

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 705

November 16, 2022

“Preserving Unity in the Bond of Peace”

Ephesians 3:14-4:4 NASB

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

*Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, **being diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.***

Who we are to Jesus

Before Ephesians 3:14, Paul is telling us that all people, Gentiles and Jews are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body of Christ. The gift of grace is for all of God's creation in mankind. Recognizing that God wants that none should perish, but that all be reconciled to Him, we are called as His children to share about this free gift of grace.

What He gives us

In Ephesians 3:16-19, we understand what we have been given. We have His indwelling power by the Holy Spirit to strengthen us. This Holy power in our hearts comes by our faith in Jesus Christ. Because we are rooted and grounded in His love, Paul prays for us to understand how big God's love is for us. This love is so big that we cannot even comprehend it. We are to be filled up with His big love so the we can experience the fullness of God. Out of this tremendous love He has for us, we give thanks and glorify Him!

THEN comes the call

Because He lives in us, gives us His power and because His love for us is so big, we are called to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called” demonstrating humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance for one another in love, so that we can be “diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

David Guzik from Enduring Word says, “We must endeavor to keep this unity – we do not create it. God never commands us to create unity among believers. He has created it by His Spirit; our duty is to recognize it and keep it.”

Just as we are not the ones who save souls, we are not the creators of unity of the Spirit. We are to recognize it and preserve it.

What does unity look like?

We must seek out God's ways to engage in growth and discipleship with our fellow brothers and sisters and with those who have not yet come into the kingdom. We are called to live for Christ, walking in a manner worthy of His calling, using our gifts to bring people into relationship with Him and to strengthen the relationships of believers. We do this together doing all that we can to live in peace with each other.

How do we keep unity?

Praying individually and corporately opens our hearts and minds to what God is calling us to do. This world we live in today knows very little about our God. They know they seek something to fill the God-sized hole in their hearts, but they don't know that God is the missing piece (missing peace). With the Church of Jesus in decline, we have to seek His answers, His strategies to grow the church stronger and keep her doors open. Even Hope Church must be diligent to preserve the unity of the church we are called to protect and nurture. Invitations need to go out to those who are lost in our community. We all know the peace that passes all understanding and we worship God in thanksgiving that we are His. God wants us to do our part to share His peace. Are we ready to do this work? Yes, we are ready! We have all that God has given us in the power of His Holy Spirit to do whatever He has called us to do which is to go and make disciples of all men!

Many sermons and articles are written with this exhortation. Friends, Hope Church is long overdue to get serious about hearing the voice of God and taking the action He calls us to for the building up of His kingdom. He is asking us to step outside of our comfort zones to do His will. Preserving unity in His church, in my opinion, is also a call to bring into the church those who don't know Him and those whose walks are not as deep as they could be. Prepare yourselves to hear more about this in the months to come. Until He comes, we are to be working for Him so that the souls who are called to Him will come.

To God be the the glory!

Sandra Pierce, Ruling Elder - HOPE Church Raleigh

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, November 16

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

Thursday, November 17

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 19

The Computer Lab @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 20

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting of the Congregation @ 11:00 a.m.

Monday, November 21

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - Nov. 20

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - Nov. 20

Sherif Mikhael

Communion Steward - Nov.

Terry Duffell

Greeter - Nov. 20

Joan Rollinson

Volunteer for the Nursery - Nov. 20

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

Matthew 5:10 - 12
"Blessed are Those who have been Persecuted for the Sake of Righteousness"



Outreach Ministries

November "Food of the Month"
for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry
Instant Pasta Meals
We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry
Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

TLC Devotion
November 23 @ 11:00 a.m.

The Computer Lab
November 19 @ 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Toy Drive
Raleigh Dream Center
HOPE is Participating
Flyers on the Entry Table w/Details
Donate a new unwrapped toy at a \$10 value or less for ages Newborn to 12 years old. Needed by Dec. 4th
Collection Bin in our Youth Room
(Led by HOPE4Youth & HOPE4Kids)

Spiritual Growth Ministries

No Sunday School this Week

WOMEN of HOPE
Saturday, November 26
@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

MEN of HOPE
Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

Quote of the Week

"The way to cover our sin is to uncover it by confession."

Richard Sibbes

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: Vegetable Beef Soup
Sandwiches, & Dessert

Dates to Remember

Sunday, Nov. 20
Annual Meeting of the Congregation @ 11 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 26
Hanging of the Greens
(Decorating for Advent & Christmas) @ 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4
Toy Wrapping Party after S.S.

Saturday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Worship @ 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25
Christmas Day Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
(No Sunday school on Christmas Day)

Sunday, January 8
Anniversary Sunday of HOPE
(Covered Dish Meal)

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Nov 20	2 Chronicles	11
Nov 21	2 Chronicles	12
Nov 22	2 Chronicles	13
Nov 23	2 Chronicles	14
Nov 24	2 Chronicles	15
Nov 25	2 Chronicles	16
Nov 26	2 Chronicles	17

HOPE Church Raleigh
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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***

