



Mountain Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2020
84 CHURCH ST
HIAWASSEE, GA 30546

EMAIL: INFO@MCCONNELLCHURCH.ORG

Celebration Cafe

Join us for our first Celebration Café in 2020 on Sunday, February 16th at 8 am in the Family Life Center! This is a sweet time of fellowship before getting your day started with Sunday School & Church. Just plan on coming early to enjoy breakfast, coffee and fellowship!

First Steps Class

If you are new to the church or want information on joining the church, please join Pastor Steve & Pastor Danny as they share information about McConnell, who we are and our vision. We meet in The Lodge immediately following the morning worship service on February 9th. A light lunch will be served. This class is a prerequisite for joining the church. Call the church office to register.

DNOW Weekend

This local Discipleship Now weekend retreat held at Canal Lake Bible Camp in Blairsville, on February 28th thru March 1st, is a great weekend for Summit Students. They spend time with friends, study the Bible with guest college leaders, go crazy over recreation time and enjoy high quality worship gatherings. Please pray for the students & leaders!

Church Events

- **Feb 2nd - Guests Services Coordinators Meeting, 12:00 - 1 pm, Conf. Rm**
- **Feb 4th - Alzheimer's Support Grp, 1:30 pm, FLC-219**
- **Feb 9th - Lord's Supper, 10:15 am Service**
- **Feb 9th - First Steps Class, 11:45 am, The Lodge**
- **Feb 16th - Celebration Café, 8 am, FLC**
- **Feb 23rd - Chili Fundraiser, 11:45 am, FLC**
- **Feb 23rd - Puerto Rico Mission Team, 4:30 pm, FLC-219**
- **Feb 24th - Deacon's Meeting, 7 pm, Choir Suite**
- **Feb 28th - DNOW Weekend, Blairsville**

If:Gathering

Ladies, if you are looking for a local event that focuses on the person of Jesus, this is for you! Our Women's Ministry will host the *IF:Gathering 2020*, where the focus is completely, entirely on the person of Jesus. That is it. This is our hope and we need hope. Let's take a day to come together, ignore all the noise and chaos inside of us and listen to the word of God. The world is spinning out like crazy and so are the insides of us, and we need the thing that is going to steady us. We're in this to grow the kingdom of God. Let's stand back and watch what God is going to do.

We don't want you to miss this so mark your calendars now for Saturday, March 28th. Tickets will be \$10 each to cover the cost of the meal & snacks. Watch for more information on ticket sales in the Sunday bulletins.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed from noon on Thursday, Feb 6th thru 1pm on Friday, February 7th, for Pastor's Retreat/In-service Workday. All scheduled meetings/activities at the church will take place as scheduled. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

THRIVE MOMS

Thrive Moms is a ministry for moms to encourage and inspire you to do more than *JUST SURVIVE* motherhood. We believe God wants us to **thrive** and walk confidently in who He calls us to be as mothers. We are a ministry seeking to serve, inspire, and empower imperfect moms with the perfect grace of Christ.

Any moms from the community with 12th grade children and under are welcome to join us at any time during the year. Each meeting looks a little different but all include dinner, fellowship and a time for sharing on issues relevant to moms and families today. Come spend time with other moms who can relate and support you!

Our next meeting is **Monday, March 9th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, in The Lodge**. Free childcare will be provided for children birth thru 5th grade.

Opportunities to serve with Thrive: Have you been blessed with a few extra minutes and a desire to serve our community? Please consider pouring some of your time into our Thrive ministry! For more information please contact Calah Pearson (706) 599-9144 or email thrivemomshiawassee@gmail.com

Proverbs 22:17

"A merry heart does good like medicine"

Thank You!

For giving
\$28, 228.00
to the Lottie
Moon Christmas
Offering.

Welcome New Members



Steve, Virginia, Ashlyn
& Alex Awtrey



Leon & Jean
Champion

Sympathy to:

The family of Pat Carlisle.

Debi & David Williams at the death of Debi's father, Frederick Cooper.

Robin & Emily Blair, at the death of Robin's parents & Emily's grandparents, Robert & Carolyn Raulerson.

Brad & Lindsay Alwine, at the death of Brad's mother, Cheryl Alwine.

Brian & Kris Yeomans, at the death of Brian's dad, William Yeomans.

Jeanette Livingston, at the death of her granddaughter, Jennifer.



Pastor's Pen

Helping others find & follow

Complete the following sentence: Good fences make for good _____.

Fences serve primarily two purposes; they keep animals and people out or they keep people and animals in. And, almost all fences send a message whether it is posted or not. KEEP OUT! Good fences may make good neighbors in the sense that it sets boundaries and defines relationships but... fences do not make for good friends.

Every couple of years, I take a trip out West to go fly fishing but one of the biggest challenges I face every time is finding places where you can access the streams. If a public road crosses a stream, it is supposed to have an access point at the bridge where a fisherman can get into the water.

So, I always look for access points where there is a fisherman's crossing or gate that allows one to go over or through the fence in order to get to the stream. The property owner may own the land, but the water and the fish belong to the public. Some property owners provide public access but every year these access points seem to be harder and harder to find because many property owners don't like the new laws.

Many, instead of putting in a fisherman's crossing or a gate, will run their barbwire fences right up to the bridge in an effort to keep the public off of their land and out of the "their" stream. All in order to make it more difficult for a fisherman to get to the stream. I've noticed the same thing can be true when it comes to the church and to the way we tend to present and think about the Gospel. Think about this with me for a minute. Do we tend to focus more on the freedom a new life in Christ is supposed to bring or do we tend to focus more on enforcing the restrictions God has placed upon us? There is a big difference. One is more focused on showing people where the gate to life is while the other comes across more like a property owner whose chief concern is keeping people out.

God gave us his Word not to put a fence around our lives but to open a gateway into a life of adventure with him. The entrance into the Kingdom is as narrow as a single Savior, but the fields within are vast and open. And remember; we don't own the water. Our job is to lead them to the one who is the Gate and the Living water; not to limit their access. Which one will you be; a fence or a gate?

I am the gate for the sheep; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. John 10:9 (NIV)

Big Stuf Fundraiser

Our Summit Students are hosting a chili fundraiser on Sunday, February 23rd, in the Family Life Center, immediately following the morning worship service. Proceeds will help raise funds for students to attend Big-Stuf camp in June. Won't you enjoy a bowl of chili and help send a student to this life-changing camp? Tickets are \$8.00 and will be available in the Welcome Center Sundays, February 9th & 16th.

Parents Small Group

Parents, If you have kids in PEAK Kids EDGE or Summit Students on Wednesdays and are looking for where you might connect to other parents & adults, check out the Parents Small Group, facilitated by Pastor Danny Byers. They meet in The Lodge at 6 pm and then go to the Family Life Center, Room 234 until 7:30 pm.

Date Night

Summit Students & PEAK Kids Ministries will host a **Daddy/Daughter Date Night** on Friday, March 6th, in The Lodge. Dads (or granddads, uncles, brothers, or other significant father figures), this is your opportunity to spend time with your special young lady. Dinner provided! More information will be forthcoming so clear your calendar, listen for pulpit announcements and watch the Sunday Bulletins!

Family Game Night

McConnell will host a family game night on Friday, March 20th, at 6 pm in the Family Life Center. **This is for everyone, all ages!** Make plans now to come out and enjoy an evening of fellowship, food & fun.

Vacation Bible School

It's not too early to begin thinking about where your gifts can be used for Vacation Bible School! This year, VBS will be the week of **June 15th thru June 19th**. If you would like to volunteer, please let Pastor Steve A. know.

SERVANTS IN SERVICE

Greeter Team - #6

Security - G. Wright

Ushers - Morning: L. Wroten, Head Usher

Balcony Usher: D. Shively

M. Avery, H. Goddard, A. Driskell, J. Kelley,
C. Nicholson, D. Oliver, S. Ledford, A. Saylor,
T. Wade

Evening: R. Moody, Head Usher

February 2nd

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

S. Kendall, L. Alwine, S. David, L. & M. Avery

PEAK KIDS - S. & V. Awtrey, T. Clark

FIRST TOUCH - P. & B. Turner

WELCOME DESK - C. & G. Gooding, S. Childress

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - G. Denton

T. Garrett, R. Hanks, G. Denton

February 9th

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

L. Corn, G. Wilson, S. Dyer, H. Adams

PEAK KIDS - S. Awtrey, D. & M. Dermody

FIRST TOUCH - R. & S. Moody

WELCOME DESK - D. Harrison & P. Wroten

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - Sid Berkstresser

M. McFerrin, P. Anderson, D. Rabon

February 16th

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

L. Ledford, T. Brown, S. Childress, N. Dearborn

PEAK KIDS - S. Awtrey, C. Ledford, A. Awtrey

FIRST TOUCH - W. & A. Berg

WELCOME DESK - M. Stickeler, B. Stallworth

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - D. Oliver

J.C. Berrong, R. Peterson, B. Miller

February 23rd

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

C. Pearson, H. Kloock, P. Miller, B. Adams

PEAK KIDS - S. Awtrey, C. Peebles, G. Denton

FIRST TOUCH - W. & J. Naylor

WELCOME DESK - B. & J. Cone

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - TBD

B. Cone, D. Bennett, L. Ratliff

*Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's
friends.*

John 15:13

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1st - 8th - Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer

March 7th - 14th - Puerto Rico Mission Trip

March 9th - Thrive Moms Ministry

March 28th - IF:Gathering

March 29th - Christ in the Passover, Ryan Karp, Chosen People

March 29th - Lord's Supper & Benevolence Offering

April 4th - 11th - Nicaragua Mission Trip

April 5th - First Steps Class (Call the office to register)

May 11th - Thrive Moms Ministry

June 15th - June 19th - Vacation Bible School

June 22nd - June 26th - Big Stuf Youth Camp

**Attention Graduating High
School Seniors from
Towns, Union & Clay
Counties!**

Beginning in March, applications will be available in the Church Office, Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., for the Ray Nicholson Scholarship.