

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 749

September 20, 2023

“Working Together”

Exodus 17:12 “But Moses’ hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set.”

Terry, Emma, and I took a quick trip to Florence, South Carolina on Saturday to watch our oldest granddaughter play in a softball tournament with her travel team. Madison pitched in the first game and played left field in the second. They had two more games, but we were only able to watch the first two and then head home.

The two weekends prior, her team had won it all in two different tournaments. However, this weekend (Saturday) was a little different outcome. They lost the first two games (the ones we watched) and the next two games that followed. No wins and no trophies this weekend.

Our son Chris is one of the coaches for Madison’s team. In the first game they played he was encouraging them to talk to each other, to get into the game, to support one another. He came over to the fence where we were sitting and said, “Their head is not in this game. And until they begin to support each and play together as a team, we are toast”. Sure enough, they were toast. They got beat badly.

There was an hour and a half between the first and second game. That gave Chris a chance to talk to the girls about their play and lay out a strategy for game number two. He came over and told us, “You watch! They may not win this next game, but this next game will be different in how they play.” Sure enough, he was right. They played great. Encouraging one another. Lifting one another up. It was like a totally different team. Yes, they lost, but the team they lost to was much better than the first team they played and they made it a close game.

After this game Chris was giving the girls high fives and telling them what a great job they had done. Saying, “That is the way to support one another!”

I’m sure you have seen this happen before in your life. How encouragement and support from others helped you to accomplish more than you ever could do on your own. Working together for a common cause, in sync with each other, can be a beautiful thing.

It happened with Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur. Moses was leading the battle of the Israelite army against Amalek and his army. As long as Moses was holding his staff up in the air with both hands, Joshua and Israelites were winning the battle. But when his hands/arms dropped, Amalek’s army would begin to win the battle.

Aaron had an idea. Let’s work at this together. They put a stone underneath Moses for him to rest on. Aaron got on one side of Moses and Hur on the other and they held Moses’ arms up in the air. They did this until sunset when Joshua and his army defeated Amalek and his army. Team work for a common cause! It’s a beautiful thing.

The church today could learn from Mose, Aaron, and Hur and from my granddaughter’s softball team. Working together for a common goal is a beautiful thing. But when we pull apart, are divisive, try to do things ourselves, often, the outcome is not what we had hoped for. Supporting one another, encouraging one another, forgiving and joining together with one another can provide some of the best results we could imagine. It is exciting to watch the Holy Spirit work through us.

I’m sure Madison and her teammates would have loved to win their tournament making it three in a row, but I would bet they will bounce back from the adversity and play well in the upcoming games. I think they have learned it is better to play as a team because there is no “I” in team.

And what do you know, there is no “I” in church either. We all make up the Body of Christ for His purpose and His will. Working together for **His** common goal can be a beautiful thing.

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

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, September 20

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

Thursday, September 21

Worship Team Practice @ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 23

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 24

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, September 25

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.



Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Boxes Cereal

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

Saturday, October 14 @ 9:00 a.m.

TLC Devotion

Wednesday, September 27
@ 11:00 a.m.

**The Green Chair Project
thanks to everyone who helped
make this outreach event such a
huge success.**

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, September 23
@ 1:00 p.m.

REBOOT/Revitalization with Ken Priddy Next Steps Coming!

Men of HOPE

Men of the church, be praying about
whether God is calling you to lead this
Men’s group at HOPE.

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, Shelley, Diane Mack’s Sister-in-law, 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 Supper, Study, & Prayer September 20

Tonight @ 6:15 p.m.

Study of Exodus

Bring your Bibles

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

Menu:

BBQ Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, & Dessert

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic Presbytery Meeting

Sept. 29 - 30

Hope EPC, Richmond, VA

Please pray for the Commissioners that will attend

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - September 24
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - September 24
Emma Duffell

Soundboard - September 24
Ben Pierce

Live Streaming - September 24
Al Floyd

Communion - September
Lynn Joyner

Greeter - September 24
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - September 24
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday

1 Samuel 1:24-28
“Living Well in a Broken
World - Living in Faithfulness
to God”

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Sep 24	Jeremiah 26
Sep 24	Jeremiah 27
Sep 26	Jeremiah 28
Sep 27	Jeremiah 29
Sep 28	Jeremiah 30
Sep 29	Jeremiah 31
Sep 30	Jeremiah 32

Quote of the Week

“God works in His elect in two ways: inwardly, by His Spirit; outwardly, by His Word.”

John Calvin

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

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