

Mountain *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | JULY 2022

4th Family Fun Fest



Come celebrate Independence Day with your McConnell family and invite a friend! This is an excellent opportunity to be together for an afternoon of fellowship and fun!

We'll meet together outside the Family Life Center for games and activities

between 3 & 5 pm for all ages, including bouncy houses, cornhole, ladder ball and snow cones! Bring your favorite dessert to share and a lawn chair if you'd like to sit outside and enjoy the fellowship. Be sure to register for the gift basket giveaway!

Hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans & chips will be served beginning at 4:45 pm in the Family Life Center along with music & entertainment.

Laundry Pods for YHC Students

Be a blessing to a Young Harris College student by donating HE Laundry pods. These pods will be distributed to the students at their community fair in August. Drop off your donations in the laundry baskets which will be in the drive thru lobby, Family Life Center foyer, the Welcome Center and in the church office from Sunday, July 17th through Sunday, August 14th.

Church Events

- **July 3rd - 4th Family Fun Fest, FLC & Grounds, 3 pm**
- **July 4th - Church Office Closed.**
- **July 5th - Dementia & Alzheimer's Support Group, 1:30 pm, FLC-219**
- **July 6th - Parent, Kids & Youth Game Night, 6 pm, FLC**
- **July 10th - Lord's Supper & Benevolence Offering, Worship Ctr, 10:15 am**
- **July 17th - July 21st - Summit Students Summer Camp**
- **July 25th - Deacon Meeting, Choir Suite, 7 pm**
- **July 27th - Quarterly Church Conference, Worship Ctr, 6 pm**
- **July 31st - Family Worship Sunday (Kids Sing), Worship Ctr, 10:15 am**

84 CHURCH ST HIAWASSEE, GA 30546

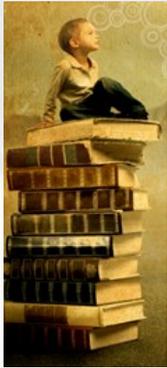
PHONE: 706-896-2281 EMAIL: INFO@MCCONNELLCHURCH.ORG



Family Game Night

PEAK Kids, Summit Students & Parents

Hey Parents! Looking for something fun to do with your family? Here's an event you don't want to miss! PEAK Kids, Summit Students and their parents will join together on Wednesday, July 6th, 6 pm, in the Family Life Center, for a fun evening of games for the entire family. Supper will be provided.



Church Library

Our library staff wants everyone to know that we have books for all ages. We have cook books, biographies, research, spiritual growth, book studies, as well as, fiction. There is a children's section full of Christian books. Bring your families on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon or come check us out on Sundays and Wednesdays before and after services as well.

There are also opportunities to help staff the library. If you would like to volunteer to serve in this ministry, please contact the church office.

Summit Students

Summit Students, who have registered to attend summer camp, will travel to Crossroads Summer Camp in Anderson, SC., July 17th through July 21st. Please be in prayer for this group for traveling mercies and a great camp experience as they seek to find and follow Jesus. For students not attending this camp, we will have regular Summit Students on Wednesday, July 20th, at 6 pm in The Lodge.

Crossroads Summer Camp brings in high-level speakers and worship leaders who, with a summer camp staff of the most passionate and energetic college students from across the US, seek the students out and are available to them throughout the week for spiritual conversations and guidance. Packed in between two powerful sessions in the morning and evening, the students also enjoy our original field game "EPIC World Domination", an amazing obstacle course, a fully-stocked creative studio, exciting athletic tournaments, dance and improv classes, the pool, a color war, an open mic and talent show, and so much more! Students will have great interactions with the camp staff and time for their group to grow deeper together by having specific time for meaningful conversations, debriefing and deepening community.

Welcome



Gary & Faye
Bryant



Sybil Davis

ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

One of the tools we use to help people get connected with others is the online church directory. It is great to be able to put faces with names!

If you are a McConnell member, or attend here regularly, and would like to be included in the online church directory, please contact the church office at 706-896-2281 for more information.



Pastor's Pen

Steven Taylor

Lead Pastor

Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

When the Declaration of Independence was signed, 235 years ago today, it was a Declaration of Independence from British rule and the birth of a new nation. But the Declaration of Independence was far from complete for its words described the *beginning* of a process, not the end.

Although we believe that we have been endowed by God with the rights of "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", there is no guarantee that we are going to achieve it. Chasing the America Dream and catching it are two different things all together. For most, it always seems to be just out of reach.

Maybe you've never given a lot of thought to the meaning of that phrase, but you should. As an American, you and I have rights and freedoms that the rest of the world can only dream about. Now, perhaps more than at any other time in our nation's history, this July 4th should cause us to stop and ask ourselves some serious questions.

- *For me, what defines the "good life"? Is the good life I am pursuing the same as the kind of life God has called me to live? Are they compatible with one another or are they in conflict with one another?*

- *What happens when I pursue the life I thought would make me happy only to discover that it wasn't worth catching when I caught it? How do I change course?*

About the only time people pause and ponder questions like this is when they discover that the life they thought would make them happy doesn't. So we should be surprised to learn that the Bible speaks frequently on the importance of using our freedom rightly and in a God honoring way. Listen to the Apostle Paul's counsel. He makes two important points that can be summarized in the following verses.

*At last we have freedom, for Christ has set us free! We must always cherish this truth and firmly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past. **Galatians 5:1 (TPT)***

True Freedom begins with Christ. Freedom to live fully and freely is only possible when one comes to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Anything else only leads to bondage.

*My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are contrary to each other, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence? **Galatians 5:15-18 (MSG)***

The right use of freedom must be directed by the Holy Spirit. Do not take this freedom lightly or for granted. It was bought with a price. We have the freedom to live whatever kind of life we want, but once we chose, our choices will define us... Live under His direction and choose wisely.

In Christ,

Pastor Steven

CHURCH MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 27th, 6 pm, Worship Center

Quarterly Church Conference - to review & approve minutes & Financial Report and other business as needed.

Wednesday, August 17th, 6 pm, Worship Center

Annual Corporate Meeting & Called Church Conference - to approve the Servants in Ministry, Deacons & Corporate Officers for 2022-2023.

Servants in Ministry

July 3rd

Welcome Desk - K. Long
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
S. Moates, S. Berkstresser, T. Garrett
PEAK Jr - TBD
PEAK Kids - TBD

July 10th

Welcome Desk - C. & R. Larson
Cart Drivers - Captain- G. Wright
J. Hyatt, J. McConnell, J. Brock
PEAK Jr - TBD
PEAK Kids - TBD

July 17th

Welcome Desk - L. Shook, S. Turner
Cart Drivers - Captain - J. Nichols
W. Benson, J. Noon, D. Rabon
PEAK Jr - TBD
PEAK Kids - TBD

July 24th

Welcome Desk - N. Dearborn, D. Westberry
Cart Drivers - Captain - R. Peterson
B. Grimsley, J. Kimball, G. Boyd
PEAK Jr - TBD
PEAK Kids - TBD

July 31st

Welcome Desk - S. & R. Moody
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
G. Osborne, B. Miller, B. Westberry
PEAK Jr - TBD
PEAK Kids - TBD

Sympathy

The family of Camilla Hogsed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 4th

Towns County School Starts

Thursday, August 11th

Weekday Preschool Starts

Sunday, August 14th

First Steps Class

Wednesday, August 17th

Annual Corporate Meeting & Called Church Conference

Sunday, August 28th

Men's Ministry

HOPE ROOM CLOTHES CLOSET

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1 - 3 pm

One of McConnell's ministries to the community is the Hope Room Clothes Closet. This ministry provides free clothing items for children & adults. If you would like to volunteer in this ministry, please contact Chris Weaver in the church office. If you would like to donate clothing, donations are accepted on Tuesdays & Thursdays, between 1 & 3 pm. The need at this time is for children's clothing. Beginning in September, donations of fall/winter clothing, including coats & jackets, will be accepted.