



Mountain *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | JULY 2023

All Church Breakfast

Just for July, our Senior Over 60 Breakfast will be expanded to include everyone! We'd love to have you join us for a light breakfast (biscuits, fruit, coffee & juice) between 8:00 am and 8:45 am. This will give you time to visit with others and still get to Sunday School on time!

Smart Driver Class

To register, contact Kelly Cherry, phone 423-243-8146.

McConnell will host the AARP Smart Driver class on Thursday July 13th, from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm. In this class, you will:

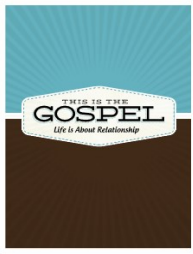
- refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules of the road,
- learn techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way and roundabouts
- discover proven driving methods to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road.

There are no tests and no driving. **Class size is limited** and the class is facilitated by a trained volunteer instructor. Two breaks are provided, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Lunch is bring-your-own and will be limited to 30 minutes.

Cost for the course is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Check with your auto insurance company to see if you can save on your car insurance by taking this class. **Register early!!**

Church Events

- July 2nd - All Church Breakfast, 8:00 am, FLC
- July 4th - Church Office Closed
- July 10th - 14th—Crossroads Camp (Summit Students, Anderson, SC)
- July 11th - Alzheimer's Support Group, 1:30 pm, FLC-219
- July 13th—AARP Smart Driver Class, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, FLC-232
- July 26th—Quarterly Church Conference, 6 pm Worship Ctr.
- July 31st—Deacon's Meeting, 7 pm, Choir Suite



THIS IS THE GOSPEL:

What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How do you know if you're really saved? What does it actually mean to be saved?

How would you answer those questions and would your answers be biblical? If you aren't sure but want to be, we would like to invite you to be part of a pilot group for our Discipleship Pathway that will be launching in the near future.

Look for more information about our Discipleship Pathway and start dates and times coming out soon in a separate email. For more information, contact Pastor Steve at revsteve@mccconnellchurch.org

Alzheimer's Support Group

Due to the July 4th Holiday, the Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Group has moved their meeting to Tuesday, July 11th at 1:30 pm in room 219 in the Family Life Center.

This group is facilitated by Shannon Larsen and provides support to the caregivers for those with Alzheimer's or other types of dementia.

These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Week Day Preschool Important Dates

Monday, August 7th

Preschool Open House for 2 & 4-year olds

Tuesday, August 8th

Open House for 3-year-olds

Thursday, August 10th

Preschool Begins

Welcome



Alex Giles



Caleb & Barbara
Matos



Bryant & Marie
Wilcher



John & Joan
Whitaker

Crossroads Camp

July 10th—July 14th

Thanks to your generosity, fifty Summit Students will travel to camp this month. This camp is an opportunity for our youth to connect with God, deepen their faith, and make lifelong friendships with other believers. The week is jam-packed with powerful worship, inspiring teachings, fun activities, and moments of reflection that'll leave a lasting mark on their spiritual journey.

Please pray for these youth and their leaders as they travel and for life-changing encounters with Jesus!



Laundry Pods

Begins Sunday, July 16th

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, and in the church office. Last day to drop off your donation is Sunday, August 6th.

Pastor's Notes



Staying Flexible

I am not sure if you've noticed that the older you get, the less flexible you become. When our activity begins to decrease either because of age or ability, our muscles, tendons, and all of the other things that help us move freely begin to tighten up. And, if we aren't careful, we begin to lose mobility and ability. That's why it's so important to stretch and remain flexible. If you don't believe me, just try to do something you used to do with ease when you were younger and your body is probably going to cry out in protest.

The same thing can happen spiritually, as well, if we aren't careful, but flexible probably isn't the word that we are looking for in this application. Pliable might be a better choice of words when it comes to our spiritual lives. Like clay that has become too dry for a potter to work with on the wheel, we have a tendency to become more resistant, rigid, and inflexible to change over time.

For example, just pick a topic of something a church might feel led to change like music, meeting times, programs, or the color of the carpet and see what happens... *but what if God is up to a new thing?* The inflexibility of many would cause them to miss the opportunity God was presenting. But what if it were possible to

seize new opportunities while preserving the best of what is at the same time? At least this is what Jesus said when he was challenged on it.

Matthew 9:17 (NIV) *Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

New wine poured into new wineskins. Old wine preserved in old wineskins. One represents new opportunities to be a part of what God is getting ready to do. The other represents what God has already done and continues to do. The end result is that both are preserved and exist side by side.

This year we are going to see some changes take place at McConnell. New efforts will start and new initiatives will launch. At the same time, we will seek to hold onto the best of what doesn't need to change. I would ask that you would stay prayerful, pliable, and flexible as we seek to follow God's leading.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

In Christ,

Pastor Steve

Servants in Ministry

July 2

Welcome Desk - P. & R. Hanks
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
S. Jette, G. Osborne, C. Houser
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

July 9

Welcome Desk - J. & B. Cone
Cart Drivers - Captain - J. Nichols
S. Collins, J. Church, D. Rudder
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

July 16

Welcome Desk - N. Dearborn & C. Nitzsche
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
C. Baggett, J. Brock, S. Moates
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

July 23

Welcome Desk - G. Wilson & M. Stickeler
Cart Drivers - Captain - P. Anderson
J. McConnell, S. Casey, D. Rabon
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

July 30

Welcome Desk - S. Hyatt & K. Long
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
S. Berkstresser, G. Boyd, B. Cone
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

Sympathy

Gina Chambers, at the death of her step-father, Bobby Richard Collins.

David & Arlene Elliott, at the death of Dave's mother, Frances Elliott.

The family of **John Morgan** (covenant member who had moved back to Florida).

Linda & David Kovaleski, at the death of Linda's cousin, Joan Thomas.

Beverly & Pat Turner, at the death of Beverly's sister, Brenda Arnett.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 1st

Alzheimer's Support Group

Thursday, August 3rd

English as a Second Language Class

Sunday, August 6th

Senior Breakfast & Lord's Supper

Wednesday, August 9th

Family Meal Resumes

Sunday, August 13th

First Steps (Newcomers) Class

Tuesday, August 15th

Thrive Moms

Thursday, August 24th

GriefShare Support Group begins

Sunday, August 27th

Called Church Conference & Annual Corporate Meeting (vote on Servants in Ministry 2023-2024)

Vacation Bible School 2023

120 Kids, 100 volunteers

Thank you to all of the parents who shared their children with us and to all of the volunteers who gave of their time & talents for a great week of VBS! Already looking forward to next year!