

# Mountain Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH  
OCTOBER 2023

## Family Fall Fest

Food | Music | Games | Bouncy Houses

1

OCT 2023

MCCONNELL  
CHURCH

4-6 PM

## Pastor Appreciation

*Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17*

Each week, our pastors pour into our lives with sound teaching, discipleship, and the love of Christ. The month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month. This is a time to let each of them know how much they are appreciated and to encourage them in their ministry. One way to do this is to write a personal note or card and leave in the basket at the Welcome Desk during the month of October or you can mail your cards to P.O. Box 235, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Another way to show your appreciation is to include them in your daily prayers all year long!

84 CHURCH ST HIAWASSEE, GA 30546

PHONE: 706-896-2281 EMAIL: [INFO@MCCONNELLCHURCH.ORG](mailto:INFO@MCCONNELLCHURCH.ORG)

## Church Events

- Oct 1<sup>st</sup>—Family Fun Fest, 4 pm, FLC & parking lots  
(No Senior Breakfast today!)
- Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>—Alzheimer's Support Group, 1:30 pm, FLC
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup>—Lord's Supper, 10:45 am, Worship Ctr
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup>—First Steps Class, 11:45 am, The Lodge
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup>—Parent/Child Dedication, 10:15 am, Worship Ctr
- Oct 19<sup>th</sup>—Smart Driver's Class, 8:30 am, FLC-233  
(Better Book Study will meet in the Choir Suite today)
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>—Men's Ministry, 6 pm, The Lodge
- Oct 25<sup>th</sup>—Quarterly Church Conference, 6 pm, Worship Ctr

## Candy at the Fairgrounds



Each year, McConnell participates in this community-wide event to support our kids! You can help by **donating bags of individually wrapped candy** during the month of October.

Donation bins will be located in the Drive Thru portico, Family Life Center lobby and the church office beginning Sunday, October 1st. **Last day to donate is Sunday, October 29th.**

## OCC Shoeboxes

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be available in the Welcome Center on Sunday, October 8th. Begin preparing now by praying for the child(ren) who will receive the shoebox you pack just for them! Please also include a \$10 donation per shoebox to help cover shipping costs.

**The deadline to return your filled shoeboxes is Sunday, November 12th.**

You may also **Build a Box** online at [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/)

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine,  
and does them, I will liken him to a wise man  
who built his house on the rock:  
Matthew 7:24

## Parent/Child Dedication

Parent Child Dedication is on Sunday, October 15th. This is a public commitment you make before God, your church, and your family. The dedication service provides you, the parent(s), an opportunity to express publicly your desire to lead and spiritually nurture your child in partnership with the church, so your child will develop a desire to love and serve God.

Contact the church office by October 1st to sign up or [click here to register online.](#)

## Smart Driver Class

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

**Cost \$20 for AARP Members, \$25 non-members**

McConnell will host the AARP Smart Driver class on Thursday, October 19th, from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm. This class is designed to help you refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules of the road, and 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.** 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. **Register early!!**





# Pastor's Pen

Steve Taylor, Lead Pastor

## So Grateful...We Are Debt Free!

What a summer this has been! We have so much to be thankful for I don't even know where to begin. At the beginning of the year, we felt that we would be able to pay our debt off by the end of the year and thanks to the faithful generosity of people like you, we have seen God help us wipe out our debt far ahead of schedule!

**We are debt free!** Let me say that again just so I am sure that you heard it...

**WE ARE DEBT FREE!** I cannot tell you how good it feels to be able to say that but I am sure that many of you who have carried this burden way longer than I have actually understand and feel it at a much deeper level than most. So you might be asking, *"Now what? How are we going to celebrate this?"*

**First, on October the 1<sup>st</sup>, we will burn the note as a part of the worship celebration and give God the glory.** And, we will thank God for the things He has done and begin to look forward to the things He is going to do in the future.

**Second, we will be officially retiring our Moving Mountains Campaign for the debt reduction.** Once again, let me say to each who has made this possible over the years, *"Thank you for your faithful sacrifice.* For those who have faithfully given to our Moving Mountains Campaign, let me encourage you to continue to invest in our vision to *Help People Find and Follow Jesus* by giving to the unified budget.

**Third, we will continue to seek God's leading for the future.** Now that the financial debt has been resolved, more can be reallocated to ministry and new mission opportunities here and across the world. While we do not know what those opportunities may be, I do know that God wants us to be ready for them when they come. Two years ago, God led me to write this in our October 2021 newsletter and I feel it even more strongly today than I did then.

***To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.***  
**Matthew 25:29**

What does that mean for us? First, it means that we need to know the heart of God and feel absolute freedom to invest His gifts wherever we can, even if we risk failure. But beyond that, it means that if we want more responsibility, more privilege, and more Kingdom fruit—we need to be faithful with what He gives and look for new ways to grow what we've been given. That is the Master's basis for rewarding His servants with more; they had been faithful with the amounts they had in their hands.

The first two servants in Jesus' parable were faithful and proved they could be trusted with more. Can we be trusted with more? Will we continue to be faithful with what God gives us and will we be willing to take risks to expand our impact and reach for His glory even if we fail? I believe we will and we will see even greater things.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Steve*

## Sympathy to

**Carol Barry**, at the death of her husband, Dennis Barry.

**James, Esther, Olivia, Isabel & Maki Batye**, at the death of James' wife & their mother, Heather Batye.

**Jan McCombs**, at the death of her husband, Jim McCombs.

**The family & friends** of Helga Peters.

**Becky Wentzel & Allan & Peggy Driskell**, at the death of Becky's husband & Allan's son-in-law, Barney Wentzel.

**Gloria & Dwight Wilson**, at the death of Gloria's brother, James Clinton Boone.

# SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

## October 1

Welcome Desk - M. Ashley, M. Chaney  
Cart Drivers - Captain - Gary Osborne  
D. Rudder, J. Noon, G. Denton  
PEAK Kids - A. Osborn  
PEAK Jr - P. Estrada, B. Adams

## October 8

Welcome Desk - P. Green, L. Shook  
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon  
D. Shively, C. Baggett, J. Brock  
PEAK Kids - L. Williams  
PEAK Jr - V. Awtrey, A. Guyette

## October 15

Welcome Desk - R. & S. Moody  
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon  
B. Grimsley, W. Benson, T. Folmar  
PEAK Kids - C. Therrel  
PEAK Jr - C. Chastain, C. Armstrong

## October 22

Welcome Desk - D. & B. Westberry  
Cart Drivers - J. Nichols  
J. Church, J. Hyatt, W. Nelson  
PEAK Kids - R. Cook  
PEAK Jr - S. Dyer, G. Wilson

## October 29

Welcome Desk - L. & R. Robinson  
Cart Drivers - D. Rabon  
B. Cone, R. Signor, G. Osborne  
PEAK Kids - Family Worship Sunday  
PEAK Jr - Family Worship Sunday

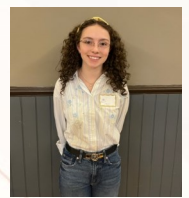
## Welcome



Lanny & Lori  
Creedle



Denise McKay



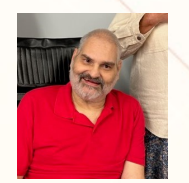
Alexis Osborn



Criag & Julia  
Stevens



Ken & Jan  
Vaughan



Freddie Vann

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, November 5th

Daylight Saving Time Ends

### Friday, November 17th, 7 pm

Mountain Community Chorus Concert

### Saturday, November 18th, 3 pm

Mountain Community Chorus Concert

### Monday, November 27th

Deacon Meeting

### Sunday, December 17th, 6 pm

Christmas Cantata

### Tuesday, December 19th

Red Cross Blood Drive

## 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 October 8th. 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.