

The Connection



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
• A Congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church—EPC •
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 875

February 24, 2026

For who has despised the day of small things? (cf. [Zech. 4:10](#) MEV)

So twenty-two thousand from among the people turned back, and ten thousand were left. But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many people. Bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. When I say to you, ‘This one will go with you,’ he will go with you. Everyone about whom I will say, ‘This one will not go with you,’ will not go.” So he brought the people down to the water, and the Lord said to Gideon, “You shall set apart by himself everyone who laps the water with his tongue like dogs; likewise, everyone who kneels down to drink.” The number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was three hundred. The rest of the people had knelt to drink water. The Lord said to Gideon, “With three hundred men who lapped to drink, I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands...” (cf. [Jdgs. 7:3–7](#) MEV)

In our time (and in all times, actually) it is important for every believer in Christ to be aware how easily we can succumb to the temptations and perspectives of the society and culture that surrounds us. We can have blind spots that allow the thinking of the world to penetrate our distinctively Christian faith walk. We might even see these viewpoints as positive and good because of the way they make us feel, not even taking into consideration how off base they may truly be from the teachings of Scripture.

For instance, our society promotes the “bigger is better” perspective. We believe that this view is equally as true in the Church as it seemingly is and affirmed in the world. We think our churches must be huge in size and scope to really be of use to the Lord. We believe that our church leaders must be “larger than life”, leading from a distance because that is the way world and business leaders operate. We tend to view megachurches as the epitome of success in God’s sight, the goal to which every local fellowship should seek to attain.

When we get consumed with the “bigger is better” mindset, we completely remove God out of our equation though we may tacitly share our glory with Him. God is not concerned about how big our churches become; He is more concerned about our obedience and faithfulness to Him and His Word. He is the God who thrives on doing great work using “small things”.

Remember that Jesus said it only takes the faith the size of a mustard seed to move a mountain (cf. [Matt. 17:20](#)). It was the widow’s mite in terms of giving that impressed Christ, not the grandiose display of the rich (cf. [Lk. 21:1-4](#)). In the text above, God makes it clear for His people not to diminish the “*day of small things*”. Rather, if we faithfully serve Him and seek Him honestly in our hearts, our efforts, our groups, our churches, no matter the smallness of their size, can accomplish the great things in His will by His power and to His glory. That is, in the end, what really matters. He is looking for a faithful, prayerful, devoted people who only want to please the Lord by their efforts, not seeking any glory or praise for themselves.

This is tremendously encouraging for us as HOPE Church Raleigh. We are not in competition with other churches for growth in numbers. Yes, we do want to grow so we can further expand God’s kingdom. But we want to focus on being faithful in our service, true to Him in our worship, and authentic in our love and practices so that others will be positively impacted by His display of grace through us. We want to be potent in the power He gives us to accomplish His will for our church and this community. May we never “*despise...the small things*” God is doing in our midst. Rather, let us seek the Lord to use “*the small things*”, like ourselves, to do great and wondrous works in His name!

Pastor Chris

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, February 25th
No Supper or Bible Study due to the
EPC Small Church Summit

Sunday, March 1st
Worship Team Practice
@ 8:30 am
Worship @ 10:00 am
Sunday School/Adult AfterChat @11:15

Wednesday, March 4th
Supper at 6:15 pm, followed by Bible
study and Prayer, beginning at 7 pm.

Helping Hands Ministries for March 1st, 2026

Live Streaming

Diane Williams

Soundboard

Bill Joyner

ProPresenter

Dianne Reinoso

Communion Preparation

Dianne Reinoso

Nursery

Caroline Hutchins
Duart Johnston

Communion Assistant

RE Donna Williams

Prayer Support

RE Lynn Joyner

Welcome/Announcements and Scripture Reading

RE Donna Williams

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: Feb. 28th
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

Looking forward to Holy Week 2026:
Palm Sunday—March 29th
Maundy Thursday—April 2nd
Good Friday—April 3rd
Easter Sunday—April 5th

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.

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I
did not conceal. I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave
the iniquity of my sin.

(rf. *Ps. 32:5* MEV).

The Women of HOPE are continuing with
their **Bible study on Feb. 28th, 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:

Sin Destroys; Repentance Restores
(rf. *Ps. 32:1-11*)

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=ZsGI0SYV6Ro&list=RDZsGI0SYV6Ro&
start_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsGI0SYV6Ro&list=RDZsGI0SYV6Ro&start_radio=1)

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers
Sound Board Volunteers
Nursery Helpers



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in the search box)