

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



**HOPE**  
CHURCH | RALEIGH  
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 708

December 07, 2022

## “What Has Happened to Our Society?”

**Ephesians 4:15 “...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ...”**

What has happened to our society? What will this path we are going down lead us to?

Just in my lifetime, we go back to the 50's and hear, “Oh, those rebel raising teenagers and their rock and roll music are going to bring Jesus back. It's Satan music. And the moving of those hips is just sinful.”

In the 60's we had the hippy movement and war protests. The LSD and drug scene exploded and the church was sending every teenager to hell.

In the 70's we decided as a society it was okay to kill babies in the womb. Society called it a “woman's right to her body” never considering the life that was being killed, ignoring the right of the baby to live. At that point the value of life itself began to be degraded and fast forward to today and a baby born alive at 40 weeks, but intended to be aborted, can lay there and died in the name of a “right”. Where have we gone wrong here?

The 80's and 90's brought movement after movement. AIDS and the “Gay Revolution” gained prominence. That, of course, only escalated in the 2000's.

Today, “everything” is offensive. You can't speak about anything without someone taking issue and wanting you shut down, ostracized, or demonized. There is very little debate that actually happens any longer. Instead, it is about attacking the opinions of another. The “truth” doesn't matter in our society. If bending the truth or ignoring the truth provides traction for your own agenda, so be it. I've heard more than one talking head say that, “It's worth the false narrative to move forward with your agenda.” How sad!

So I asked, “What has happened to our society?” Of course the answer goes back to the fall. No non-believer understands this. No one following their own idols of self and pride understands this. But this is the

truth and only the truth. At the fall of mankind, we replaced God with the idols of “self”. Remember, “If you eat of this fruit you will be like God.” And every culture since, has bought into the lie.

Paul states that we are to “speak truth in love.” One of the things that I believe has happened is that the church has failed to do that. Hear me folks, we are to NEVER be swayed from the truths of scripture and the moral standards that God has given us to live by. NEVER. But how we relay that message is so important.

I don't know at this point with the path we are currently on in societies around the world, that we will turn the ship. Jesus said, “narrow is the path to eternal life, broad is the path to destruction.” BUT He never said to stop sharing “the truth” of the gospel. He never said that there would be a time when our witness was done. We are to continue to speak truth in love. And maybe just one person hears and turns to Jesus. And if that is the case, every moment of your witness over the years that may have fallen on deaf ears was still worth it. For the one lost was found.

I am frustrated with our society. I am saddened by the blatant disregard for civility, restraint, and civil debate. I am appalled at the value of life we have come to in America. I have cried at the thought of the future for our kids and grandkids. BUT, then I remember. I'm not in control. God is! His plan is perfect! He has provided all I need to eternal life. And His reminder to me is that anytime I don't remember to place Him first in my thoughts, actions, and deeds, I too am running the risk of idol worship, that being “me.”

Believers, Church, stand firm on the truth, but share truth in love. Paul finishes this verse by saying, “we are to grow up in ALL aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ...” May we do just that.

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

# HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, December 7**

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

**Thursday, December 8**

NO Worship Team Practice

**Saturday, December 10**

The Computer Lab @ 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, December 11**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship @ 11:00 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:15 a.m.

Session Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.

**Monday, December 12**

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - December 11

*Church Will Provide*

Soundboard - December 11

*Elizabeth Floyd*

Communion Steward - Dec.

*Sandra Pierce*

Greeter - December 11

*Joan Rollinson*

Volunteer for the Nursery - Dec. 11

*Terry Duffell*

This Sunday  
Scripture Text and Sermon

*Third Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 11:2 - 11  
"Joy of the Expected One!"*



## 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

December 19 @ 11:00 a.m.

### The Computer Lab

December 10 @ 9:00 a.m.

### Christmas Toy Drive

#### Raleigh Dream Center

We were able to gift 156 Toys to  
the Raleigh Dream Center Toy  
Drive. Thanks to everyone for  
giving.

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

**Sunday School for All Ages**

**This Sunday**

### WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, December 3

@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

### MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, December 20 at 7 p.m.

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

Join us!

## Wednesday Night Devotion

**& Prayer Tonight**

**@ 7 p.m.**

## 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.

## Dates to Remember

**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 1**

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Extended Fellowship / No Sunday  
School

**Sunday, January 8**

Anniversary Sunday of HOPE  
(Covered Dish Meal)

## HOPE4Kids

**Join us for a movie night on**

**Wednesday, December 21**

**At**

**6:30 PM**

**Session Meeting**

**Sunday, December 11**

**@ 12 p.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](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

Dec 11	2 Chronicles	32
Dec 12	2 Chronicles	33
Dec 13	2 Chronicles	34
Dec 14	2 Chronicles	35
Dec 15	2 Chronicles	36
Dec 16	Ezra	1
Dec 17	Ezra	2

## Quote of the Week

**"The blindness of unbelievers in  
no way detracts from the clarity  
of the gospel; the sun is no less  
bright because blind men do not  
perceive its light.**

**John Calvin**

**If you have not turned in a Stewardship Card and wish to do so, it is not too late. There are Cards on the entry table in the Sanctuary if you need one. Thank you to you all for your faithfulness to the Lord and to HOPE Church Raleigh.**