

Mountain Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH 84 CHURCH ST. HIAWASSEE, GA 30546

Week of Prayer, March 6th-13th, for North American Missions

From the 2022 Prayer Guide: North American missionaries depend upon your prayers. They are taking the gospel to a region of 366 million people where spiritual and cultural divides are deep and growing. Only the love of Christ can bring true unity and transformation. 366 million people, 350 languages, 275 million without the hope of the gospel. These are big numbers. Almost every nation in the world is represented in North America, making it one of the most complex mission fields. Immigrants continue to come here for a better life, even from countries closed to the gospel. These aren't just numbers. They represent people made in God's image--people in need of gospel hope!

When we come together to reach the nations and our own neighborhoods, the church becomes a beautiful representation of God's vision for every nation tribe and tongue to be saved and united in praise to Him. Through all of our differences, we can be transformed and united by the unchanging, live-giving gospel of Jesus.

Let us join together in prayer this week!

Spring Forward!

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 13th so remember to **set your clocks forward** before retiring on Saturday evening!

Church Events

- Mar 3rd - WMU Meeting, Choir Suite, 10:00 am
- Mar 13th - DST Time Change (set your clocks ahead before retiring Saturday night.)
- Mar 15th - Thrive Moms, The Lodge, 6 pm
- Mar 20th - Lord's Supper, Worship Ctr, 10:15 am
- Mar 20th - Awana Grand Prix, Family Life Ctr, 4:30 pm
- Mar 27th - Men's Ministry, The Lodge, 6 pm
- Mar 28th - Deacons Meeting, Choir Suite, 7 pm

Preschool Registration



McConnell Weekday Preschool, 2-year-olds through 4-year-olds, will begin accepting pre-registrations for the 2022-2023 school year as follows:

For members of McConnell Church & current enrollees:

Monday, March 7th through Friday, March 18th
8:00 am until 11:30 am
Preschool Area

For the general public

Monday, March 21st through Friday, April 1st
8:30 am until 10:00 am
Drive Thru Portico (adjacent to Preschool)

Please contact Emily Winn, 706-896-2281, if you have questions about eligibility, cost or pre-registration.

New Book Study

A short term small group Bible study starts Wednesday, March 2nd, based on the book "Total Forgiveness" by R. T. Kendall.

This class will meet the five Wednesdays in March from 6 pm until 7:30 pm in room 231 (Cornerstone Classroom) in the Family Life Center.

You will learn Bible based strategies for forgiving others, forgiving God and forgiving yourself.

Questions - text or call Pat Turner at 770-617-9802.



Grand Prix

All parents, grandparents, kids, and interested spectators are invited to the Awana Grand Prix on **Sunday, March 20th** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. This is a fun & exciting Pinewood Derby style racing event that is about more than building a race car! It helps to build a bond between kids and their parents as they work together to build the best car ever! It's not only about winning the race, but winning moms, dads and kids to Christ. The leaders will have a soup cook off so come enjoy their soup and cheer the racers on!

High School Seniors



Applications for the Ray Nicholson Scholarship for high school seniors from Union, Towns & Clay Counties, are available in the Church Office, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. until noon. Applications must be **completed & submitted by noon on Monday, April 11, 2022.**

Welcome



Brian & Dakota
Kirkland



Kari
McCullough



Terry & Felicia
Parker



June
Poynter

Sympathy to

Retta & Danny Byers, at the death of Retta's great niece, Maggie Bryson.

Linda & Glenn Herreid, at the death of Linda's brother, Jerry.

Christa & Chad Houser, at the death of Christa's father, Bud Parker.



Pastor's Pen

Steve Taylor

Lead Pastor

From the Heart

Since we have just come out of Valentine's season, and we are in the middle of our series on Relationship Goals, let me take a minute to talk about the most important relationship of all; the Source from which our true life is supposed to flow. Listen to what Paul said,

The Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

Nearly all religions, including Christianity, tend to develop rules to guide behavior and practices. We forget that is transformation not just conforming to a code of conduct. If we are living from a truly transformed heart, the rules become largely unnecessary. We will be loving God and loving people from the heart and not just the head. It's an inside job.

When rules become necessary, the problem is always with the heart, not the behavior. It's like this. We always start misbelieving something before we start misbehaving. So, the problem is with the head and the heart, not the behavior. God gave us the Spirit and the Spirit in us yearns to change us to become more and more like Christ without having to focus so much on the "do's" and "don'ts". The problem is that we are in a process of transformation.

Sometimes our heart, not yet fully changed, needs to be told what to do. So we develop disciplines and structures and habits as guardrails to keep us on the road towards transformation and to keep us out of the ditch. If we aren't careful, we start relying more on these guardrails than we do the Spirit and they end up forming the basis of our lives. And, herein lies the greatest danger. We cease living by the Spirit, by Christ in us, and start relying on rules.

Paul reminds us that life in the Kingdom of God cannot be reduced to a matter of external, behavioral guardrails or guidelines. Without a doubt, the Spirit in us will impact every area of our lives, but He does so by transforming our nature rather than disciplining our behavior. The work of the Kingdom of God is internal, and that work must work its way outward into other aspects of our lives. But it all begins within.

So let me ask you something. How's that going?

If you find that following Jesus is a constant effort of training yourself in the right behavior, try shifting your focus instead to your heart—or rather to the Spirit. Ask Him to transform your heart, not just your head. It's like this, Jesus didn't come to make us better people; He came to make us new people. If He is genuinely in our hearts, we can live from our hearts. We can be filled up with truth, peace, and joy—the attributes of the Kingdom—and let them overflow into all areas of life and our relationships.

(Source material: Chris Tiegreen, The One Year Heaven on Earth Devotional).

Chasing Daylight

Pastor Steve

Wednesday in the Word

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm, Worship Center

Join Pastor Steve as he digs deeper into scripture and life applications. This is an excellent mid-week time in the Word.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

March 6th

Welcome Desk - N. Dearborn, J. McConnell
Cart Drivers - Captain- R. Peterson
G. Boyd, D. Belk, T. Folmar
PEAK Jr - P. Estrada, J. Williams
PEAK Kids - E. Williams

March 13th

Welcome Desk - D. Harrison, D. Westberry
Cart Drivers - Captain- D. Rabon
B. Miller, B. Westberry, S. Moates
PEAK Jr - V. Awtrey, A. Awtrey
PEAK Kids - S. Boyd

March 20th

Welcome Desk - B. & J. Cone
Cart Drivers - Captain- G. Wright
T. Turner, J. Noon, W. Nelson
PEAK Jr - C. Chastain, M. Adams
PEAK Kids - A. Oliver

March 27th

Welcome Desk - D. Heard, C. Nitzsche
Cart Drivers - Captain- D. Rabon
R. Parker, J. Brock, D. Willrich
PEAK Jr - S. Dyer, D. Louder
PEAK Kids - N. Altman

Give blood. Help save lives.

On January 11, 2022, the American Red Cross stated that the nation is facing its worst blood shortage in more than a decade, citing a drop in blood drives due to the pandemic.

Blood is essential to help patients survive surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. This lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation. The need for blood is constant. But only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly.

This national blood crisis is threatening patient care and forcing doctors to make tough choices about who is able to receive blood transfusions.

McConnell Church will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 12th, from 1 pm - 6 pm. This drive is open for scheduling now at: www.redcrossblood.org/

Just enter our zip code, 30546, and then click on the blood drive at McConnell Baptist Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 6th
No Wednesday evening services or activities
(Spring Break)

Saturday, April 9th
Wayne Garn Visitation (1 pm)
Memorial Service (2 pm)

Sunday, April 10th
First Steps Class

Tuesday, April 12th
Blood Drive, 1-6 pm,

Sunday, April 17th
Easter Sunrise Service at 7 am at Hamilton Gardens,
Easter Service at McConnell at 10:45 am

Tuesday, April 19th
Thrive Moms

Sunday, April 24th
Men's Ministry

Friday, April 29th
Summit Students Weekend



Vacation Bible
School

Mark Your Calendars

June 20th - 24th

More info coming soon!