

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 685

June 29, 2022

“Life!”

This past Friday, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a ruling that could change the course of “Life” for many unborn children. I was at the EPC General Assembly at Ward Church in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan. While the nation is divided on this issue, we in the EPC have long stood against abortion and below is an excerpt from our Position Paper on Abortion.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is convinced that the Bible strongly affirms the dignity and value of every human life based on what the Scriptures clearly teach:

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5 NIV).
“My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth” (Psalm 139:15 NIV).
“Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name” (Isaiah 49:1 NIV).*

“for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born” (Luke 1:15 NIV).

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 1:41 NIV).

*To further differentiate mankind from any other living creature, we read:
“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27 NIV). Unlike any other created being, Scripture also teaches: “Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7 NIV).*

The Westminster Shorter Catechism, a confessional statement shared by most Reformed churches, forbids the taking of innocent life while demanding the preservation of life from the moment of conception through to natural death:

“The Sixth Commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.” (Question 68).

(The entire Position Paper on Abortion can be found on the EPC website.)

After lunch last Friday, we paused as a General Assembly and lifted up prayer for this decision. While the court’s decision certainly aids the cause of life to the unborn, this decision does not ban abortions in the US. What it does is send it back to the individual states for action. Thus, we need to be in prayer for our states that they will now protect the unborn.

As many of you know, this is a topic very important to me. Had abortion been legal in 1957, I very likely would not be here. My biological mother was 12 years old when she became pregnant with me. She was unmarried and not even a teenager. I have no idea who my biological father is but I do know who my parents, my mom and dad are. They are Jack and Irene Duffell who adopted me when I was just a couple of days old. I am so thankful for the decision of my birth mother to birth me, even under what had to be a very tough situation.

Fast forward to 1985. Not only was I the recipient of the blessing of adoptive parents, I became an adoptive parent! We adopted a two week old baby boy, birthed by a 18 year old unmarried, high school senior. Again, I am so thankful that this young lady decided to carry my son to birth. He has been a blessing and I could not love him any more than if my blood ran through his veins.

This issue of abortion is about life and has always been about life. It’s not about choice. A choice was made in the sexual act that bought about conception of the child. And the choice to abort is about killing a life. Please hear me, I believe the church, as well as myself, have to be compassionate to the women who have had an abortion. In many cases they need someone to love them, because in many cases, after the fact, there is regret and grief to deal with. As with all moral issues that are societal hot buttons, we should speak truth in love.

Our country is divided on this issue as they are on many other moral issues. The question for the “True Church” is, do we stand with scripture and God’s truth or bow to cultural preferences for the sake of not upsetting the apple cart? I have to side with God’s Word and the sanctity of life. And yes, even the unborn life.

You won’t see me protesting in the streets or carrying banners in downtown Raleigh. I won’t be bombing or writing hideous words on abortion clinics. I will not get in a shouting match with those who think differently than I do. What I will do is not be afraid to share my stance with others and pray that unborn lives are protected by our state governments. This I can do. This I will do!

There may be those reading this article who feel very differently than I do and I would love to have a conversation with you on the topic (however that could happen). I have never been afraid of the debate, only insisting that the debate be civil on the part of both parties.

One of the reasons I supported HOPE Church Raleigh joining the EPC denomination was the fact that this denomination opposes abortion. I can never understand how an ordained minister of the Word of God can stand on the side of ending a life in the womb, but unfortunately, many do. These need our prayers also.

What I would ask you to do as a believer in Jesus Christ is to search your heart on the topic. If you stand for “life”, please begin to lift up prayers for the unborn and for the leaders of our state governments to protect the unborn in the US. Please consider praying for those that have no means of protecting themselves. We would never think twice of protecting a child a week old from harm. We should also protect the ones 0 to 40 weeks old prior to birth. Yes, a hot topic for me, but I’m unwavering on my stance. I love my neighbor, the born and the unborn.

Blessings my friends,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 29

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

Thursday, June 30

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 2

VBS Workday @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 3

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, July 4

Independence Day

Staff Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 5

VBS @ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 6

VBS @ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - July 3

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - July 3

Elizabeth Floyd

Communion Steward - July

Lynn Joyner

Greeter - July 3

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - July 3

Terry Duffell

This Sunday

Scripture Text and Sermon

Romans 12:1 - 2

"Extreme Makeover:

Mind Edition"

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Jul 3	1 Samuel	2
Jul 4	1 Samuel	3
Jul 5	1 Samuel	4
Jul 6	1 Samuel	5
Jul 7	1 Samuel	6
Jul 8	1 Samuel	7
Jul 9	1 Samuel	8



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

Simple Technology Assistant

HELP Wanted

Please go to our website and read the information on serving in The Saturday Computer Lab. There is a form there to fill out if interested. We need 6 to 8 volunteers when we resume in September to fulfill this outreach ministry of HOPE Church Raleigh

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

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

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, July 9th

@ 1:00 p.m.

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, July 19th at 7 p.m.

A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.

Join us!

Quote of the Week

"You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you don't say."

Martin Luther

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Lori Estelle, Mark Drylie, Rohweder Family (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.



Vacation Bible School 2022

Kingdom Chronicles

Standing Strong in the Battle for Truth

Dates:

July 5 - 9

Tuesday - Thursday

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

Friday Night cookout @ 6 p.m.

VBS Assembly @ 6:45 p.m.

Saturday Assembly @ 10:00 a.m.

(Adult Class offered too)

VBS Workday, Sat. 7/2 @ 10 A.M.

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)