

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 743

August 9, 2023

“Decision Making Has Consequences.”

I was walking out to check the mail at the church last week and I noticed a gentlemen driving his car on the wrong side of Green Road. He had turned off of Millbrook Road on the wrong side and was driving towards Spring Forest Road. Cars coming from the Spring Forest side were scattering left and right so that they would not be hit by this “wrong way driver.” He seemed quite happy and didn’t seem to be upset with the situation. He just went on down the street and turned onto Spring Forest Rd. and went on his merry way.

When I was in high school, one summer, I worked in North Myrtle Beach at a hotel. I had driven to Tabor City to see some friends and was driving back down to the beach late one night. I was on US Highway 9 heading into Cherry Grove Beach about to crossover the Inland Coastal Waterway bridge when I noticed headlights coming up the bridge from the other direction on my side. My first thought was “No Way!”, but yes, there was a car on my side of the bridge!.

As you know, when crossing a bridge there is no shoulder (most often) to pull over on, just one or two lanes. Thank goodness there are two lanes in each direction on that bridge over the waterway. I started flashing my lights as he came toward me and slowing my speed. He was swerving from one lane to the other, still at highway speed. As he got closer, I decided that I would swerve opposite of him as he closed in, hoping he would miss me. He did! I looked in my rearview mirror seeing him travel on down the road, of course, still on the wrong side.

These two “wrong way drivers” did not cause an accident, thank goodness, but that is not always the case. My wife, Terry’s, brother-in-law and his family were not as fortunate. A number of years ago they were driving to Florida for vacation. They were both pastors in the United Methodist Church. They had their 3 kids with them. It was in the evening late and they were about to crossover one of the rivers on I-95 in Georgia and a drunk driver was coming in the opposite direction. On this night there was a tragic accident. The drunk man hit Jan’s minivan and the van caught on fire. Jan’s wife and 3 children were killed in the accident. Jan lived!

The man was arrested and charged. Of course the excuse was “I didn’t mean to do it. It was the alcohol.” But the court convicted of “4 counts of vehicle manslaughter.”

We all make choices everyday. Some can have grave consequences if poorly made, others not so much. But in our culture today, when we make a poor decision, we often defer to an excuse for our actions. When I was growing up as child, you would hear the phrase, “The Devil made me do it.” Today it is, “He or she caused me to do it.”

Here is the thing, very seldom do we make choices without knowing the cost. For example, there are signs everywhere, “Do Not Enter” or “Wrong Way”, telling us that this is not the way. You might say, “But people that drink and drive cannot process that.” True! BUT, we are told over and over again not to drink and drive. There are advertisements on TV everyday. The bartenders are told, don’t over serve alcohol and to watch for those who are drunk. We know better than to drink and drive, but some say, “I’m not drunk. I can drive” and then ...

As believers we have the Holy Spirit that guides us (when we listen to Him). We have no excuses. As a believer in Jesus Christ, He has given us His Spirit to lead us in the right direction and to make the proper choices that are right and good, to lean on. Trying to go it “our way” often doesn’t work out too well. But when we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all things in our life, “right decisions” become easier and we find ourselves not having to make excuses.

In **Luke 21:36** Jesus says, **“But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”** In **Mark 13:33** Jesus says, **“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.”**

We are to stay alert in ALL circumstances of life. Life comes at us fast and furious and our decision making has consequences. Make no excuses, but rely on the Holy Spirit to lead you. God’s way and will is still perfect.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, August 9

Wednesday Night Bible Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 10

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 12

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 13

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.

Session Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.

Monday, August 14

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.



Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

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.

The Computer Lab

Will not meet again until September

TLC Devotion

Wednesday, August 23

@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, August 12

@ 1:00 p.m.

Revitalization Weekend

REBOOT NOW

W/Ken Priddy/The GO Center

Friday, August 18th

Ken meets with the Session & Staff

@ 7 PM

Saturday, August 19th

Congregational Training

9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Lunch Provided)

Sunday, August 20th

Ken Preaches & Leads our Sunday school time

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, 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, 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 Bible Study, & Prayer August 9

Devotion & Prayer Time
Tonight @ 7:00 p.m.

Study of the Book of Jonah
Bring your Bibles

A Zoom Link will be available for those who cannot meet in person.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - August 13

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - August 13

Emma Duffell

Soundboard - August 13

Ben Pierce

Live Streaming - August 13

Diane Williams

Communion - August

Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - August 13

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - August 13

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday

Ruth 2:18 - 23

"Living Well in a Broken
World - Acknowledging
God's Provision Through
Praise"

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Aug. 13	Isaiah 50
Aug 14	Isaiah 51
Aug 15	Isaiah 52
Aug 16	Isaiah 53
Aug 17	Isaiah 54
Aug 18	Isaiah 55
Aug 19	Isaiah 56

Quote of the Week

*"God watches and weeds us,
and continues His labour upon us,
till he brings us to the end
of His promise."*

Richard Sibbes

Confirmation Class

Sunday, August 20 @ 5:00 p.m.

Next Session Meeting

Sunday, August 13 @ 12:00 p.m.

Congregational Training Event Saturday, August 19 @ 9 a.m.

All Invited to attend.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so that we have planned lunch with you included.

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

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