

The Connection



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 893

June 30, 2026

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life. (rf. Pr. 13:12)

for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,” (rf. Heb. 13:5)

Life is hard. This comes as no surprise to us, especially to those who have lived many years. Experience itself teaches us this truth. We know that difficult times will come. Indeed, for some that are reading this missive, those hard times are now a reality. Like death and taxes, the troubles are a certainty for the human existence.

I freely confess that I am not a fan of struggles and problems. I know theologically that all human beings have these strivings because such adversities are a result of Adam’s fall in the Garden of Eden. We as his offspring are saddled with these complications and will be until the day we die. One beautiful promise of heaven for God’s people is eternal life with no pain, no sorrow, no grief because all the problems of this life will have been left behind once we have crossed over to Jordan’s shore.

With this understanding of the ongoing reality of issues and struggles, how then does God want us to cope amid these challenges? He provides us two very important coping mechanisms: hope and faith. Hope is intrinsically important to us. We must have hope to plow through tough times. Hope gives us the impetus to get up and keep going even when we want to sit down and give up. Without hope in our arsenal, we would not stand a chance.

What happens, though, when the hardship endures over a long stretch of time, and hope becomes harder to keep in focus? In essence this is what the writer of this proverb, probably King Solomon, has in mind. When our hope begins to diminish, we become disenchanted with continuing to hold on. Our faith, though truly a gift from God with no lack of resource, as an oil lamp connected to a never lacking oil reservoir, can be greatly challenged, leaving us floundering. We can become physically, emotionally, and even spiritually “*sick*”, especially when “*hope (is) deferred*” or put off or delayed.

The thing we must never forget is the reality that God never leaves us. Though we may experience times when hope and faith APPEAR to abandon us, He will never do so. He has given us His Word that His presence is with us wherever we go and wherever we are, in whatever situation in which we find ourselves. We should never allow our feelings to replace our reality. God said, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you*” (rf. Heb. 13:5). We can count on Him keeping this promise to us.

My encouragement to all of us is not to view hope and faith as merely extensions of our own emotions. Our emotions are totally unreliable instruments of what is real and true. Rather, we should see hope and faith as gifts God Himself has given to us as His children, gifts that He energizes and controls. They are intended to be as sure as His own presence with us. Therefore, if we feel hope is gone and our faith now lacks substance, it is not because those things are true (they are not). Rather, it is because we FEEL that our hope is gone. We FEEL that our faith is lacking. With that realization of the instability of our own emotions, we then need to move our hearts and minds to the firm foundation of God and His promises. What He says about Himself and His gifts to us IS true. On Him and in Him alone can we successfully make it through our difficulties.

Therefore, let us then remember these truths when these realities of life come our way. Let us hold fast to the Lord and His words to us. And soon our hope will be rewarded, our faith will become sight, “*the desire*” will arrive and our experience will be “*the tree of life*” as we regain our strength and are renewed by the eternal love and strength of our God.

Pastor Chris

**All Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard version (NASB)*

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, July 1st

6:30 pm

The Study on the Church and the
Last Days Bible study, followed by
Prayer

Sunday, July 5th

Worship Music Practice

@ 8:30 am

Worship @ 10:00 am
Fellowship Time and Sunday
School/AfterChat to follow

Wednesday, July 8th

6:30 pm

The Study on the Church and the
Last Days Bible study, 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: July 11th
at HOPE Church (with Bible study
—See note below)

Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

“Food of the Month”

**Cereals and Nonperishable Breakfast
Foods**

The collection bin is in the foyer

Prayer Requests:

Jordan Stevens, Kathy Herriman, Gene
and Becky Hale, Ellie Tappan, Erin's
parents & brother, Burton, Pastor Chris
& Lori King and Jimmy 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 family, Rev. Rob Westlund
(shingles), Dave & Suku Rendall, EPC
missionaries; all First Responders;
future plans & growth (spiritual &
numerical) for HOPE Church Raleigh!

Helping Hands Ministries for June 28, 2026

Live Streaming

Franklin Johnston

Soundboard

Bill Joyner

ProPresenter

Elizabeth Floyd

Communion Preparation

Lynn Joyner

Nursery

Al and Elizabeth Floyd

Scripture Reading and Communion

Assistant

Becky Hale

Prayer Support

Al Floyd

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers. Fear came to every soul. And many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their property and goods and distributed them to all, according to their need. And continuing daily with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (rf. Acts 2:42-27 MEV)

Next Sunday's Sermon:

The Apostles Creed (Pt. 7)

(rf. Acts 2:1-6, 42-47)

Pastor Chris King

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yQ42RU3Nh8&list=RD4yQ42RU3Nh8&start_radio=1

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Sound Board Volunteers
Nursery Helpers

(Sign-Up Sheets Available)

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 SERVE

TLC Devotion

On Wed. July 22nd at 10:30 am
@ TLC

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or
someone else. **Donations of new meals to the
freezer would be greatly appreciated. Contact
Christina Johnston for details.**

Saturday, July 11th, 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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in the search box)