



Mountain *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | MAY 2023

May is a month filled with recognition and reflection!

Graduates—Let us take a moment and encourage the students who will be graduating preschool, high school & college—what an accomplishment for them and their families!

Moms—Mother's Day is a day set aside to honor our mothers, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. God bless our mothers!

Memorial Day—A day to remember & mourn the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. So thankful for these men & women!

Preschool Graduation

On Thursday, May 11th, at 6:00 pm, eighteen 4-year-olds will graduate, well-prepared to move up to Kindergarten.

Currently, we serve 50 families in this community. As their school year comes to a close for the summer, pray for these students, families and for our Preschool Staff!

Awana Banquet

On Thursday, May 18th, the Awana Clubs will celebrate clubbers & their parents at the annual Awana Banquet with the presentation of awards earned. Currently, a typical Monday provides 60-70 kids with fun games, activities and a time to memorize and recite scripture.

Church Events

- May 2nd—Alzheimer's Support Group, FLC-219, 1:30 pm
- May 7th—Senior Over 60 Breakfast, FLC, 8:00 am
- May 7th—Graduate Recognition, 10:15 am Worship Service
- May 7th—VBS Meeting, Children's Dept, 11:45 am
- May 11th—Preschool Graduation, Worship Ctr, 6:00 pm
- May 14th—Mother's Day
- May 16th—Thrive Moms/Off Site
- May 18th—Awana Banquet, Family Life Ctr, 5:30 pm
- May 21st—Men's Ministry, J. Kimsey Farm, 6 pm
- May 22nd—Deacon's Meeting, Choir Suite, 7:00 pm
- May 29th—Memorial Day, Church Office Closed

Deacon Recommendations

McConnell Church members - It's time to begin 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.

Beginning **Sunday, May 14th**, paper recommendation forms will be available in the Welcome Center or, if you prefer, you can make your recommendations online on the church website. The deadline to make a recommendation is **Sunday, June 18th**.



Vacation Bible School

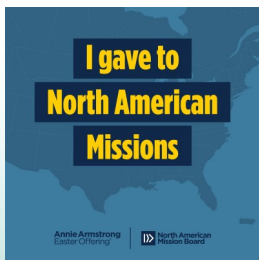
June 19th—June 23rd

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

Pre-register your kids at <https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=65710> so they are ready to go and we are prepared for them!! Volunteers also need to register themselves at this same link.

Drop off begins at 8:30 am and VBS begins promptly at 9:00 am until noon.

Annie Armstrong Offering



Goal: \$25,000

Received: \$26,211.54

Thank you for giving!

Welcome



Patty Dixon



Brian & Shelby
Dyer



Laura Garret
(w/Daniel)



Jeff & Ellen
Downing



Elaine McIver



Trudy Upshaw



Steven Taylor

Lead Pastor

Pastor's Pen

may's flowers

They say, "April's showers bring May's flowers". If that is the case, I will be thankful to put this April behind me. It's not that I don't appreciate the occasional rain, I do. It just that this season has been more a deluge than the occasional downpour; more clouds than sunshine. I am not speaking just meteorologically but spiritually as well.

This winter has been a difficult season for many in our church and our extended church family. It has been a season filled with loss, suffering that doesn't make sense, and questions that you can't find an answer for. If you've ever tried to feel your way through a dark house in the middle of a power outage, you can identify with how many are feeling right now.

Sunshine and the summer can't get here fast enough. Although winter is officially over and spring has sprung, many feel stuck in winter; mentally and physically exhausted, spiritually depleted, and emotionally alone. So let me ask you something. **How are you doing right now? If you can't answer that right now, that's okay.**

God is still God whether it is in the darkness or the light. Neither can keep Him from you and He's with you whether you can see or feel His presence or not. After all, He's promised to be with us always in whatever circumstances we face in life... sunshine or rain, daylight or dark. He's there. Sometimes, we just need to be reminded. I think that is one of the reasons that David wrote the 23 Psalm. Read it in the NLT.

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. ³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

So, why did David write it? Was it just an affirmation of his faith or a song of worship? Or did David write because he knew that there would be days in the future that would be more rain than sunshine, more dark valleys than green meadows, more enemies than friends, and he would need to be remind himself that the Lord was still his Good Shepherd through all the ups and downs in life.

Just in case you needed a reminder. God is still God and He's Still Your Good Shepherd no matter what you are going through.

Chasing Daylight,

Pastor Steve

SUMMER CAMPS

School's out but we have kids & adult leaders going to camps in late May and mid July. Please pray for the students and leaders to have an open heart to hear God's Word, courage to make bold decisions, to build & strengthen greater relationships with others and for physical safety while traveling,

PEAK Kids Camp

May 30th thru June 2nd

Summit Students Crossroads Camp

July 11th thru July 14th

Servants in Ministry

May 7

Welcome Desk - L. & R. Robinson
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
S. Moates, G. Boyd, C. Houser
PEAK Kids - J. & L. Ledford
PEAK Jr - P. Estrada, T. Skinner

May 14

Welcome Desk - T. & S. Jette
Cart Drivers - Captain - T. Wade
S. Casey, C. Baggett, J. Kimball
PEAK Kids - M. Turner
PEAK Jr - V. Awtrey, C. Therrel

May 21

Welcome Desk - D. & B. Westberry
Cart Drivers - Captain - R. Peterson
J. Church, J. McConnell, S. Collins
PEAK Kids - C. Pearson
PEAK Jr - C. Chastain, C. Larson

May 28

Welcome Desk - D. Reed & S. Hyatt
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
S. Berkstresser, J. Brock, G. Osborne
PEAK Kids - A. & D. Oliver
PEAK Jr - S. Dyer, P. Hundley

Life-Safety Upgrade



A critical life-safety upgrade to the fire alarm system was completed during the month of April.

The fire alarm system which serviced the Family Life Center was 22-years-old and obtaining replacement parts when needed had become an issue. This upgrade connects all three buildings to one fire alarm system, replaced/added smoke detectors in the Family Life Center, Preschool and The Lodge, as well as, added annunciators so that the audible alarm is broadcast to all three buildings.

The fire alarm system is monitored 24/7 by a monitoring company.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 6th

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Group

Sunday, June 11th

Lord's Supper
First Steps Class

Sunday, June 18th

Father's Day

Monday—Friday, June 19th—June 23rd

Vacation Bible School

Sympathy

Kimeran Brewer, at the death of her husband, Ken Brewer.

Karen & John Gallogly, at the death of Karen's father, Vaughn Barrett.

Jon & Ann Irwin, at the death of their son, Jon Irwin Jr.

Missy & Richard Lloyd, at the death of Missy's grandmother, Jonnie Mar Irvin.

Jaycelle Wark, Rick & Linda Wark, at the death of Jaycelle's husband & their son, Ryan Wark.