



COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

December 31, 2023
Pastor Randy Brainard
Resolved for 2024

resolved

re·solved [rə'zɒlvd, rə'zälvd]

1. firmly determined to do something:

Jonathan Edward's Resolutions:

Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to his will, for Christ's sake.

19. Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trump.

9. Resolved, to think much on all occasions of my own dying, and of the common circumstances which attend death.

67. Resolved, after afflictions, to inquire, what I am the better for them, what good I have got by them, and what I might have got by them.

63. On the supposition, that there never was to be but one individual in the world, at any one time, who was properly a complete Christian, in all respects of a right stamp, having Christianity always shining in its true luster, and appearing excellent and lovely, from whatever part and under whatever character viewed: Resolved, to act just as I would do, if I strove with all my might to be that one, who should live in my time.

42. Resolved, frequently to renew the dedication of myself to God, which was made at my baptism; which I solemnly renewed, when I was received into the communion of the church; and which I have solemnly re-made this twelfth day of January, 1722-23.

24. Resolved, whenever I do any conspicuously evil action, to trace it back, till I come to the original cause; and then both carefully endeavor to do so no more, and to fight and pray with all my might against the original of it.



**Offer HOPE, Grow in COMMUNITY,
and Be the CHURCH**

Resolved to offer HOPE!

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19–20)

“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.” (Charles H. Spurgeon)



Resolved to... “offer HOPE”

Who are you developing relationships with to love them as Christ would and share the most loving thing you could share with them?
Who are you inviting to church?
Who are you praying for?
Who is someone who is curious that you could read the Bible with?

Resolved to... “grow in COMMUNITY”

Steady diet of the Word:

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Joshua 1:8)

Are you personally reading the Word daily (or with others)? Are you attending a church that preaches steadily through the Word? Are you in a home group/youth group that reads and obeys the Word?

Encouragement/Fellowship:

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24–25)

Are you in a Home Group at Hope? Do you seek to encourage other youth at youth group? Who do you pray with? Who do you read God’s Word with?

Admonishment is Loving:

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:15–18)

Are you in relationships with others at Hope to help them grow and encourage them? Are you taking responsibility for the faith of your brother/sister in Christ (and the honor of His name)? Do you pray for others? Serve with others at Hope? Do you understand why God protects His church through church discipline?



Are you committed to grow spiritually with brothers and sisters in Christ? To encourage them, be vulnerable yourself with them, and be willing to admonish them when they need that?



Resolved to... “Be the CHURCH”

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:34–40)



13. Resolved, to be endeavoring to find out fit objects of charity and liberality. (Jonathan Edwards)

Be resolved in 2024 to serve Jesus: by serving food to the hungry, by visiting the sick, by caring for the orphan...

Coming up at Hope

- February 10: 11am-1pm Feed My Starving Children (packing manna packs for hungry kids)
- February 22-25: 1Mission: Build a home for a family in need in Rocky Point, Mexico.
- March 31: Easter Offering (building schools, feeding hungry, serving the least)
- Short-Term Summer Trips: Rock Nest Ranch Canada, Guatemala Wheelchairs, Philippines, Austria

Home Group Questions...

Offer hope, grow in community, and be the church... (Read Matthew 28:19-20, Hebrews 10:24, Matthew 25:34-40)

1. What do you think about the three missions/resolutions for Hope Community Church? Why do you think that way? How are you at living these out? How does that impact those around you?
2. Where have you experienced any of these three in the past? What specifically made them good or not-so-good?
3. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate your skill level in each area? What made you give that score to yourself?
4. How could you improve in “being resolved” in these three areas? Who is someone who could help you with that?
5. What are excuses commonly given for not offering hope, growing in community, and being the church? What are the reasons people believe this?