

# The Connection



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 883

April 21, 2026

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* (rf. [Mic. 6:8](#) NASB)

*Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.* (rf. [Is. 1:16-17](#) NASB)

*'Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, and widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'* (rf. [Deut. 27:19](#) NASB)

The Reformed faith proclaims a Gospel that touches the whole of a person: body, mind and spirit. We believe that the salvation of Christ utterly and totally transforms a person into the workable image of Jesus (i.e. the process of being changed by the Holy Spirit through sanctification). Indeed, God makes it plain in His Word that His goal is to make His people into the mirror images of His Son (rf. [Rom. 8:29](#)).

As receivers of this salvation, the effects of His work in our hearts are not just to make us more like Jesus. They are to use us to minister to the needs and hurts of those around us as Jesus Himself would do if He were physically present among us. This is the reason the Scriptures are replete with principles taught by God to His people that are meant to be implemented so our families, our communities, and our nations can experience the blessings of God firsthand.

The Lord has a very special place in His heart for the poor and the downtrodden, the sick and the lonely. In the Old Testament there were three groups of people that God specified to be recipients of His special mercies through the work of His people: aliens (foreigners), orphans and widows. These people, especially, had absolutely no social safety net to help or assist them. Family and tribal loyalty was the safety net for the Jews of that day. Therefore, if you were not a Jew or you had lost all your family and there was no one to provide for you (i.e. orphan and widow), apart from the generosity of others, such a person was utterly defenseless and poverty-stricken.

However, God instructed His people that “*to walk humbly*” with Him meant that they were to treat the poor and downtrodden with respect and compassion, to do justly toward them (acting on their behalf and benefit), and to humbly thank God for the grace that He had shown to His people that they were not in such a dire place (i.e. “but for the grace of God go I”). God meant for His people to be His avenues of blessing to the less fortunate and to the foreigner in their midst as a testimony of their appreciation for His mercies to them.

God also added a very important caveat to His directive regarding the poor. He reminded Israel many times and in many ways that He would always side with the less fortunate and promised His protection over them. In other words, you mess with the poor, you will be messing with God and He will not be pleased. Indeed, in the Law of Moses passage (rf. [Deut. 27:19](#)), God curses those who take advantage of, think badly of, or are unjust in their dealings with the poor and helpless. Many times, in Scripture, God tells His people to remember that they were once aliens in a foreign land (Egypt) and their lives were miserable because of their circumstances (slavery) so do not treat others with the same unkindness, injustice and lack of compassion that you experienced when you were down.

It is important to note that these Old Testament principles are still in effect. The New Testament did not abrogate them. Indeed, Jesus lived them out during His earthly ministry, and He expects His followers to emulate His actions. If we “*let (our) light so shine before men*” (rf. [Matt. 5:16](#)) by showing kindness, compassion and justice to the poor “*which we will always have with us*” (rf. [Jn. 12:8](#)), God will be pleased to bless our actions and empower us to do more by His Holy Spirit. If we fail to do so, we not only dishonor Christ our Savior, but we also will incur the displeasure of the Lord who in His cursing of us may make us experience firsthand the struggles of the poor, displaced and disrespected. As Jesus shared in His Sermon on the Mount, “*everything you would like men to do to you, do also to them*” (rf. [Matt. 7:12](#)) no matter who they may be.

*Pastor Chris*

# HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, April 22nd

Supper at 6:15 pm

At 7 pm the Study of the Church and the Last Days, followed by Prayer

Sunday, April 26th

Worship Team Practice

@ 8:30 am

Worship @ 10:00 am

11:15 am Fellowship

11:30 am Sunday School/Pastor's AfterChat

12 noon Regular Session meeting

Wednesday, April 29th

Supper at 6:15 pm

At 7 pm the Study of the Church and the Last Days, followed by Prayer

## 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: April 25th at HOPE Church (with Bible study —See note below)

### Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

“Food of the Month”

#### Cereals

The collection bin is in the foyer

## Prayer Requests:

The Ernest Mbeng family, Jordan Stevens, Kathy Herriman, Gene and Becky Hale, Erin's parents & brother, Burton, Pastor Chris & Lori King, Sandi Underwood family, 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, Loretta, Joan Summers, Janice Worthington, Donna Abel, Pastor Marty & Terry Duffell, Laura Bradshaw (stroke recovery), Tom Klein, future plans & growth (spiritual & numerical) for HOPE Church Raleigh!

## Helping Hands Ministries for April 26, 2026

### Live Streaming

Diane Williams

### Soundboard

Bill Joyner

### ProPresenter

Elizabeth Floyd

### Communion Preparation

Lynn Joyner

### Nursery

Al & Elizabeth Floyd

### Scripture Reading and Communion

#### Assistant

Al Floyd

### Prayer Support

Becky Hale

*Let every man give according to the purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. (rf. II Cor. 9:7 MEV)*

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### TLC Devotion

On Wed. April 29th at 11 am @ TLC

### HOPE Meal Ministry

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

### Next Sunday's Sermon:

Faith, Obedience and Generosity (Part Three)

(rf. II Cor. 9:6-15)

Pastor Chris King

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID0Mpy6zfts&list=RDID0Mpy6zfts&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID0Mpy6zfts&list=RDID0Mpy6zfts&start_radio=1)

### SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers  
Sound Board Volunteers  
Nursery Helpers

## Giving to the Ministry of HOPE:

Online via QR Code



Or on our website:

[www.hopechurchraleigh.org](http://www.hopechurchraleigh.org)

or by check made out to:

“Hope Church Raleigh” and dropped in plate during Communion

Ray and Ellen Clark of the Navigators are presently raising funds toward their new venture as full-time representatives of the Navigators. If you feel led to contribute to their cause, connect with Pastor Chris and he will share the details of how to do so.

### Saturday, April 25th, 2026 @ 10 am

Come join the Women of HOPE as they continue in their study based on the book,

***Becoming a Woman of Grace,***  
by Cynthia Heald

If interested, contact Alice Kinard for further details.



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