



# THE ORCHARD

Mar. 5, 2023  
Issue One

Youth Newsletter



## 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."



## WHAT'S (GROW)ING ON?

In February, we traveled to Gatlinburg, TN for Winterfest! The theme this year was, "The Hour Has Come," focusing on Jesus' prayer in John 17 immediately before His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. We all had a wonderful trip, and we look forward to next year! A huge thanks is due to everybody who made this trip possible!

In March, we look forward to going to Huntsville, AL for a hockey game with the Huntsville Havoc, and toward the end of the month we'll begin ramping up for our mission trip to Battlefield Farms in Knoxville, TN.



## FRESH FRUIT

On February 26, Isaac Winton and Sasha Wulf were baptised into the body of Christ. Congrats, you two! We're all incredibly proud of both of you!

Also, congratulations are due to Jeannie Hite, who recently placed second in her class at the S3DA state archery championships. Good luck at Nationals, Jeannie!

# THE ROOT NETWORK

Upcoming events and deadlines:

2023  
03

## MARCH

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

## GRAFTED ONTO GOD

"The Bible reveals the God of hesed, who has opened the door of his life to you and me. Though we are responsible for the death of his only Son and have, in effect, cursed him, he covered us with his body, his blood, and saved us long before we might have accepted him. We have no right to expect anything from him, the Holy One. Yet he has extended himself to us, has invited us to enter his world, has made our story a part of his story, has opened his life to the inevitable possibility of being hurt, disappointed, and wounded by you and me.

The story is repeated again and again in Scripture. God invites Adam and Eve into his life, only to be wounded by their willingness to believe Satan over him. He extends himself to the Israelites, to Moses, and to David, only to be rejected, to be hurt by their stubborn disbelief. "How long will these people despise me?" God whispers to Moses in Numbers 14:11. "What fault did your fathers find in me?" he laments in Jeremiah 2:5. Ultimately, in Jesus of Nazareth he extends himself, personally and intimately, calls us friends, is vulnerable, only to be wounded, abandoned, and crucified, when at any moment he might have disappeared over the hill into the vast hiding place of the Judean desert. Though we had no right to expect anything from him, he freely gave us everything.



At the heart of this relentless and extravagant act of God himself, central to the indescribable mystery of the opening of the door of his life, is the Hebrew word hesed. When God definitively reveals himself to Moses, the word is twice upon his lips. When he reaches out to David, it is the word on which their relationship and David's throne rest. The psalmists sing about it. The prophets lament its fragileness in us. And God himself hopes that our response to his hesed will be an infinitely smaller, yet still indescribable, expression of our own hesed. Jesus will expand on it in his parables and incarnate it in his own life.

This small three-letter word, **תּוּן**, seems to always be there when the door is open from one life to another, when the unexpected and undeserved gift of one's life is offered with no strings attached, when inexpressible acts of adoption, forgiveness, and courage occur that leave us speechless."

-from "Inexpressible: Hesed and the Mystery of God's Lovingkindness" by Michael Card



## THE PATHWAY

Classes and Times

Sunday Morning at 9:00:

Ruth (through 3/12)

The Work of the Church (3/19 onward)

Wednesday Afternoon at 2:30:

Homework Help

Wednesday Evening at 6:30:

Exodus