

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 700

October 12, 2022

“Let Us Pray!”

North Carolinians, the NC FAIR is back. Running Thursday, October 13 through Sunday, October 23. Yay!!! Right? Well, for some. Since I travel US #1 (what most call the Beltline) near the Fairgrounds, I'm usually not thrilled with the traffic during fair time. And with the road and bridge construction in that area already, it is always a headache going through that section each day.

But many, and I mean many people absolutely love the NC FAIR. The North Carolina State Fair is one of the largest and oldest state fairs in the United States. It is considered one of the best agricultural exposition and fair in the US. Founded in 1853, the fair is organized by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It attracts around a million visitors over eleven days. The fair consists of carnival rides, agricultural exhibitions and competitions, food, music, demonstrations, and garden and craft displays and much more.

Some of you may be asking by now, “Why is Pastor Marty promoting the NC FAIR?” I guess I am in a way since I gave you many of the details, but promoting it was not my purpose of mentioning it. I have an ulterior motive and it consists of one statement the Department of Agriculture puts out each year. The statement is: **“We are expecting around one million people to attend the fair over the next 11 days!”** That is a lot of people.

If you have attended the NC FAIR, you know that the crowds do NOT deter people from attending. It seems that even when the news channels tell us which days are going to be the highest in attendance, it is those days we choose to go. Many say, “Put me in the crowd. I love it”. I know, it only happens once a year and you only have to push and shove, wait in long lines, pay \$10 for a ham biscuit one day a year. I get it.

Here is what I don't get and to my point of this discussion. The NC FAIR, a NC STATE, Carolina, or Duke, (etc.) football or basketball game, or concerts people will pour into, make every effort, sacrifice time and money to attend. But for God and His church, not so much.

Some will say, “Here Pastor Marty goes again, talking about those who don't go to church.” I'm not pointing to HOPE Church, but church in general. When September 11, 2001 happened, the churches were packed, overflowing. Didn't matter whether it was a rural church that held a 100 or a mega church that held 1000's, they were packed. The following Sunday, not so much, and then the next Sunday (two weeks out) back to the normal numbers.

I say this because worship is important. The gathered Body of Christ is important to be a part of. It may not be as exciting as standing with 23,000 rooting on your favorite basketball team, but it matters. I am not talking about the millions of non-Christians in America, but to Christians. 63% of Americans say they are Christians, but only 22% are in church on any given Sunday and about 12% of those are Evangelicals. And if the current trends don't

change, in less than 20 years Christianity will be a minority religion in America with less than 45% claiming Christianity as their faith.

Hebrews 10:23 - 25 reads: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some**, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

I want you to think about something. What if the majority of people attended church? What if that 63% attended church on Sundays? What if the majority of people ascribe to the standards that God has set out in scripture? What if we cared about our neighbors well-being as much as we did ours? Can you imagine what the world would look like? Yes, getting close to heavenly. But “self” comes into play and society/culture tells us “it's about me and my immediate pleasure”, and this is where it all falls apart.

Why can't we do both? I love to go to the fair, enjoy a good football game, basketball game, cheering on my grandchildren, cheering with the crowd. But it should not replace my worship. But Pastor Marty, you are the pastor. You have to be there. I've said this before, but will say it again, when I'm on vacation, I still go to church. I find a church in the area to attend. It's not a must then, but a want to go because I want to worship my Lord. I don't want to miss worship, just because I'm on vacation.

Since the Pandemic, the statistics show the church attendance is down dramatically and few believe the church will recover. The commitment level is the lowest it has been in decades. I believe that can change. I believe the church can recover and people again can have that desire to worship together. Will church look different in the future? Yes! But I believe the church can thrive again, but only if we pray. I believe this is where we start. We need to pray for revival, pray for the church specifically! We need to pray!

I think all believers need to assess their commitment to the Lord and begin to pray about corporate worship. That includes me. I'm not excluding myself. Many believe we are at a pivotal time for the church. Let us begin to pray for our church, the global church and the movement of the Holy Spirit for God's will and purpose for His body. May it be so!

Blessings,

Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh

Worship. Grow. Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, October 12

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

Thursday, October 13

EPC Pastors Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 15

The Computer Lab @ 9:00 a.m.
Eagle Scout Court of Honor @ 2:00 p.m. (Private)

Sunday, October 16

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, October 17

Staff Meeting @ 9:15 a.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - Oct. 16

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - Oct. 16

Elizabeth Floyd

Communion Steward - Oct.

Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - Oct. 16

Joan Rollinson

Volunteer for the Nursery - Oct. 16

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon
Matthew 5:5

"Blessed Are The Meek"



Outreach Ministries

OCTOBER "Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry **Canned or Boxed Meals**
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.

Next TLC Devotion

October 26 @ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, October 22
@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, October 18 at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.

Join us!

Starting a new book soon. See Sherif Mikhael for information. We would love to have you join the group.

Quote of the Week

"Peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind."

Unknown

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Oct 16	1 Chronicles	5
Oct 17	1 Chronicles	6
Oct 18	1 Chronicles	7
Oct 19	1 Chronicles	8
Oct 20	1 Chronicles	9
Oct 21	1 Chronicles	10
Oct 22	1 Chronicles	11

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Chandi Haswell & family, 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, Gene & Becky Hale, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's daughter Haley and son Jude, 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, Study, and Prayer

Tonight @ 6:15 p.m.

Menu:

Spaghetti, Salad, Fruit,
French Bread & Dessert

Sound Board Volunteers

Needed: The worship team continues to grow, and there is a need to have someone operating the sound board during services. Previous knowledge in this area is not required, and we will be holding a training clinic for those that would like to serve the church in this way. This is a different person from the one that handles ProPresenter with Worship slides.

Contact Lori Estelle if you are interested:

loriestelle@hopechurchraleigh.org

Information Meeting

On Sunday, October 23rd, following a short break after worship, there will be an information meeting to share about the construction and changes at the front of the Sanctuary. Please consider joining in the meeting.

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

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

Stewardship 2023

***Count Your Blessings
Name Them One by One***

What is Stewardship to you?

How has HOPE Church blessed you?

*Thank you to those who have
submitted answers.*

***Still looking for more answers to these
questions. Please submit them to
Pastor Marty***

