

The Connection



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 877

March 10, 2026

*Now this I say, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible will put on incorruption, and this mortal will put on immortality. When this corruptible will have put on incorruption, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then the saying that is written shall come to pass: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (cf. **1 Cor. 15:50-58** MEV)*

I recently heard a song entitled, “*It is Not Death to Die*”. The song was a beautiful reminder that death is not the end of our existence, especially as believers in Christ. Death is a door that we must all pass through until the Lord Jesus returns to conclude all things in the final judgment and usher in the New Creation. So, as we look forward to His return to earth at whatever time that may be, we will still have to individually deal with this doorway of death.

In times past, Christians lived life in the reality of death. Because health and hygiene conditions were so poor (compared to the present day), lifespans were normally not that great on average. If one lived into their 40s or 50s, they were considered old. Those who lived longer were viewed as ancient. Unfortunately, death frequently visited the young, so much so that large families were the goal for most, especially those whose lives were agricultural, because the parents hoped for as many children to live unto adulthood as possible.

In our modern times, although we know the reality of our mortality, we fight desperately against it. We want to live longer and more vibrant lives than our ancestors, and so we vigorously search for “the fountain of youth”, the elixir that will keep us young in body and mind while eliminating death altogether. Yet, for all our efforts, death keeps showing up at our doors, an unwelcome visitor but one not totally unexpected.

As Christians, we should be able to provide the rest of the world examples of how to live our lives to the fullest, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, while knowing that this life is limited in extent, serving as a precursor to the eternity that awaits us in the Presence of God. We should have the Apostle Paul’s perspective, “*For me to live is Christ, to die is gain*” (cf. **Php. 1:21**). In Christ, the life and death equation is a win-win. Because of Christ, we lose nothing when these lives of ours are spent. We actually are the recipients of greater gifts as we have the opportunity to serve Him in this life and “to enjoy Him forever” (WCF, Shorter Catechism, Question/Answer #1).

Therefore, as the song emphasizes, “*It is Not Death to Die*”. In this life, we had a beginning and we’ll have an end. Though this life is “*but a vapor*” (cf. **Jas. 4:14**), and our time miniscule when compared to all of human history, it is meant to be lived according to His Word, directed by His Spirit and wholly given over to God’s glory.

FYI, here’s the link for “*It is Not Death to Die*” on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sna3Fp4LZ9g&list=RDSna3Fp4LZ9g&start_radio=1

Pastor Chris

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, March 11th
Supper at 6:15 pm, followed by Bible study
and Prayer, beginning at 7 pm.

Sunday, March 15th
Worship Team Practice
@ 8:30 am

Worship @ 10:00 am
Sunday School/Adult AfterChat @11:15

Wednesday, March 18th
Supper at 6:15 pm, followed by Bible study
and Prayer, beginning at 7 pm.

Sunday, March 22nd
Worship Team Practice
@ 8:30 am

Worship @ 10:00 am
Sunday School/Adult AfterChat @11:15
Church-wide Covered Dish Lunch
at 12 noon

Helping Hands Ministries for March 15, 2026

Live Streaming
Al Floyd

Soundboard
Rich Williams

ProPresenter
Dianne Reinoso

Communion Preparation
Dianne Reinoso

Nursery
Donna Williams & Lynn Joyner

Communion Assistant
Rev. Jerry Kinard

Prayer Support
RE Ryan Hutchins

**Welcome/Announcements and
Scripture Reading**
Rev. Jerry Kinard

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: March 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

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. March 25th at 11 am
@ TLC

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

Keep Ernest Mbeng in your prayers this week.
He is facing yet another surgery with
continuing immunotherapy and, yet, his body
grows weaker by the day. Also, keep his
family before the Lord as they tend to Ernest
in the hospital. Thank you for your prayers.

The Women of HOPE are continuing with
their **Bible study on March 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 Divine Exchange
(rf. **Is. 61:3**)
RE Bill Joyner

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=ouTgX9hcwk4&list=RDouTgX9hcwk4
&start_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouTgX9hcwk4&list=RDouTgX9hcwk4&start_radio=1)

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers
Sound Board Volunteers
Nursery Helpers



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Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh
YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)