

A Tale of Kindness

Most of us are familiar with the book of Ruth which recounts the plight of a young Moabite widow, Ruth, and her widowed Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi. Recently I was struck by how this short, under-appreciated book showcases “excessive” kindness, its characters going beyond the minimum to care for one another even when times are tough.

Naomi leaves Bethlehem with a husband and two sons (1:1). Some years later, she returns (1:19) with just her Moabite daughter-in-law. Both are now desperate widows. Naomi is deeply embittered, feeling rejected by God (1:20-21). Naomi repeatedly urges Ruth to return to the familiarity of her own country, knowing that a Moabite widow in Israel would be vulnerable and need protection and support—and that she herself was returning penniless. Despite her distress, Naomi extends Ruth great kindness. She sets aside her own best interests and not only allows Ruth to return with her, but mentors her in getting her feet on the ground in a strange land, “My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for?” (3:1)

Ruth actually says little throughout the book that bears her name. What’s immediately evident is how she’s more loyal to Naomi than she needs to be, more loyal than even Naomi wants her to be. Ruth binds herself for life with an oath in the name of Yahweh—Naomi’s God, the God of Israel—that demanded punishment should she ever renege,

“For wherever you go, I will go,
and wherever you live, I will live;
your people will be my people,
and your God will be my God.”

— Ruth 1:16

Ruth’s diligent work ethic and kindness toward her mother-in-law capture the attention of Boaz, a close relative of Naomi’s late husband. Though as a widow Ruth had the “right” under Jewish Law to glean behind harvesters in any field (Deuteronomy 24:19), she

exhibits no hint of entitlement, politely asking permission from Naomi (2:2) as well as from Boaz’s servants (2:7,13). She humbly petitions Boaz to “spread his wings over” her as a kinsman-redeemer. Ruth’s diligence, respect, and kindness shine through in all she says and does.

Boaz lives up to his noble reputation (2:1) when God’s providence leads Ruth to glean in his fields (2:3). He’s far more kind and generous than the Law required. He rewards Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi with protection, privileges, and food (2:8-13), never sending her home to Naomi empty-handed (2:16, 8-13). Boaz’s kindness prompts Naomi to realize that, her trauma and bitterness notwithstanding, Yahweh had “not withdrawn his kindness” from her. Boaz is eager to fulfill his levirate responsibility (Leviticus 25) to redeem Ruth when the closest kinsman-redeemer declines to do so. Through Boaz, Ruth bears a son to look after Naomi in her old age and becomes the grandfather of David, the ancestor of Jesus.

“In the days when judges ruled” (2:1) the book of Ruth depicts an almost alternate universe to the idolatry and violence of the book of Judges in which everyone did “what is right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6; 21:25). Ruth’s world resonates with us because it wasn’t one without adversity and conflict, yet we see her, Naomi, and Boaz reaching through their toil and woundedness to pour out kindness into the lives of others. In the end, who benefited from their doing more than the minimum?

Everyone.

By nature, I’m a “glass half-empty” kind of guy. Join me in looking past our daily problems to discover and appreciate all the ways God has not withdrawn His kindness from you and me. May we “go the extra mile” (Matthew 5:41) in paying His kindness forward into the lives of others.

— Mark Miller

Welcome to East Hill Church of Christ, a place where you can discover the gospel!
Please, don't hesitate to let any of the greeters or ministers know how we can serve you.

CALENDAR

March

- 14 YU Equip Conference
- 19 Carr-Martens Shower
Fellowship Hall, 2-4 pm
- 26 Youth Trip Fundraiser Meal
Fellowship Hall, after worship
- 26 Areawide Singing
Hasting C of C
- 28 Food Distribution
South Lot, 10:30-11:30 am

April

- 1 Men's Breakfast
Fellowship Hall, 8 am
- 2 Nugen Shower
Fellowship Hall, 1:30-3:30 pm
- 5 LTC Showcase night
in lieu of Bible classes
- 7 Son Shiners
Chances R, 5:30 pm
- 7-8 LTC in Kansas City
- 16 Deacon Meeting
Youth Room, 2 pm
- 16-22 Clothing Giveaway
Sunday—load in 5:30p
Mon-Thu-Sorting 9am-9pm
Fri—East Hill night 6-8pm
Sat—Giveaway 8am-noon
Sat—clean up noon-done
- 23 Mission Sunday
- 29 YU Spring Graduation

- 3/12 Judy Lynn
- 3/12 Aubrey Miller
- 3/12 Chris Martens
- 3/12 Richard Keeton
- 3/16 Tyler Hinton
- 3/16 Alan Bastyr
- 3/16 Makai Schwarz
- 3/18 Marla Huber
- 3/18 Bill Norquest

- 3/13 Loran & Alice Yunevich
- 3/15 Frank & Tania Billington

CELEBRATE

MINISTRIES & EVENTS

YU Equip Conference: Plan to attend the inaugural Equip conference hosted by York University on Tuesday, March 14. The \$25 fee covers breakfast, lunch, and all conference resources, as well as admission to a Bible storytelling event on March 13.

Carr-Martens Wedding Shower: There will be a come and go couples wedding shower for Sadie Carr and Chris Martens on Sunday March 19, from 2 pm to 4 pm in the fellowship hall. They are registered on Amazon. You can search them there or through "The Knot" website.

Fundraiser Meal for Summer Youth Mission Trip to Ecuador: Join us on March 26 after Sunday morning worship. Pancakes and breakfast casserole will be provided for a free will donation. We have more than a dozen students and sponsors who will benefit.

Mountain State Children's Home Spring Food Drive: Items to donate for MSCF's spring food drive can be placed in the cans behind the information center. Pick up will be Monday, April 10. A list of needed items is on the back page of the bulletin.

Donation Items for Youth Mission Trip to Ecuador: In preparation for the May high school mission trip to Ecuador, we are gathering several items for projects. 1) We are collecting small toys that will be handed out as prizes for children. These should be new items in their packaging. For example, it can be toys from fast food kids' meals or small party favors. If you are ordering, Oriental Trading has many of these items. 2) We will be making survival packs that we will hand out to the homeless with information about the church in Salinas. We are collecting new socks for the packs. There is a container in the foyer for these items. Let's fill two big suitcases with toys and socks!

Clothing Exchange: The Spring Clothing Giveaway will be Saturday, April 22. We will begin setup and sorting on Sunday, April 16. The sidebar calendar gives an overview of the schedule for this event. More details will be shared in future announcements. If you have any questions about the event, please see Michele Briggs.

Baby Shower: Join us Sunday, April 2, from 1:30-3:30 pm to celebrate Riley Nugen. Jake and Taylor and big brother Rowan have only been worshipping with us for about a year, so the come and go couple's shower will be a great time to meet them if you haven't yet. They do not have specific needs for Riley, so we will have a gift card and diaper shower. They use "Honest Company" or "Hello Bello" sensitive diapers and wipes and Riley is now moving into 3-6 month clothing sizes. Please contact Tera Knapp or Emily Tandy with questions.

But in your hearts, revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

I Peter 3:15 East Hill 2023 Theme Verse

BODY LIFE & PRAYERS

Prayers:

Eddie Kennedy received a heart monitor. Please pray for some answers to his health questions. He also wants to thank everyone for their prayers.

Brenda Reicheneker had an appointment this last week, please pray for resolution for her blood pressure issues.

Mark and Rhonda Briggs' grandson Luke started an in-patient feeding therapy program this last week. Please pray for some answers to his feeding issues.

Grace Gear's brother, Grant was killed in a car accident on Thursday. Grace is home with family. Her parents, Greg and Tanya attended York in the 90's. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Thank You:

The Kretz families and Daylight Donuts at the Way Station recently held a fundraiser for the Youth Mission trip to Ecuador. The total raised was \$800. Thank you to all those who participated!

Body Life:

Adult Class Offerings for the spring:

Young Adults - Fellowship Hall (Coppinger and Kretz)

Daily Bread: The 24 Chapter Bible - Fellowship Hall (Carr)

1 Timothy and 2 Timothy - Fellowship Hall (Miller)

The Book of Acts - Auditorium (Hawley)

Prayer Focus:

After the events at Asbury University a couple of weeks ago, there has been a lot of discussion about revival. Revival is a great Christian concept. We sing revival songs like "Revive Us Again" and "Restore My Soul" that are prayers to God. Revival has a long tradition in both the history of Israel and of the church. Our own brotherhood has its roots in The Second Great Awakening, a revival movement in the early 1800s. This week, take some time to pray that God will revive the hearts of our community to be open to the truth of the gospel. Pray that he will give us the opportunity to spark revival here and around the world.

Weekly Events

Attended Nursery: You can drop off children ages 0 up to 2 years in the nursery during services.

Youth Updates: Contact Garrett Schwarz to get the Remind notices and stay connected on the latest news regarding the East Hill Youth.

Women's Thursday Class: Join women of all ages for a time of prayer and study. The class meets on Thursdays, 10 am to 11:30 in the fellowship hall and on Zoom.

LTC Practices

Choruses - meet today 3-4 pm with 7th-12th in in the youth room, and 3rd-6th in the children's wing.

Dramas will meet Wednesdays. 3rd-5th in the drama room in children's wing and 6th-9th in the auditorium from 6:20-7:30 and 10th-12th in the youth room 7:30-8:30.

Bible Bowl practice times are still to be arranged, participants will be informed by email.

Weekly Prayer Pal Suggestion

Respect – *Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

~I Peter 2:17

Weekly Scripture Memory

February 12-April 16— Rom 12:9-18

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. *Share with God's people who are in need.*

Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Worship 10 am, livestreamed on Facebook

Bible classes for all 9 am

Sunday evening 5 pm, communion available

Wednesday

Bible Classes for all 6:30 pm

Adult class is livestreamed on Facebook

For the Record: March 5, 2023

Weekly Attendance: 294

Weekly Giving

Budgeted TBD

Actual: \$8,995.33

Children's: \$59.46

Year to Date

Budgeted: TBD

Giving: \$78,977.54

Children's for Ecuador: \$596.57

East Hill Church of Christ

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WiFi: EHguest PW: JesusIsLord!

Ministry Staff:

Preaching Minister

Glenn Hawley

Worship & Family Minister

Glenn Dallmann

Children's Ministry - School Age

Tana Albin

Children's Ministry - Preschool

Hannah Sikes

Youth Ministry - Coordinator

Garrett Schwarz

Administrative Assistants

Michele Briggs 9 am-noon

Tera Knapp 11:30-2:30

Missionaries in Ecuador

Joshua & Julie Marcum

Michaela, Eliana, Jana, Enoch

Shepherds:

Tim Carr

Michael Case

Matt Coppinger

Keith Miller

Mark Miller

Steddon Sikes

Eric Tremaine

Shepherd of the month is in bold font.

Deacons-----Area of Service

Marty Barrett ----- Benevolence

Trey Colle -----Emergency Meals

Robert Cunningham ----- Son Shiners

Troy Flynt -----Treasurer

Jansen Fraser----- Grounds

Trent Hinton -----Livestream

Ron Kretz----- Singles

Larry Light ---- Single Seniors, Facilities

Garrett Schwarz ----- Youth

Jeff Shafer ----- Worship Support

Lonnie Shafer -----Elder/deacon liaison

Ken Van Gomple ----- LTC

Mountain State Children's Home

Spring Food Drive List

* indicate high priority items

Canned/Jarred items

Sauces— Worcestershire, soy, Heinz 57,

A-1, BBQ, Mayonnaise & Miracle

Whip, Nutella, Enchilada sauce (red

and green), Canned fruit— pineapple,

peaches, fruit cocktail, mandarin

oranges, and pears. Olives, pinto beans,

pickles, cooking spray

Personal/Household items

Allergy medicines, disposable razors,

mouth wash (alcohol free), deodorant,

face wash, face moisturizers, Q-tips.

Boxed/Package items

Cereal, oatmeal packets, baking chips—

chocolate, white, butterscotch, Rice-a-

Roni— all flavors, scalloped and au

gratin potatoes.

Snack and Beverage items

individual chips/snacks for lunches,

*tortilla chips, *cookies, *nuts, *trail

mix, *fruit snacks, *granola bars—

Kind, Cliff, Belvita, *breakfast bars,

*microwave pop corn— kettle corn,

*crackers— Cheez-It, Club, Chicken n

Biscuit, Gold Fish, Ritz, Saltines,

Graham, *Carnation Instant Breakfast/

Breakfast essentials, 100% fruit juices,

orange, prune, cranberry. *Capri Suns,

juice boxes, Chocolate syrup/powder,

Lipton Sweet Tea, herbal tea, tea bags,

peppermint, sleepy time, Coffee, K-

cups, Ground Espresso

Paper goods/Plastic/Cleaning items

Tall kitchen trash bags, carpet

shampoo, laundry stain remover,

*paper plates (no foam), Solo plastic

cups, toilet paper, napkins, paper towels

Order of Worship

High and Lifted Up

Call to Worship: Steddon Sikes

108 The Lord is in His Holy Temple

Reading: Ben Babcock

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Come Let Us Sing

100/101 Holy Ground

Prayer: Justin Carver

325 Boundless Love

Highly Exalted

Communion: Matt Coppinger

Children's Offering

Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord

"Whom Shall I Send?"

Isaiah 6, Glenn Hawley

Lord, Send Me

Shepherd's Prayer: Michael Case

Body Life: Ken Van Gomple

Your Kingdom Until Then