

Mountain Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | AUGUST 2023

Awana Clubs—Volunteers Needed

With the beginning of the Towns County School year, Awana Clubs will also begin. Kicking off the club year will be a meeting for the Awana Leaders on Monday, August 7th, at 3 pm, in the Family Life Center. Regular Club meetings will resume on Mondays, from 3-5:15 pm, in the Family Life Center, beginning on August 14th. Tom Wade & the club leaders are looking forward to a fun & exciting year teaching the kids about Jesus and helping them memorize scripture.

On Monday, August 28th, the Awana Leaders will host a Parent Dinner & Bible distribution following the weekly club meeting.

Volunteers are needed in this growing ministry to the children of our community. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tom Wade, Awana Commander, at youngtgw52@gmail.com.

Thrive Moms

Any moms from the community with 12th grade children and under are invited to join us at any time during the year.

This is a ministry for moms to encourage and inspire you to do more than *JUST SURVIVE* motherhood. We believe God wants us to **thrive** and walk confidently in who He calls us to be as mothers. We are a ministry seeking to serve, inspire, and empower imperfect moms with the perfect grace of Christ. Join us Tuesday, August 15th at 6:00 pm in The Lodge.

Contact Calah Pearson at (706) 599-9144 or email thrivemomshiwassee@gmail.com for more information.

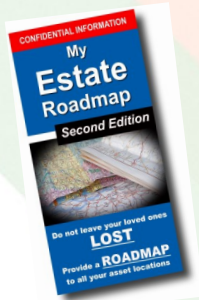
Church Events

- Aug 1st - Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Group, FLC-219, 1:30 pm
- Aug 6th—Senior Over 60 Breakfast, FLC, 8 am
- Aug 6th—Lord's Supper, Worship Center, 10:15 am
- Aug 13th—First Steps Class, The Lodge, 11:45 am
- Aug 15th -Thrive Moms, The Lodge, 6 pm
- Aug 27th—Called Church Conf & Annual Corp Mtg, Worship Ctr, 11:45 am
- Aug 27th—Men's Ministry, The Lodge, 6 pm

My Estate Roadmap Seminar



Throughout our lives, we spend time planning major life events: vacations, weddings, the birth of a child, etc. Yet we rarely think about taking the time to plan for our deaths. Having your affairs and estate in order is one of the most precious gifts you can offer your loved ones. We are all dying; death is something we cannot avoid, so please do not leave a confusing mess for your loved ones to navigate through. Leave a concise Roadmap for all your personal information. Regardless of our age, spending quality time, preparing, communicating and planning will make the inevitable end-of-life much easier on both you and your loved ones.



Would you like to make wise end-of-life healthcare decisions? Would you like to make life easier for your executor by better organizing your important information? If so, please join us on Thursday evenings starting September 14th at 5:30 PM in the Lodge for five 90-minute sessions led by trusted legal, medical, and funeral-home professionals. Signup at the Welcome Center or call the church office to register at 706-896-2281.

GriefShare Support Group

*Begins Thursday, August 24th, 10 am,
Family Life Center, Room 219*

The GriefShare Ministry at McConnell provides a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences—the loss of a loved one. Griefshare is a Christ-centered program which helps you apply biblical principles as you deal with the emotions and life stresses following the death of a loved one. To register, please go to www.griefshare.org and enter our zip code (30546) and then click on "Find Groups". Click on "McConnell Memorial Baptist" to register.

This support group is open to all in our community. Please share this information with your family & friends!

English as a Second Language

The ESL Ministry Team, coordinated by Paola Estrada & Mary Dolvin, meets Thursdays at 7 pm in the Family Life Center. Volunteers in this ministry do not need to speak a foreign language or be professional teachers. If you speak English and love Jesus, that is all that you need! In addition to teaching, there are opportunities to provide food, serve the meal or clean up afterwards.

To volunteer or for more info, contact the church Office at 706-896-2281.

First Steps Class

For those new to the church or who want information on joining the church, please join Pastor Steve & Pastor Danny as they share information about McConnell, who we are, and our vision. We'll meet in The Lodge immediately following the morning worship service on August 13th. A light lunch will be served. This class is a prerequisite for joining the church.

Please call the church office at 706-896-2281 to register.

Official Church Meetings

Called church conference & annual corporate meeting on

Sunday, August 27th,

following the morning worship service. The purpose of this called conference is to vote to approve the Servants in Ministry, Corporate Officers & Deacons for the coming year.



Pastor's Pen

Planning for New Things

It's the middle of summer and it is the time when most people are heading out on vacation, or at least, thinking about planning a last minute one. While summertime may be a downtime for many in our congregation, it is not for the church. Summer is a busy time around here; VBS and kids camp, youth camp and endless youth activities (big shout out to Pastor Steve Awtrey and Pastor Jeremy Pearson and their incredible teams of volunteers), deacon nominations, and finalizing our Servants in Ministry document for 2023-2024.

Right now, we are planning for the fall and gearing up for some major new ministry initiatives at McConnell. In case you missed it, let me update you on two...

THE WAY, MMBC'S DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: The Discipleship Pathway's purpose is to provide a biblical foundation and clearly defined pathway for Christian discipleship that will move church members to becoming fully engaged followers of Jesus Christ. The foundational courses of this pathway are: *This is the Gospel, The Relationship, The Pursuit, and the Journey.*

These courses are intended to build upon one another and are designed in such a way that they can be completed in a year. We will begin by launching a pilot group of *This is the Gospel* in October. Other courses will follow throughout the course of the year.

THIS IS THE GOSPEL PILOT GROUP:

Sundays, 6 pm
October 15th - November 19th
At Church, Room TBD

THIS IS THE GOSPEL
Life is About Relationship

Led by:
Pastor Steve Taylor &
Terry Rathmann

This is the Gospel is dedicated to presenting a simple, biblically based view of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in such a way that everyone not only understands it but is able to share consistently with others. This is where every disciple of Jesus journey begins.

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, sign up for the *This is the Gospel* pilot group.

SIGN-UP: You can sign up one of three ways: through the Connection Card, contacting the church office at 706.896.2281, or by clicking the QR code on the *This is the Gospel* poster in the lobby with your phone. It will take you to the registration page.

SECOND SERVICE LAUNCH-FEBRUARY 2024. Our pastoral staff has been praying about this for over two years and after a series of meetings with a Vision Casting Team of our church members from ages 18 to 80, we feel this is the direction God is leading us to go for one simple reason; people need the Lord and there are many in our community who are lost and are not being reached. If we are serious about wanting to change this trend, we must be willing to change. It is pretty much that simple.

Right now, we simply ask that you pray for us and our church as we move forward. This fall we will be scheduling meetings with key leadership to work on the details. We will also be scheduling some "Core Meetings" with the congregation to talk about our vision for the future. You can follow our publications and announcements for more information as we move forward in our planning.

In Christ
Pastor Steve

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

August 6

Welcome Desk - O. & K. Dickerson
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
G. Boyd, T. Folmar, D. Shively
PEAK Kids - C. J. Shively
PEAK Jr - P. Estrada, C. Armstrong

August 13

Welcome Desk - J. & K. Vaughan
Cart Drivers - Captain - R. Peterson
D. Willrich, J. Noon, C. Houser
PEAK Kids - C. Pearson
PEAK Jr - V. Awtrey, C. Therrel

August 20

Welcome Desk - D. Heard, S. Pipkin
Cart Drivers - Captain - G. Osborne
W. Benson, W. Nelson, G. Denton
PEAK Kids - M. Turner
PEAK Jr - C. Chastain, T. Crawford

August 27

Welcome Desk - T. & S. Jette
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
B. Westberry, J. Hyatt, B. Grimsley
PEAK Kids - R. Cook
PEAK Jr - S. Dyer, P. Hundley

Back to School

With the start of public school, the normal schedule for children & youth activities on Wednesday Nights will resume on **Wednesday, August 9th**.

Summit Students Hang Out Time - 3:00 pm
Family Meal—5:15 pm (PEAK KIDS/Summit Student Families)

PEAK Kids EDGE - 6:00 pm

Parent Small Group - 6:00 pm

Summit Students Worship & Small groups—6:00pm

Weekday Preschool begins on Thursday, August 10th.

Sympathy

Marie Gregory & Melissa Bradley, at the death of Marie's brother & Melissa's father, Bobby Kirby.

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

The Family of Keith Hunnicut.

Liam & Maeleigh King, at the death of their father, Daren King.

Dr. Lanier & Freddie Nicholson, at the death of Lanier's sister, Gail Royal.

Amy Simonton & Family, at the death of Amy's father, Harold Smith.

Steve & Desi Taylor, at the death of Desi's mother, Dale Frady. *Memorial Service on August 5th, Waynesville, NC.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1st-30th

Mission GA Offering (supports the mission efforts of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board to reach unbelievers in our state.

Sunday, September 10th

Deacon Ordination Service, 6 pm

Wednesday, September 13th

Ladies Book Study—Better/A Study of Hebrews Begins

Opportunity to Serve!

Looking for a place to serve? Join our Welcome Cart Ministry Team! Every Sunday, you see their smiling faces and willingness to help assist our members & guests from the parking lot to a church entrance. Coordinated by Dave Rabon, you serve one Sunday every other month, so six times a year! What a blessing this ministry is! For more information or to volunteer, contact Dave at 706-435-2826 or email drrabon39@gmail.com.