday

7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday includes a cookout
(Adult Class offered too)

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

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

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Jun 12	Judges	6
Jun 13	Judges	7
Jun 14	Judges	8
Jun 15	Judges	9
Jun 16	Judges	10
Jun 17	Judges	11
Jun 18	Judges	12

Quote of the Week

“As God did not at first choose you because you were high, He will not now forsake you because you are low.”

John Flavel