

Mountain Messenger



Children's Ministry



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | JUNE 2022

McConnell's mission for children is to *Help Children Find and Follow Jesus* and, looking back, it is amazing to see how God has blessed this ministry! In the summer of 2017, the renovation of the Children's Department was completed and, in the summer of 2019, the Lord blessed us with Steve Awtrey, the full-time Children's Pastor! Pastor Steve loves teaching children about the love of Jesus & desires to see every child, and their family, grow closer in their daily walk with Jesus.

On Sundays, kids, ages pre-K-5th grade, can enjoy age-appropriate Sunday School followed by an exciting time of worship. During this time, they will participate in a life-changing Bible story, play some high energy games & worship Jesus through music. For our youngest children, a nursery is provided.

On Mondays, during the school year, kids come to the Family Life Center after school to attend the Awana Clubs. This is a fun time of memorizing scripture, playing games and learning about Jesus.

On Wednesdays, during the school year, families are encouraged to come for a free family meal at 5:15 pm. The meal is followed by EDGE – Experience & Discover God Everywhere – a worship service designed specifically for kids at 6:00 pm. During EDGE, the children study the Bible, sing some exciting worship songs and participate in some high-energy games. The summer schedule is the same but there is no family

meal served. The small group for parents, facilitated by Pastor Danny Byers, meets at the same time and provides opportunities for personal growth and connection with other parents.

On the fifth Sunday, we have *5th Sunday Family Worship* where families can worship together and the kids, pre-k through 5th grade, sing as a part of the main worship service.

Once a year, kids who have completed 3rd - 5th grade have an opportunity to go to Kids Camp with Pastor Steve. This is a 3-night camp full of non-stop fun, great memories with friends, and growing closer to God. This year, kids leave for camp on May 31st and return on June 3rd.

Later this month, McConnell will host **Vacation Bible School** for our community from 9 am – 12 noon, June 20th – June 24th. This is another opportunity for kids to have fun and learn about Jesus. The theme this year is Spark Studios - Created in Christ and Designed for God's Purpose. Pre-register your children & grandchildren at <https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=61130>

The Children's Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds and, with growth, comes the need for more volunteers. If you'd like to serve in any area of this ministry, please give Pastor Steve a call at 706-896-2281 or email children@mcconnellchurch.org.

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McConnell 4th Family Fun Fair

Come join us on Sunday afternoon, **July 3rd**, for our second annual "4th Family Fun Fair"! There will be games, entertainment, and activities for all ages. Dinner will be provided by McConnell. Bring your best dessert for our judges to decide 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place blue ribbon winners. If you would like to volunteer, we need help in the following areas: food/kitchen, recreation/activities, entertainment, traffic flow/guest services, dessert contest, setup/cleanup. Please call the church office to sign up for a team or for more information at 706-896-2281.

English as a Second Language

For non-native speakers in an English-speaking environment, attempting to learn English can be quite intimidating. The ESL Ministry Team works diligently throughout the school year to help students learn conversational English. During the summer months, an abbreviated class format will be offered on Thursdays, 7 pm, in the Family Life Center. If you would like to volunteer with this ministry, please call the church office.

Deacon Recommendations

McConnell Church members - Hopefully you have been prayerfully considering your recommendations for the office of deacon 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. The deadline for submitting your recommendations is **Sunday, June 19th**. Paper forms are available at the Welcome Desk or you can submit online at www.mcconnellchurch.org.

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. Meet in The Lodge immediately following the morning worship service on June 12th for a light lunch. This class is a prerequisite for joining the church. Please call the church office at 706-896-2281 to register or register online at <https://mcconnellchurch.org/about/core-beliefs/joining-mcconnell-church/>

Changes in Contact Information

If you have recently changed your physical address, email or phone number, please remember to let the church office know so our records can be updated!

Church Events

- **June 2nd - WMU Meeting, Worship Ctr, LL-042, 10:00 am**
- **June 7th - Dementia/Alzheimer's Support Group, Family Life Ctr, #219, 1:30 pm**
- **June 11th - VBS Work Day, Children's Dept, 10 am - noon**
- **June 12th - First Steps Class, The Lodge, 11:45 am**
- **June 19th - Parent/Child Dedication, Worship Ctr, 10:45 am**
- **June 20th - June 24th - VBS**
- **June 22nd - No Wednesday evening services or activities**





Pastor's Pen

Steve Taylor

Lead Pastor

Where Are You Going?

Are you traveling this summer? Maybe taking a once in a lifetime trip or just going to see family? Or, if you are adventurous, maybe you are just going to get in the car and take a road trip to who knows where and see where you end up. With gas prices climbing, I wouldn't recommend the last one. Planning is a better option but if you haven't made plans yet and secured reservations, the road trip might be a viable option.

This fall my favorite bluegrass group, Balsam Range, performed a concert in Waynesville, NC. They are from Haywood County, NC., where Desi and I have spent most of our adult life together and have won about every award possible in country and bluegrass. If you know bluegrass music, you already know that. If you don't, you should, because they are that good.

Desi and I know several of the guys in the band personally and when we were invited concert, we jumped at a chance to go see them. It was amazing and they played several songs that I didn't really know. The chorus line on one of the songs, **Any Old Road**, really struck me as profound. *"If you don't know where you're going, any old road will take you there... Lost without a prayer, destination anywhere."*

I think that describes a lot of people's approach to the spiritual life. They really don't know where they are going so any road that seems to lead somewhere is good enough for them. The problem with that approach, and many take it with the Christian life, is that you might not end up at a place you want to be... So many I ask the question a little differently this time... Do you know where are you going? Are you sure the road you are on will get you where you want to be? If not, you may want to check God's map and see what it has to say. As you make plans for this summer, let that thought help guide you.

Chasing Daylight

Pastor Steve

PARENT CHILD DEDICATION

Parent Child Dedication is a public commitment you make before God, your church, and your family. The dedication service provides you, the parent(s), an opportunity to express publicly your desire to lead and spiritually nurture your child in partnership with the church, so your child will develop a desire to love and serve God.

If you would like to have your child dedicated on Sunday, June 19th, please contact the church office now to schedule this for your family. Or register online at: <https://mcconnellchurch.org/parent-child-dedication-form/>

Servants in Ministry

June 5th

Welcome Desk - M. Ashley, M. Chaney
Cart Drivers - Captain - T. Taylor
B. Miller, C. Nicholson, T. Folmar
PEAK Jr - P. Estrada, J. Williams
PEAK Kids - E. Williams

June 12th

Welcome Desk - G. Wilson, M. Stickeler
Cart Drivers - Captain- D. Rabon
G. Osborne, G. Denton, T. Garrett
PEAK Jr - V. Awtrey, A. Awtrey
PEAK Kids - S. Boyd

June 19th

Welcome Desk - L. & R. Wark
Cart Drivers - Captain - R. Parkman
B. Cone, S. Casey, W. Nelson
PEAK Jr - C. Chastain, M. Adams
PEAK Kids - K. Douberly

June 26th

Welcome Desk - S. Hyatt, K. Long
Cart Drivers - Captain - P. Anderson
S. Collins, D. Rudder, R. Parker
PEAK Jr - S. Dyer, B. Adams
PEAK Kids - D. & A. Oliver

Summer Schedule

Summit Students & Peak Kids

Summit Students, PEAK Kids & the Parent Small Group will meet each Wednesday, 6 pm - 7:30 pm, during the summer except June 22nd (VBS Week) and August 3rd (night before school starts).

The VBS Kids will sing in the Sunday morning Worship Service on June 26th and Family Worship Sunday is July 31st. There will be a Family Game night in the Family Life Center on July 6th.

Sympathy to

Danny & Retta Byers, at the death of Danny's mother, Clella Byers.

Phil & Dot Heard, at the death of their son, James Robert (Jim) Heard.

Deidra Sims, at the death of her niece, Gina Sims.

Gail & Rex Thayer, at the death of Gail's brother.

Trace Vaughn, at the death of his brother, Craig Childers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 3rd

Family Fun Fest, Family Life Center & Grounds

Sunday, July 10th

Lord's Supper & Benevolence Offering

Sunday, July 17th - Thursday, July 21st

Summit Students Crossroads Summer Camp

Wednesday, July 27th

Quarterly Church Conference

Young Harris College Ministry

The YHC Ministry Team, coordinated by Nancy Church & Pastor Danny Byers continues to grow and is helping these young adults as they find and follow Jesus.

Each August, at the YHC Community Fair, we provide laundry pods to the incoming students as a way to connect with and begin a relationship with them.

If you'd like to help with this effort, we will have several laundry baskets out in mid-July to collect your donations of HE laundry pods or you can drop your donations by the church office.