

The Connection



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 873

February 10, 2026

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (rf. Jn. 13:34-35 MEV)

Now, a lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read?” He answered, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’” He said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live.” But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” (rf. Lk. 10:25-29 MEV)

Love suffers long and is kind; love envies not; love flaunts not itself and is not puffed up, does not behave itself improperly, seeks not its own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails. (rf. I Cor. 13:4-8a MEV)

February is culturally viewed as the month of love with Valentine’s Day as the headliner. Hearts and flowers are seen everywhere and available for purchase. Promotions of love are displayed with abandon.

Yet for all the airplay that love is having right now, it is probably one of the most misunderstood concepts in our experience. Our English language is of no help whatsoever on the topic of love. We use the same word for our “love” of cats, coffee, football and friends, not to mention applied to the relationships closest to our hearts.

The Scriptures are not so opaque when it comes to the reality of love. We see romantic love clearly shared in the Song of Solomon. We read the frequent use of the Greek word for “love” (*agapeo*—pronounced “a-ga-pay-o”) in the writings of the Apostle John, known colloquially as “the apostle of love”. Indeed, it is this *agapeo* that the Lord uses as the standard for understanding true “love” in His Word. This is the love God has shown to undeserving and hell-fated sinners such as ourselves, resulting in our salvation, adoption into His family, and the promise of spending eternity with Him. *Agapeo* is a love that has no conditions put on the object of its expression. It is a selfless demonstration, an action as well as an emotional response that desires the best outcome. It is marked by compassion, encouragement, support, protection and grace. It is mercy exhibited and blessing received. *Agapeo* also expects the recipient of its benevolence to freely express the same to others. It is best shared and, if authentic, never seeks its own benefits.

In this polarized time much is being said and done on the premise that love is weak, that strength is shown in cruelty, power, dominion and degradation. The love of Christ that is disclosed in the Bible is far from weak. It can shatter walls of separation, restore relationships long broken, bind hearts in unity, and coalesce multitudes to face an enemy without fear. This is the love that God wants resident in the hearts of every Christian. This *agapeo* of the Lord is the ultimate change agent, past, present and future. Every follower of Jesus Christ should commit themselves to this kind of love, to share it and show it to all others so they can see its power and be drawn to His light.

Pastor Chris

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, February 11th
Supper at 6:15 pm, followed by Bible Study in I Corinthians and Prayer

Sunday, February 15th
Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 am
Worship @ 10:00 am
Sunday School/Adult AfterChat @11:15

Wednesday, February 18th
Supper at 6:00 pm, followed by a special Ash Wednesday Service

Helping Hands Ministries for Feb. 8th, 2026

Live Streaming

Al Floyd

Soundboard

Bill Joyner

ProPresenter

Elizabeth Floyd

Communion Preparation

Lynn Joyner

Nursery

Caroline Hutchins
Duart Johnston

Communion Assistant

RE Franklin Johnston

Prayer Support

RE Ryan Hutchins

Welcome/Announcements and Scripture Reading

RE Franklin Johnston

Giving to the Ministry of HOPE:

Online via QR Code



Or on our website:
www.hopechurchraleigh.org
or by check made out to:
"Hope Church Raleigh" and dropped in plate during Communion

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

Women of HOPE

Meetings generally at HOPE on the second and fourth Saturdays every month from 10 am to Noon.

Next Meeting: February 14th at HOPE Church (with Bible study —See note below)

Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

"Food of the Month"

**ONE-MEAL CANNED SOUPS/
CANNED MEAT**

The collection bin is in the foyer

We have a special Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18th at 7 pm. Our normal Wednesday evening meal will be served at 6 pm. We invite everyone to come and participate!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

TLC Devotion

On Wed. Feb. 25th at 11 am @ TLC

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

For whoever does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? We have this commandment from Him: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

(rf. **1 Jn 4:20-21** MEV).

The Women of HOPE are continuing with their **Bible study on Feb. 14th, 2026.**

The study is based on the book, **Becoming a Woman of Grace**, by Cynthia Heald

If interested, contact Alice Kinard for further details.

Prayer Requests:

Ernest Mbeng, Jordan Stevens, Kathy Herriman, Gene and Becky Hale, Erin's parents & brother, Burton, Pastor Chris & Lori King, Sandy (Kathy's friend), Donna (Joan's friend), Patty Moyer & son, Brandon, Jerry Kinard, Alice Kinard (transplant possibilities), Tom & Donna Williams, Ron Clifton, Phil Parton, Krishana, Sam, Rachel & children, Joan Rollinson, Dianne Reinoso, Cindy, Barbara (stroke), HOPE Children & Youth ministries, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, Mallory family, Carol and Colin, Tommy, Skip, Walt, Loretta, Joan Summers, Janice Worthington, Donna Abel, Pastor Marty & Terry Duffell, Laura Bradshaw (stroke recovery), Tom Klein, Baby Sutton, future plans & growth (spiritual & numerical) for HOPE Church Raleigh!

Next Sunday's Sermon:

The Three Biblical "Loves" of Our Experience (rf. **Jn. 21:15-17; SS. 2:10-17**)

To prepare for next Sunday, click on the link and be blessed!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roQovDZeAWE&list=RDroQovDZeAWE&start_radio=1

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers
Sound Board Volunteers
Nursery Helpers



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