



THE ORCHARD

August 6, 2023

Issue Six

Youth Newsletter



PLANTIGROW



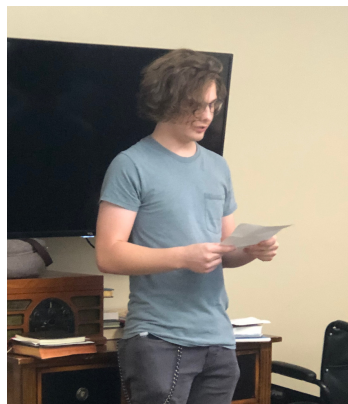
WHAT'S (GROW)ING ON?

In July, the youth group focused on service, practicing showing God's love in our community and in each community we visited this past month. Our biggest effort was our trip up to Battlefield Farm in Knoxville, where we helped to upkeep the farm while Chris Battle, their founder, taught us how they care for God's creation and their community by growing food and fighting food disparity. We plan to continue discussing and reflecting on our service in Knoxville in order to carry that type of community care back with us to Tullahoma. Expect to hear much more about our trip in the near future.

In August, we return back to our normal schedule along with the return of the school year. We're looking forward to getting back to our normal Wednesday-night study of Exodus, as well as to beginning our new Sunday-morning study on the books of Samuel.

FRESH FRUIT

One of our service projects in July was for the youth to plan and lead Sunday morning services over at Morning Pointe. Pictured to the left is Jaxon, who gave our devotional at Morning Pointe for the majority of our five weeks over there. Our youth put so much effort into showing God's love to our neighbors this month, and we're all so proud of them!



OUR PURPOSE

"Under God's leadership, the purpose of the youth ministry at Highland Hills Church of Christ is to plant the seeds of God's steadfast love, of a faith that seeks deeper understanding, and of God's kingdom. In doing so, we aim to grow together with the triune God, each other, and our broader community."



2023 AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Homework Help Exodus	3	4	5
6 Samuel	7	8	9 Homework Help Exodus	10	11	12
13 Samuel	14	15	16 Homework Help Exodus	17	18	19
20 Samuel	21	22	23 Homework Help Exodus	24	25 Devo Night	26
27 Samuel	28	29	30 Homework Help Exodus	31		

Please consult the calendar at highlandhills.church/youth-ministry for the most recent calendar updates.



THE PATHWAY

Classes and Times

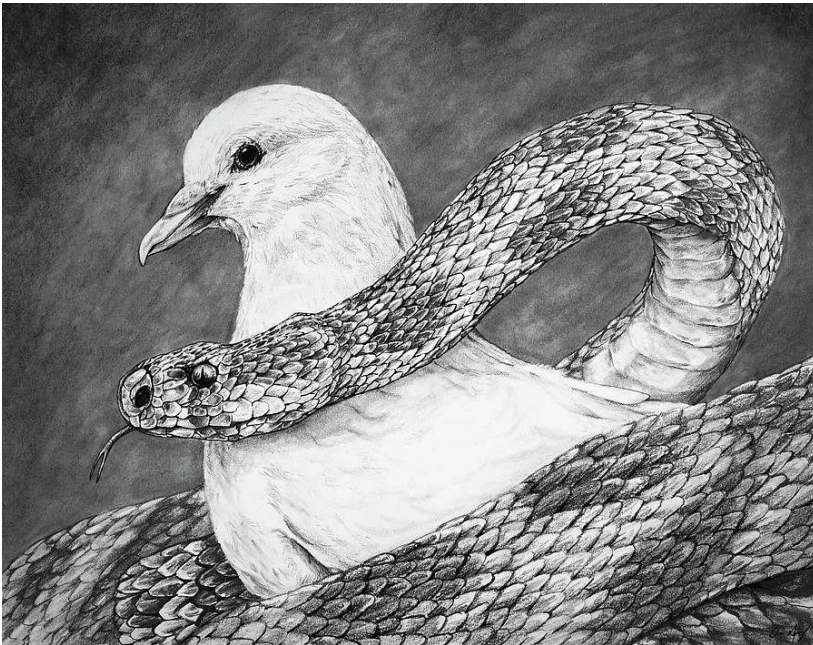
Sunday Morning at 9:00:
Samuel

Wednesday Afternoon at 2:30:
Homework Help

Wednesday Evening at 6:30:
Exodus

GRAFTED ONTO GOD

This month's reading and art for reflection



- "Serpent and Dove" by Aaron Spong

The two creatures seem almost to contrast with each other. The serpent was crafty and shrewd in Genesis 3. The dove is seen as beautiful, harmless and innocent throughout scripture. That is exactly why Jesus is using the images of both to make His point. When we build our Christian identity, Jesus wants both of these aspects to be present in our lives. As Christians we will be as vulnerable as sheep before wolves. We have to be as clever and cunning as serpents, so as to protect ourselves from unnecessary hostility. At the same time, we are to harm no one, remaining as innocent and as free of malice as doves."

The following is a reflection by Patrick van der Vorst on Matthew 10:16-23 and the artwork to the left:

"Our drawing by Colorado-based artist, Aaron Spong, illustrates today's reading well, where Jesus instructs His disciples to 'be cunning as serpents and yet as harmless as doves'. Whilst the white dove seems to be in the grip of the serpent, they are working together, gazing in the same direction. The serpent isn't strangling the dove; nor is the dove picking at the serpent. Their focus is in joint togetherness gazing at the same goal.

Both the serpent and the dove are mentioned regularly all throughout Scripture, so the disciples listening to Jesus would have been very familiar with these two creatures:

- the serpent: the serpent tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden; in Exodus, the staffs of Moses and Aaron are turned into serpents; in Numbers 21, God sends fiery serpents, etc...
- The dove: a dove appears in the story of Noah's ark; the Spirit of God descends as a dove upon Jesus at His baptism, etc...