

Mountain Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023

This is The Gospel

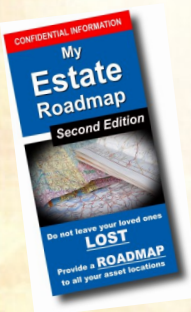


*What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
What does it actually mean to be saved?
How do you know if you're really saved?*

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 on **October**

15th. To register for the pilot group, scan the QR code on the poster in the Welcome Center, at the Missions wall. For more info, contact Pastor Steve at revsteve@mcconnellchurch.org

My Estate Road Map



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.

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. Having your affairs and estate in order is one of the most precious gifts you can offer your loved ones!

Church Events

- Sep 3rd—Senior Breakfast, Family Life Ctr, 8:00 am
- Sep 4th—Church Office Closed/Labor Day
- Sep 10th—Deacon Ordination & Installation Service, Worship Ctr, 6 pm
- Sep 19th—Thrive Moms, The Lodge, 6 pm
- Sep 24th—Men's Ministry, 6 pm, The Lodge
- Sep 25—Deacon Meeting, Choir Suite, 7 pm

Ga Baptist Childrens Home

Deadline to donate is Sunday, September 17th

Each September, we collect items for the GA Baptist Childrens Homes. This year they have requested the following:

- Packs of individual snacks, chips, Jello & Pudding packs
- Canned Fruit
- Pickles (dill & sweet)
- Trash bags (13, 30, 60 gallons)
- Toothpaste
- Gift Cards

Donation bins are located in the drive thru portico, church office & Family Life Center foyer.

Smart Driver Class

McConnell will host the AARP Smart Driver class on Thursday October 19th, from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm.

There are no tests and no driving. **Class size is limited** and the class is facilitated by a trained volunteer instructor. 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. **To register, contact Kelly Cherry, phone 423-243-8146.**



Family Fall Fest

Food | Music | Games | Bouncy Houses

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OCT 2023

**MCCONNELL
CHURCH**

4-6 PM

Looking for a way to reach out to your friends and your community? Look no further! There is a great opportunity coming up on Sunday, October 1st to invite your friends and neighbors to an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship at McConnell's Family Fall Fest. If you are part of McConnell, you are part of our family. So, why not take advantage of this opportunity to invite your neighbors, co-workers, family & friends to join you for an afternoon of fun, blue grass music, food & fellowship at McConnell?

Things will kick off at 4 pm on Sunday, October 1st. We'll gather outside for games, activities & music for all ages. This includes **bouncy houses, cornhole, ladder ball and snow cones!** **We will start eating around 5:00.**

Don't forget to bring a lawn chair if you'd like to sit outside and enjoy the music provided by The Collins Family and enjoy the fellowship as well. And, don't forget to bring a dessert to share and to register for the gift basket to be given away at the end of the day! We look forward to seeing you there for the **McConnell's Fall Family Fest!**

Pastor's Pen



Sheep Among Wolves

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Matthew 10:16 (NIV)

I am not sure if you remember the movie but I am sure that you can remember the title... *Dances with Wolves*. It was a western film starring Kevin Costner and is probably one of my favorite movies he's done simply because of the scenery and the story line. In the movie, Dunbar, Costner's character, earned the name "Dances with Wolves" among the Sioux Indians because he has befriended a wolf named Two Socks and was often seen with him.

Dances with Wolves is an appropriate name for Dunbar's character in the movie not because he has befriended a wolf but because he frequently found himself surrounded by wolves of another nature. People. At times, Costner finds it easier to dance with the real wolves than he does those who wear skin.

The same thing is true when it comes to the Christian life. Jesus sends us out into a world as sheep among wolves to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. There are those who are hostile to the Gospel and to Christianity and yet our mission is to reach them. How? By learning to be as "Shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves".

If we want to successfully translate the gospel to those who need to hear it in our community, we had better learn what Jesus meant and how to apply it lest we end up on next week's menu and see our efforts thwarted at every turn. Over the next several weeks, I want to invite you to be here for our new sermons series called **Shrewd** based on the command of Jesus in Matt. 10:16. In it, we will learn how to be obedient to the command of Jesus

and to shrewdly leverage the gifts God has given us as a community of believers to reach our community.

Running with wolves can be dangerous and so is dancing with wolves if you don't know what you're doing. But if we can learn from the Master, we will not only learn how to dance but we will see the Kingdom grow. As God sends us out, let us learn to walk in step with His Spirit, depend upon in His strength, and follow Him faithfully.

Chasing Daylight,

Pastor Steven

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him... 2 Chron. 16:9 (NIV)

Mission GA Offering

Through our partnership with Mission Georgia, they are able to do more...more education, more training, more modeling, more mobilization. The needs are big, and every community needs help. The good news is the Church exists in every community and is equipped and able to bring change and hope. We do it better together.

You have the opportunity to donate to Mission GA during the month of September. Your generosity is the fuel to equipping more churches and more people to tackle the change that needs to happen. Let's make a difference, together and change lives by the hope of the gospel! Our goal is \$17,500.

Ladies Book Study

Fall Ladies Bible study to begin THURSDAY 9/14, 9:45-11:45. This 10 week video study by Jen Wilkin will lead us through the book of Hebrews, learning how Christ is the substance of the shadowy truths of the Old Testament records.

If you will sign up early we will order your book for you—for the cost of \$17.11 each. This study will be held in the Family Life Center, room 232.

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP 9/7/23. Notify April Porter to join us on this new adventure.

Aprilporter1968@gmail.com or call 757-535-4058.

Servants in Ministry

September 3

Welcome Desk - E. & G. Wright
Cart Drivers - D. Rabon
S. Moates, S. Jette, B. Cone
PEAK Kids - J. & L. Ledford
PEAK Jr - P. Estrada, T. Skinner

September 10

Welcome Desk - S. Childress, D. Reed
Cart Drivers - Captain - T. Taylor
C. Nicholson, C. Baggett, D. Rudder
PEAK Kids - A. Rountree
PEAK Jr - V. Awtrey, H. Thornton

September 17

Welcome Desk - B. & J. Ziegenfuss
Cart Drivers - Captain - T. Wade
S. Casey, J. McConnell, S. Collins
PEAK Kids - E. Williams
PEAK Jr - C. Chastain, E. Williams

September 24

Welcome Desk - C. & R. Larson
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
S. Berkstresser, R. Signor, C. Houser
PEAK Kids - L. Grimsley
PEAK Jr - S. Dyer, K. Douberly

Deacon Family Ministry

The Deacon Family Ministry is designed to minister to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of our church members and their families by being good listeners, friends & encouragers; praying for and with you; providing support in a time of crisis; discussing questions about your faith or the church; assisting you in finding ways to serve the church; and rejoicing with you when you share important achievements.

Each September, some deacons rotate off and others come on to serve, resulting in new deacon family assignments for some folks. Over the coming weeks, you may receive a text, phone call, voice message, email or letter from your deacon. Please help them serve you by responding!

If you have questions related to who your deacon is, please call the church office at 706-896-2281.

Upcoming Events

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Saturday, October 1st

Lord's Supper
Family Fun Fest—Fun, Food, Fellowship for all

Sunday, Oct 8th

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Available
First Steps Class

Sunday, Oct 15th

Parent/Child Dedication
This is the Gospel Class begins

Thursday, Oct 19th

AARP Smart Drivers Class

Tuesday, Oct 31st

Candy at the Fairgrounds

Sympathy

The family of **Roberta Copeland**.

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

Tricia & Roger Parker, at the death of Tricia's mother, Betty Ann Campbell.

Janelle Smith, at the death of her son, Paul Smith.