

Mountain Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | JULY 2021

McConnell 4th Family Fun Fair

Come celebrate Independence Day with your McConnell family and invite a friend! We've missed being together for the past year or so and want to enjoy this opportunity to gather! We'll meet together outside the Family Life Center at 3 pm for games and activities (six inflatables, cornhole, ladder ball, face painting and more) for all ages. Be sure to bring your favorite dessert and a lawn chair if you'd like to sit outside and enjoy the fellowship.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ sandwiches, baked beans & chips will be served at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center along with music & entertainment.

Bring a dessert to share and to enter in our first July 4th Dessert Contest. The judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place wooden spoon awards.



PEAK Kids

Parents, please join us for family fun playing putt putt golf in Helen on Tuesday, July 20th at 6 pm. What a great way to make lasting memories with your kids and connect with other families. Watch for more information to come from Pastor Steve A.

Church Events

- **July 4th - 4th Family Fun Fair, FLC & church grounds, 3-7 pm**
- **July 5th – Church Office Closed for July 4th Holiday**
- **July 7th – No Wednesday Evening Activities**
- **July 20th - PEAK Kids & Families, Putt Putt Golf in Helen, 6 pm**
- **July 21st-July 22nd - Summit Students Trip to Creation Museum/The Ark**
- **July 26th - Deacon's Meeting, Choir Suite, 7 pm**

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Puerto Rico Mission Trip

October 30th - November 5th

The Puerto Rico Mission Team, in partnership with Noonday Association & the North American Mission Board, is planning a return trip to Ponce, Puerto Rico, to continue with repairing homes damaged by Hurricane Maria in 2017. Our goal is to continue building relationships that were started in 2019 and 2020 and to show our love for the Puerto Rican people by helping create a safe living environment for residents with damaged homes.

This is a great opportunity to participate in a mission trip with an experienced team! If you are interested in signing up to be a part of this team or would like more information, please contact team leader, Danny Meeks, phone 478-719-5207 or email dannylmeeks@gmail.com.



Spotlight on Missions



Luke & Michelle Stannard

A month ago, Luke and Michelle with their son Elijah were missionaries in Hungary with Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU). Now, they are missionaries in Munich, Germany and are supported through Mission To The World (mtw.org). Last autumn, they met with church leadership in Munich and discussed the lack of biblical training for pastors in Europe. Based on that conversation, the Lord made it clear to Luke and Michelle that they were to leave their work with High School and College students in Hungary and begin a new work training lay-pastors and their wives based on the Word of God.

Please pray for them to find affordable housing and move, and, as they learn a new language (German) and culture. More information can be found at <https://stannard.home.blog/>.

Missionaries in Israel



Jerusalem is a particularly vulnerable and volatile place right now, and we want you to remember there are people there who are reflecting Messiah Jesus through their daily walk and work. These Christians are literally facing persecution and acts of violence by non-believing Jews and Muslims. And, if that weren't enough, they are now doing so unto death" because of Israeli-Palestinian conflicts. God says, "Know them that labor

among you" (1 Thess. 5:12) and "be devoted to them in brotherly love ... showing them honor" (Romans 12:10). You might not know their names; but, God does. He always has a remnant. Please pray for a renewed faith to stand firm amid the added stress of military conflicts. Please pray that their homes remain safe and that God will provide them with enough.



Guest Pastor's Pen

Pastor Steve Awtrey
Associate Pastor,
Children & Discipleship

You Can't Always Judge A Book By Its Cover

Anyone who knows me knows that I'm usually a very happy, upbeat person. In fact, some might say that I can be a little too happy or over the top. This would include my sweet, soft-spoken wife, Virginia. But what you see on the outside is not always what it seems. In fact, back in 2015, I went through a year-long bout of depression. What caused it? Was my marriage on the rocks? No, it was going great. How was my job situation? It was going well. I was serving as a children's pastor in Jefferson, Georgia. I loved serving in children's ministry. So, what was going on? Why was I struggling to get out of bed each morning and finding it hard to get through my day? To this day, I'm not sure what caused my depression, but I do know that certain things helped me come through it. *First*, I was willing to share my depression with someone. I shared what I was feeling with Virginia & she took it seriously. She didn't have all the answers, but she was always there to listen to me and tell me that we were going to get through this together. She didn't give me answers, rather she just listened. *Second*, I ran toward Christ, rather than running away from Him. Every time I felt helpless and hopeless, I cried out to Jesus. I pulled out my Bible and read God's Word, especially the book of Psalms.

The issue of depression is real and one that many people face alone. I just want to encourage anyone who is struggling with depression to share with someone and remember that you're not alone. You can get through it. The verse that helped give me comfort was Psalm 34:4. "I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears." As followers of Christ, we are called to minister to each other and bear one another's burdens.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you or someone you know is struggling with the issue of depression. I would love the opportunity to listen and pray with you.

In Christ,

Steve Awtrey

Child Protection Training

Safeguarding the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of young people and other vulnerable individuals is one of the most important responsibilities of any ministry organization. The church staff, responsible for our children's ministries, has recently reviewed & updated our Child Protection policy. This revised policy has also been reviewed and approved by our Personnel Committee.

In addition, we have partnered with *Ministry Safe* to provide online child protection training for volunteers in our children & youth ministries. As a part of the updated policy, child protection training, along with a background check, must now be renewed every five years for current volunteers in these ministries. As we begin reviewing current volunteers, if it is time for you to renew training, you will receive an email with instructions and a link to the *Ministry Safe* training website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Weaver at office@mcconnellchurch.org or Pastor Steve Awtrey, children@mcconnellchurch.org.

Welcome



Patrick & Terri

Queen

Sympathy to

Jim Claar, at the death of his brother & sister-in-law, Bob & Gwenn.

Ron & Marleen Dodd, at the death of their sister-in-law.

Vickie Harris, at the death of her aunt, Nancy Hood.

Joyce Keilholtz, at the death of her sister, Nancy Eyler.

John & Roseanne Noon, at the death of her sister-in-law, Janet Bryson.

Chasidy Oakes, at the death of her brother, Tony Kinnett.

Debi Williams, at the death of her mother, Marion Cooper.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

July 4th

Welcome Desk - R. & C. Larson
Cart Drivers - Capt. D. Rabon
G. Boyd, B. Cone, J. Kimball

July 11th

Welcome Desk - M. Stickeler, P. Hanks
Cart Drivers - Capt. R. Parkman
B. Grimsley, C. Baggett, J. McConnell

July 18th

Welcome Desk - L. & R. Wark
Cart Drivers - D. Rabon
C. Houser, W. Benson, D. Biggs

July 25th

Welcome Desk - D. Harrison, J. McConnell
Cart Drivers - Capt. T. Folmar
B. Miller, M. & C. Mumma

Contact Info

If you have recently changed your mailing address, email address or phone numbers, please make sure the office has this info. We want to stay in touch and help you stay connected!

We are also using the church database, Realm, to send out church-wide emails (from Pastor Steve, Mountain Messenger) and your annual contribution statement. If you **unsubscribe** to email from Realm, you **will not** receive these important communications.

If you think you have unsubscribed in error, please call the office and we can take steps to reinstate your email address.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 15th

Dr. Thomas Hammond, Guest Speaker
Executive Director, GA Baptist Mission Board

Sunday, August 22nd

Called Church Conference & Annual Corporate Meeting

Monday, August 23rd

Deacon's Meeting, 7 pm

Sunday, August 29th

Family Worship Sunday
(PEAK Kids Singing)

Alan Kendall & Friends Homecoming Concert

A love offering will be received

Join our own Alan Kendall & The Kingsmen Quartet & The Primitive Quartet for this concert, Friday, September 3rd, 6:30 pm in our Worship Center. Come enjoy songs from The Kingsmen album, *More to the Story*!