

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 755

November 01, 2023

## “What Country Am I Living In?”

*“I don’t believe there are any coincidences in a matter like this. I believe that Scripture and the Bible is very clear that God is the one that raises up those in authority. He raised up each of you, all of us. And I believe God has ordained and allowed each one of us to be brought here for this specific moment and this time. This is my belief. I believe that each one of us has a huge responsibility today to use the gifts that God has given us to serve the extraordinary people of this great country and they deserve it.”*

Do you know who said this quote? This quote was made by Representative Mike Johnson following his election as US Speaker of the House of Representatives last week. Of course it has caused a fire storm by many in D.C. and around the country.

On her show, “Inside with Jen Psaki” this past Sunday, Psaki criticized the new speaker of the House for being a “religious fundamentalist.” Psaki said, “First glance, Mike Johnson does seem fine.” Then she played a clip of Johnson describing himself as a “Bible-believing Christian.” Psaki said that someone had asked her from the media, “Well, it’s curious. People are curious, what does Mike Johnson think about any issue under the sun?” Psaki said she replied, “He said in the clip:” “Well, go pick up a Bible off your shelf and read it. That’s my worldview.”

“You heard that right,” Psaki said in response to Johnson’s comments. “The Bible doesn’t just inform his worldview, it is his worldview.” In an article for MSNBC, Psaki warned her audience that Johnson is a scary speaker for more than just his political beliefs. She continued, “It’s not just his political ideology that should scare us. Johnson is basically a Christian fundamentalist.”

*(Information and quotes from a report on Fox News Digital Media, 10/29/23 - Fox News’ Gabriel Hays contributed to this report.)*

As I read this article on Monday, I actually thought, what country am I living in? Then I went to lunch at BoJangles on Capital Boulevard to eat a salad (yes, salad, not chicken) and was sitting in the dining room beside 8 high school teenagers. They must have been Seniors because they were all talking about what they were going to do when they graduated. Their language turned my stomach. But for them, it was a part of their vocabulary and just rolled off their tongue like every other word. But what was interesting was to overhear what they were saying.

Two of the young men said, “I can’t wait to graduate and get the H... out of this country. I hate America. I want to go anywhere else, even to Iraq.” What? I thought. Then he said this, which was absolutely so contrary to what he had just said. He stated, “I’m going to join the Marines so that this country can pay for me to go to other countries to live.” What? What in the world?

Yes, I know many would say, “But Marty, you are a Christian, a pastor, a believer in Jesus and His Word. This is the reason you take these reports and conversations the way you do.” ABSOLUTELY!!!

And being “all that” I thought of **Romans 1:16 - 17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous**

**man shall live by faith.”** I’m not ashamed of the gospel, God’s Word, nor is Mike Johnson.

I have said for years during my pastoral ministry that a time was coming when you could no longer stand in the “grey areas” in our country. That you would not be able to “straddle the fence” any longer. Or in other words, you would have to take a stand for what you believe. Could it cost you criticism and rejection? Yes! Could it end relationships with family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors? Yes! Is it worth it? Yes!

Jesus told us that we were going to be challenged in our faith. This is what He said in **Matthew 12:30 - He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.**

A secular worldview has always been present in our country, I saw with these young high school students, but the demonization of the biblical worldview has quickly been coming over the last couple of decades and is now full force and here to stay. In **Matthew 7:13 - 14, Jesus says: “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”**

We are called, as Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ, to glorify Him in all we do, in all we are, in all we say. **1 Peter 4:16 - “...but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.” 1 Corinthians 6:20 - “For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”**

I don’t know how Mike Johnson will make out as Speaker of the US House of Representatives, but I am glad that he is not yet bowing to the pressure of D.C. to shed his faith and belief in his savior. I pray he can withstand the fire storm towards him.

How about you and me? Could we? Would we? If we were to be challenged for living out our faith before others, what would we do? The fact is, we are. Let that settle in for a minute. I am praying for Mike Johnson and for all of you reading this article. I praying for our teenagers who hate our country. May you and I live our faith out so that others might see the Christ in us and be changed by Him. As I said this past Sunday, “The gospel changes one person at a time.” I am not ashamed of the gospel. And living out my faith before God and others will not change, even if challenged by a lost society.

What country am I living in? The one where God has placed me to make a difference. So folks, let’s make a difference.

Blessings my friends,

Pastor Marty Duffell - HOPE Church Raleigh

Worship . Grow . Serve

# HOPE Calendar

## Wednesday, November 1

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

## Thursday, November 2

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

## Sunday, November 5

### Daylight Savings Time Ends

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

## Monday, November 6

Worship Leader Search Team Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - November 5

*Church is Providing*

ProPresenter - November 5

*Emma Duffell*

Soundboard - November 5

*Jane Davis*

Live Streaming - November 5

*Franklin Johnston*

Communion - November

*Sandra Pierce*

Greeter - November 5

*Joan Rollinson*

Nursery Volunteer - November 5

*Volunteer Needed*

Scripture Text and Sermon  
This Sunday  
The Parables of Jesus

Luke 8:15 - 21

"The Parable of  
the Lamp"

## Daily Devotions

### For This Coming Week

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| Nov 5  | Ezekiel 11 |
| Nov 6  | Ezekiel 12 |
| Nov 7  | Ezekiel 13 |
| Nov 8  | Ezekiel 14 |
| Nov 9  | Ezekiel 15 |
| Nov 10 | Ezekiel 16 |
| Nov 11 | Ezekiel 17 |



## Outreach Ministries

### "Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry

### Pop Top Soups

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, November 11  
@ 9:00 a.m.

### TLC Devotion

NO TLC Devotion held in  
November

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

### Women of HOPE

Saturday, November 11  
@ 1:00 p.m.

### Men of HOPE

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

### Thank You!

Terry, Emma, and I would like to  
thank everyone for all your kind  
words & cards this past Sunday.  
Your love and support is very  
special to us. Pastor Marty

## Quote of the Week

"Modern religion focuses upon  
filling churches with people. The  
true gospel emphasizes filling  
people with God."

A. W. Tozer

## 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 November 1

@ 6:15 p.m.

Study of Exodus

### Bring your Bibles

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

### Menu:

Chicken w/Alfredo Sauce, Rice,  
Corn, Salad, Rolls & Dessert

### Upcoming Dates

#### Session Meeting

November 12 @ 12 p.m.

#### Annual Meeting of the HOPE Congregation

Sunday, November 19

#### Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 2

#### Advent Season Begins

Sunday, December 3

### 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)



DON'T FORGET TO  
*Fall Back*  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME ENDS  
*Set clocks back*  
**ONE HOUR**  
*at 2:00pm*  
**SUNDAY**  
**NOVEMBER**  
**05**  
**2023**

HOPE Church Raleigh