

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 723

March 22, 2023

## “The Light vs The Dim & The Dark”

At the end of February last year, I retired from full-time work with the hospital system I have worked with since 2012. Since then, I have continued to work part-time (10-20 hours per week) on special projects for the same finance team I had worked with all those years. I am fortunate to be able to do that mostly remotely in the upstairs of my home, and I try to do most of those hours in the mornings and up until about 1PM on the days that I work. I have always been a person who prefers light, which for me at home, even during the day, includes blinds open and some (not all) lights turned on. Light has always been a comfort to me, and it makes me feel more aware and energetic. The nature of light helps us to see clearly, as it exposes and it highlights. Many days when I come downstairs after completing my “work hours”, I find my hubby in what I call “the dim & the dark”. It has become a regular part of our daily routine on days that I work for me to come downstairs and mention “the dim & the dark” to Bill, and then go about turning on some lights and opening up closed blinds.

Currently, on Wednesday nights at Hope Church after Pastor Marty feeds us, he is going over the “I am” statements of Jesus found in scripture. This past Wednesday he focused on John 8:12 - “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life”. Marty had placed candles on each of our tables which he later had us light before he turned out all of the lights. The candles represented Jesus being the light of the world, and we discussed the effects of the light from the candles on our darkened room. At that point my mind squirreled to thinking of my term “the dim & the dark” and how, in addition to Jesus himself being the light of the world, God’s Word also provides light in order for us to know and understand God. God’s Word lights up our darkness through the knowledge we gain, providing a way for us to not just simply exist in “the dim & the dark”. We know The Bible, which our sweet granddaughter Cameron referred to one day as “The Jesus”, is truly God’s inspired word. In it He tells us about himself, about how much He loves us, and what He promises to us once we come to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It provides us with answers to our questions and explains how we are to live our lives and handle our blessings, as well as the trials and

tribulations that we face in this fallen world, until the days we will be with Him in eternity. And, as we were reminded this past Sunday as we looked at Matthew 6:9-13 (“The Lord’s Prayer”), God’s Word even gives us an example of how we should pray.

It appears to me that, as we grow more and more in our Christian faith and are transformed through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are naturally drawn more and more to be in God’s Word. By His grace, we do not have to experience life this side of heaven in “the dim & the dark”. And in response to that grace, we are called to also be lights in the darkness – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” Matthew 5:16.

During this Lenten season, we at Hope Church Raleigh have been asked to read scripture and focus our prayers on some specific topics. So far, we have been asked to pray about forgiveness, loving well and wisdom. We have been given some specific scripture verses to reflect on regarding these topics and have been asked to individually pray about them as they relate to our church, ourselves and others God puts on our hearts. We have a few more weeks to go until Easter, with additional topics to study and pray about.

As we continue to open God’s Word and ponder on it during this Lenten season, and beyond, I pray that God will continue to enlighten us so that we can better be lights in this world that reflect the Light of Christ!

God bless,

Lynn Joyner – Elder – Hope Church Raleigh

Worship . Grow . Serve

# HOPE Calendar

## Wednesday, March 22

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

## Thursday, March 23

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

## Saturday, March 25

CPR Class @ 10:00 a.m.  
Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

## Sunday, March 26

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

## Monday, March 27

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

**Fellowship - March 26**  
*Church is Providing*

**ProPresenter - March 26**  
*Elizabeth Floyd*

**Soundboard - March 26**  
*Josiah Terribili*

**Live Steaming - March 26**  
*Al Floyd*

**Communion March**  
*Sandra Pierce*

**Greeter - March 26**  
*Joan Rollinson*

**Nursery Volunteer - March 26**  
*Terry Duffell*

## This Sunday Scripture Text and Sermon

John 11:4; 40  
*"So That God May  
Be Glorified"*



## Outreach Ministries

**March "Food of the Month"**  
for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry

**Pop Top Canned Meats**  
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

Today, March 22 @ 11:00 a.m.

### The Computer Lab

April 8 @ 9:00 a.m.

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

### WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, April 8  
@ 1:00 p.m.

### 2023 Lenten Prayer Focus

The HOPE Session is calling our church to prayer during the 2023 Lenten season. Lent is 6 weeks long. Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each week a specific focus and scriptures will be shared with you. Please consider spending some time in prayer each day on that topic and scriptures.

### Upcoming Week:

**March 26 – April 1**  
**Awareness of the Presence  
of God –**  
**John 14:16 – 31; John 16:5 – 15**

## Quote of the Week

*"Most men pray more for full purses than for pure hearts."*

Thomas Watson

## Prayer Requests:

Those with Covid -19, The Drylie Family, Haswell Family, Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn Doby Family, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams, Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister & Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, 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.

## Wednesday Night Ministries

### Wednesday Night Supper, Bible Study, & Prayer March 22

Supper @ 6:15 p.m.  
Bible Study & HOPE4Kids  
@ 7 p.m.  
Prayer Time @ 8:45 p.m.

A Zoom Link will be available for those who cannot join us in person starting at 7 p.m.

Menu:, Crockpot Chicken, Rice, Beans, Rolls, & Dessert

Pastor Marty will be teaching on the Seven "I AM" statements in John's Gospel tonight

## HOLY WEEK Schedule

**Palm Sunday, April 2 @ 9:30 AM**

**Maundy Thursday** Worship,  
April 6 @ 7 PM

**Easter Sunday, April 9 @ 9:30 AM**

Next Confirmation Class  
Sunday, April 2  
@ 12:15 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

Mar 26	Psalm	62 - 65
Mar 27	Psalm	66 - 67
Mar 28	Psalm	68 - 69
Mar 29	Psalm	70 - 72
Mar 30	Psalm	73 - 74
Mar 31	Psalm	75 - 77
Apr 1	Psalm	78