

Mountain Messenger

May 2020

McConnell Baptist Church

84 Church St

Hiawassee, GA

Phone: 706-896-2281

Email: info@mcconnellchurch.org

Congratulations Graduates!

To all of our high school & college graduates, little did we know when the school year started how very differently it would end! The COVID-19 crisis changed how you finished your school year and caused many of the activities and traditions that you were expecting to enjoy to be cancelled. But, this did not stop you from finishing and finishing well! You are to be commended for your positive attitudes, willingness to adapt, to find new ways to connect with and serve others! Our prayer for you is that as you continue to live your life, that you do so to the fullest, keeping your focus on Jesus and helping others to find & follow Him!

McConnell Staff & Church Family

RAY NICHOLSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee received 10 applications from graduating high school seniors this year. Applicants have been interviewed and scholarships will be awarded this month. If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, you may do so at any time by designating *Ray Nicholson Scholarship* on your check or online donation.

Church Events

- **May 7th - Nat'l Day of Prayer**

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day of observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." From wherever you may be on Thursday, May 7th, join your community & country in praying!

- **May 10th - Mother's Day**

- **May 25th - Memorial Day
(church office closed)**



As you've heard, Gov. Brian Kemp's shelter at home order has been extended to the end of April and there is strong possibility that it might extend into the month of May. That's why I am taking this time in our May Mountain Messenger to remind us of a few things that will help us get through this time.

But please hear this, too: church is not canceled. It just looks different. Honestly, this isn't the 2020 we had in mind when we started out the year. Navigating what church looks like during a pandemic has been a challenge for all of us, but we find hope in seeking our faithful God and knowing that nothing can cancel the Church.

Our community of faith, all of the people of God around the world included, is not canceled. We'll just continue to worship differently from where we are until we can be back together again. And we will be back together again. I know you're facing disappointment, grief, and other difficulties in this season too, but we're all in this together and we're here for you.

HERE'S HOW: If you have financial, physical, or other needs right now, please let us know. We haven't stopped praying for you. Please call us (706-896-2281) and leave a message to update us on any prayer requests you may have.

If you need other assistance or help, simply call the office and leave a message. We will respond as quickly as possible. We have a group of volunteers who are willing to pick up medicine, groceries, and answer other needs as requested. We'll keep updating you with the latest news about how our church is "meeting" and serving during this time.

WHAT WE WON'T BE DOING:

Meet In-Person. All of our in-person events, groups, and other gatherings are on pause as we practice loving our neighbor through staying at home as much as possible.

Panic. God is still on the throne and in control. As hard as it is to rest right now, we can choose to remember this and rest in Him.

Waste this Season. All of us have a huge opportunity to connect with people online and serve our community right now. Let's leverage this.

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING:

Stay Connected. Isolation isn't good for anyone and we're making sure that having to be physically distanced doesn't mean we're completely disconnected. Check out our online service details and virtual small group information.

Love Our Neighbors. There are needs inside and outside of our church that we can work together to help meet. Even if you're not in a position to donate financially, a kind word through the phone, volunteering in local relief efforts, or spreading a hope-filled message on social media can really help.

Remember our Hope. Our shared faith in Jesus Christ is what brought us together and will help us stick together. We should lean on and remind each other of God's promises when we're feeling weary.

Our church leadership is praying continuously and trusting God for the future. We encourage you to do the same. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

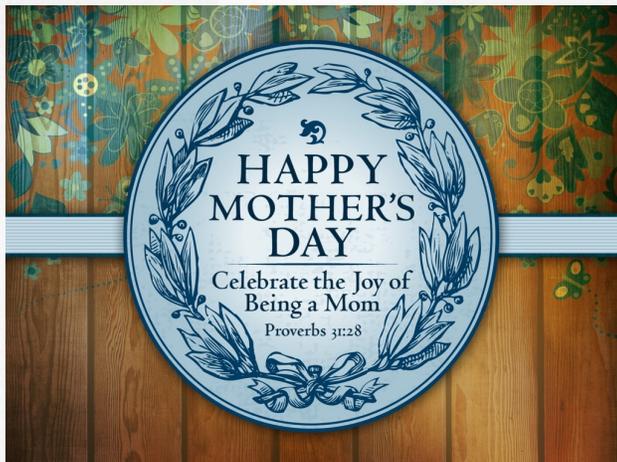
Walking by Faith, Not Fear

Pastor Steve

From Your Church Office Staff

As we moved swiftly from living our daily lives, coming and going whenever we pleased, to social distancing and then to sheltering in place, it has been a gift of time to slow down and reflect on our lives and what really matters. In this time, we've figured out what to do all day, we've gone to church online, spent more time praying and reading the Bible, figured out how to work from home in some cases, scrolled social media, watched the news, talked on the telephone, face-timed family & friends, learned to use meeting apps like Zoom, played some games, caught up on house and yard chores, extended help to others and have graciously accepted help when needed.

Most of all, it is clear that it is the people and relationships that we have missed the most! While our continued prayers are with all of the healthcare workers, first responders and others who are on the frontlines in this crisis, and those who have lost loved ones, we thank God for giving us this time of slowing down, for our friends and family, for His safety and protection during this outbreak and ask Him to keep our focus on helping others find and follow Jesus! We are thankful for you today and are so ready to see you all!



Deacon Servants

McConnell Church members - it's time to begin prayerfully considering your recommendations for the office of deacons for the coming year. Our deacons serve for terms of three years after having been nominated and elected by the church. Nominees must be a McConnell church member for at least one year and meet the biblical requirements for serving. You can **click here** to go to the Deacon Recommendation form or, for those who received this by email, click on the link in the email. Enter the names of your recommendations and submit online from the comfort of your own home! If you do not have access to the website, call the church office and leave your name & phone number. We will call you back to take your recommendations. The deadline for submitting recommendations is June 21st.

Thank you!
Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering

\$12,258.00
Goal: \$15,000

Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

For Assistance

During the Shelter in Place mandates, the church office staff may not be in the office but we are available to assist you.

Call the church office, 706-896-2281, and leave a message. We will return your call.

Prayer requests can be emailed to:
connie@mccconnellchurch.org OR
office@mccconnellchurch.org

Your contribution can be mailed to :
P.O. Box 235, Hiawassee, GA 30546
or you can give online thru the McConnell Church website.

Sympathy to

Cindy Anderson, at the death of her father, John Trefry.

Jackie Brumbaugh, at the death of her sister, Lucy Chung.

Servants in Service

At the time of publication, a decision has not been made on when we will return to in person worship services. As we move forward into May, stay tuned for more info!

Greeter Team - #9

Security - F. Witkowski

Ushers - Morning: J. Hyatt, Head Usher

Balcony Usher: J. Sanderson

J. Armstrong, M. Bleckley, T. Garrett, R. Hanks, C. Nicholson,
S. Ledford, J. Wagener

Evening: J. Hyatt, Head Usher

May 3rd - Online Services

May 10th - Online Services

May be subject to change!

May 17th

INFANTS - 4 YR OLDS

B. Rutan, S. David, T. Brown, A. Awtrey

PEAK JR - V. Barrett, P. Hundley

PEAK KIDS - S. Awtrey, W. & D. Nelson

FIRST TOUCH - K. & M. Joyner

WELCOME DESK - M. Stickeler & B. Stallworth

INVITATION TEAM - T. Clark, T. Thomas

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - R. Thomson

A. Kloock, W. Benson, D. Rabon

May 24th

INFANTS - 4 YR OLDS

L. Ledford, N. Dearborn, J. Cone, M. Mauldin

PEAK JR - K. Clark, C. Ledford

PEAK KIDS - S. Awtrey, L. Grimsley, A. Awtrey

FIRST TOUCH - D. & M. Meeks

WELCOME DESK - R. & S. Moody

INVITATION TEAM - D. Ledford, T. Turner

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - W. Nelson

J. Kimball, D. Rudder, B. Alwine

May 31st

INFANTS - 4 YR OLDS

C. Pearson, S. Nichols, S. Kendall, F. Parris

PEAK JR - C. Weaver, S. Kendall

PEAK KIDS/Family Worship Sunday

FIRST TOUCH - J. & K. Townsend

WELCOME DESK - B. & J. Cone

INVITATION TEAM - B. & P. Miller

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - K. Joyner

C. Nicholson, G. Russell, D. Belk

UPCOMING EVENTS

May be subject to change!

June 6th

Car Wash, (TC Girls Basketball Team)

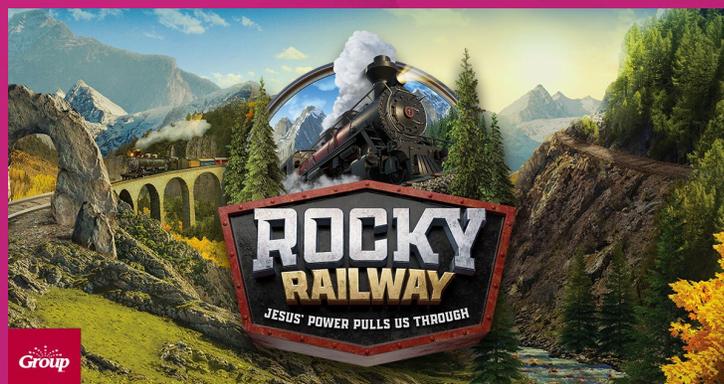
10 am - 3 pm

June 14th

First Steps Class, 11:45 am, The Lodge

June 22nd-26th

Big Stuf Camps (Summit Students)



Vacation Bible School

June 15th - June 19th

Find us on 