

Mountain f Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2022

Op Christmas Child

Return your filled shoeboxes to the church **by Sunday, November 13th** to begin their journey to reach the children of the world. As you pack, pray for the child God has chosen to receive the shoebox you've prepared just for them! Please remember to make a \$10 per shoebox donation to Samaritan's Purse to help pay for the shipping costs and, please, fill the shoeboxes completely but do not overstuff them! They have a long way to travel!

You can also "build a box" online at www.samaritanspurse.org. If you choose this option, please let the church office know how many you sent so we can include these in our total.

ATLANTA DISTRIBUTION CENTER TRIP

A group from McConnell is planning a trip to the Operation Christmas Child Distribution Center in Atlanta on Tuesday, December 13th. They will leave from the church early that morning and will work in the distribution center from 10 am until 4 pm. If you'd like to join this group, contact Nancy Stahl at home: 706-896-9943, mobile: 770-883-2356 or email: nstahl@windstream.net

To Our Veterans

Thank you for your service to this country. Your bravery, sacrifice, and strength do not go unnoticed, and we will always be indebted to you and your family for all that you have given to the country. We thank you very much for your service, for your time, bravery, and sacrifice for this country.

Church Events

- Nov 1st - Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Group, FLC-219, 1:30 pm
- Nov 5th - Grounds Work Day, 8:30 am
- Nov 6th - DST Change - Fall Back!
- Nov 15th - Thrive Moms, The Lodge, 6 pm
- Nov 20th - 2023 Proposed Budget Distribution, Welcome Ctr
- Nov 20th - Men's Ministry, The Lodge, 6 pm
- Nov 22nd - Choir Practice Worship Ctr & Choir Suite, 6 pm
- Nov 24th & 25th - Church Office Closed
- Nov 28th - Deacon Meeting, Choir Suite, 7 pm

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

From the Finance Committee

2023 Budget Info

Important 2023 Budget Dates:

Sunday, 11/20, proposed budget distribution.

Wednesday, 11/30, Private discussion with Finance Committee, 5:30 pm, ML-132 (Esther Sunday School Classroom).
Public discussion to follow at 6 pm in the Worship Center.

Sunday, 12/4, Called Church Conference to vote on 2023 budget approval immediately following the morning worship service.

Christmas *for* AWANA

The Awana Clubs are seeking donations of **new or very gently used** items for the **Awana Christmas Store** in mid-December. Remember the kids are shopping for Christmas gifts for their parents, siblings, grandparents, & friends using AWANA bucks they have earned by memorizing scripture!

Men's items will be especially helpful!

Collection bins will be located in the Family Life Center foyer, the drive thru portico foyer and in the church office during the month of November.

For the Ladies

Christmas Brunch

Join the Women's Ministry for *Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child* Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 3rd. Doors will open at 10:30 and brunch will be served at 11:00 am.

If you would like to host a table, contact Lorene Avery at 706-994-7811 or email loreneavery48@gmail.com.

Beginning on October 30th, tickets will be on sale for \$15 each on Sundays **AFTER** the morning worship service in the **drive thru portico lobby** and the last day to purchase a ticket is **Sunday, November 27th**.

Tickets are limited and will not be held so please plan to purchase your tickets early!

From your church staff



Sympathy

The family of Blonnie Cooley.

Tim & Sarah Garrett, at the death of her sister, Betty Dispain.

Hal Harper, Judy Brotherton, Debra Harper & family, at the death of his wife & their mother, Nancy Harper. *Memorial Service on November 5th, 2 pm, Worship Center, (Visitation at 1 pm).*

Truett & Laverne Shook & family, at the death of their great-nephew, Trenton Whidden.

Barbara Van Nus, Katie Sanders & family, at the death of Barbara's son & Katie's brother, Paul Van Nus.

From the Missions Committee

Thank you! For your generous gifts to Mission GA!

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| GOAL | \$15,000 |
| RECEIVED | \$16,760 |



Steven Taylor

Lead Pastor

Pastor's Pen

Thankful: thank·ful ['THaNGkfəl]

I just spent the last week with an incredible team from our church in Jackson, Kentucky on a Samaritan's Purse Mission Trip. This is the area that was devastated by flooding back in August. Many people lost everything they owned and almost 40 people lost their lives. They are still struggling to put the pieces of their lives back together. Without God's help and the help of the Christian community, some never will.

We spent the week "mudding out" homes and clearing out the clutter so they could salvage what was left and possibly start over again. It was difficult, dirty, and heartbreaking work as we hauled out bag after bag of unusable items, furniture, tearing out sheetrock, ripping up carpet and getting what was left of their homes ready to rebuild by the next team that would follow us. Honestly, there was very little that was worth saving so we burned what we could and piled up the rest to be hauled off later.

For the most part, this area of Kentucky is like a lot of places in the Southern Appalachia; rural, isolated, poverty stricken, and forgotten. So, why did we go? Because Jesus told us to go and bring a message of hope to the hurting that even though the world has moved on to the next crisis or disaster, they have not been forgotten by God or by the Christian community.

Now that I am back home, I wonder... if everything I have been given or have worked for was suddenly lost, destroyed, or reduced to a pile of worthless rubble, would I still find a reason to be thankful? Would I be able to find a reason to be grateful or would I give into despair, depression, and

bitterness? We know we are supposed to be grateful. But when times are hard, how can we be?

We often think that giving thanks is something we do in response to our circumstances. Yet Paul makes it clear that Christians are to be thankful not only because of their circumstances but even despite them. Paul writes from Rome, where he awaits trial, to the church in Philippi—a church experiencing persecution and financial hardship. Listen to what he said.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV) *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near! ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

The key to rejoicing and gratitude is found in the first phrase... **We rejoice in the Lord.** Our greatest reason to be thankful is in the things that are not things. *God loves us. God has saved us and called us His own.* What He has given us moths cannot eat, rust cannot destroy, and the enemy can never take away.

By the time you read this, we will be closing in on our Thanksgiving. So, let me ask you something. What are you thankful for? Even if you are struggling for something to be thankful for right now, I want to challenge you to sit down and begin making a list. Try to focus more on the things that are not things. You'll find that helpful. Here's a few hints to get you started.

First, find a quiet place, a journal, and a pen. Second, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Ask Him to open the eyes of your heart and your spirit so that you can hear Him. This might take you a minute to clear your mind so be patient. Don't hurry through this. If the season you've been walking through has been especially difficult, be honest with Him. Next, ask Him to help you see what you've might have been overlooking and taking for granted.

As He brings things that are not things to mind, you will discover that the list is far greater than you could have imagined. If the Apostle Paul could pen an entire book on joy and gratitude from a prison cell, I am sure that you can find more than enough to fill a page or two.

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Pastor Steve

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

November 6

Welcome Desk - D. Reed, N. Dearborn
Cart Drivers - Captain - R. Parkman
B. Miller, S. Collins, J. Brock
PEAK Kids - C. Pearson
PEAK Jr -P. Estrada, E. Williams

November 13

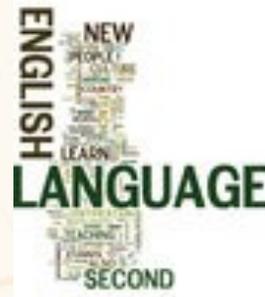
Welcome Desk - R. & P. Hanks
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
S. Moates, S. Berkstresser, B. Cone
PEAK Kids - C. & J. Shively
PEAK Jr - V. Awtrey, C. Armstrong

November 20

Welcome Desk - T. Jette, K. Long
Cart Drivers - Captain - P. Anderson
J. McConnell, J. Hyatt, C. Nicholson
PEAK Kids - L. Grimsley
PEAK Jr - C. Chastain, D. & A. Oliver

November 27

Welcome Desk - D. Wilkinson, K. Long
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
J. Kimball, T. Folmar, G. Boyd
PEAK Kids - M. Turner
PEAK Jr - S. Dyer, P. Hundley



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our English as a Second Language Ministry is looking for willing volunteers to teach or provide childcare on Thursdays, 7 pm until 9 pm.

You do not need to speak or understand Spanish to assist in this ministry. For more information, contact Mary Dolvin or call the church office at 706-896-2281.

Grounds Workday

Wayne Hundley & the Grounds Committee are coordinating a church grounds workday



on Saturday, November 5th, 8:30 am until noon. Bring a 5-gallon bucket and your yard tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, blowers, etc.) and come help clean

up the fall leaves and prepare our grounds for winter and work on the embankment behind the Family Life Center.

Enjoy this opportunity to serve and be outdoors! Questions or want to sign up? Call the church office **at 706-896-2281**.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal - \$35,000

Saturday, Dec 3rd - Ladies Christmas Brunch

Sunday, Dec 18th - Christmas Cantata

Saturday, Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, Dec 25th - No Sunday School & Broadcast Only of Special Christmas Day Worship Service

Monday, Dec 26th - Friday, Dec 30th & Monday, Jan 2nd - Church Office Closed - The church office will re-open on Tuesday, Jan 3rd



BLOOD DRIVE

McConnell will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 20th, from 1-6 pm in the Family Life Center. The drive is open for scheduling now at:

www.redcrossblood.org/

Just enter our zip code, 30546 and then click on the McConnell Baptist Drive.