

# Mountain *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2023

## *From the* WOMEN'S MINISTRY Christmas Brunch



Finding real joy comes not from the busy-ness of the Christmas season but from keeping our focus on Jesus. To help begin a joyful Christmas Season with that focus in mind, the Women's Ministry invites women of all ages to attend the annual Christmas Brunch.

The theme for this year's brunch is "*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*". **Mark your calendars now for Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 am, in the Family Life Center.** The special guest speaker this year is Maddy Alessi, a mom, wife and missionary to Japanese people living in the Atlanta area. She ministers to these families with the gospel through English classes, play dates, Bible studies and other events.

Tickets are \$15 each and will be on sale in the Welcome Center after church on Sundays, beginning October 29<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, November, 19<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are limited so you are encouraged to purchase these as soon as possible!

This is also a perfect time to invite your friends and neighbors to join you for this special event!

## Church Events

- Nov 5<sup>th</sup>-DST Ends, *set clocks back 1 hour before bed on Saturday.*
- Nov 5<sup>th</sup>—Senior Breakfast, 8:00 am, FLC
- Nov 7<sup>th</sup>— Alzheimer's Support Group, 1:30 pm, FLC-219
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup>—Grounds Workday, 8:30 am, Church Grounds
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup>—LAST DAY TO TURN IN YOUR OP CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES!
- Nov 17<sup>th</sup>—Mountain Community Chorus Concert, 7:00 pm, Worship Ctr,
- Nov 18<sup>th</sup> —Mountain Community Chorus Concert, 3:00 pm, Worship Ctr,
- Nov 21<sup>st</sup>—Choir Practice, 6 pm (*note change in time*)
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup>—Deacon Meeting, 7:00 pm, Choir Suite

84 CHURCH ST HIWASSEE, GA 30546

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



*Thank you to*

## OUR VETERANS

### **Veteran Recognition, Sunday, November 12th**

Thank you for your service to this country. Your bravery, sacrifice, and strength do not go unnoticed, and we will always be indebted to you and your family for all that you have given to the country. We thank you very much for your service, for your time, bravery, and sacrifice for this country.

*From the*

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thank you for your generous donations of \$17,155 to Mission GA to support missions in our community and state.

## Mountain Community Chorus

*Concerts at McConnell*

**Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm &**

**Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm**

Mountain Community Chorus, Inc., established in 1974, is now about 70 singers who love to make music and who live in north Georgia and western North Carolina, directed by Terry Hooper, assisted by Laura Stookesbury.

The concert is free and has a wide variety of styles to be enjoyed.

Small or generous donations are truly appreciated and are also tax deductible. Both concerts are in our Worship Center so mark your calendar and invite your friends!

## Blood Drive

**Tuesday, December 19th, 1-6 pm**

**Fewer donors than needed** gave this summer, drawing down the national blood supply and reducing distributions of some of the most needed blood types to hospitals. Hurricane Idalia further strained the blood supply with blood drive cancellations and reduced blood and platelet donations in affected areas. McConnell will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 19th, from 1-6 pm. Please register at [www.redcrossblood.org/](http://www.redcrossblood.org/) and give the gift of life!

*From the* FINANCE COMMITTEE

### **2024 Proposed Budget Available:**

Sunday, November 19th

### **Proposed Budget Discussion:**

Wednesday, November 29th

Private Discussion—5:30 pm, Esther Classroom

Public discussion—6 pm, Worship Ctr.

### **Vote on 2024 Budget:**

Sunday, December 3rd, immediately following the morning service.

**SOME  
THING  
NEW**

### **TITHES & OFFERINGS**

The white offering buckets & tables located just outside the Sanctuary entrance and in the balcony have been replaced with black *Tithes & Offerings* stands. Just drop your cash,

checks & offering envelopes inside the slot!

Thank you!



## Thanksgiving Holiday Schedule

### **Wednesday, Nov 22nd**

Church Office closes at 12 noon.

No evening services or activities

### **Thursday, Nov 23rd & Friday, Nov 24th**

Church Office Closed.





# Pastor's Pen

Steve Taylor  
Lead Pastor

Worry: [wŭr'ē] to feel uneasy or concerned about something; to be troubled. *synonym*: **brood**

Unless you live under a rock and are totally cut off from the world, you know by now that our friends in Israel are at war. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, they were brutally and shockingly attacked by the terrorist organization Hamas. In the early morning hours, Hamas blew holes in the border fence and invaded several Israeli towns near the strip. They targeted innocent civilians, slaughtering over a thousand men, women, and children. As they fled back into the Gaza Strip, Hamas took hostages with them, some of them were Americans.

Israel was left with no other choice but to respond with a show of strength and force that would not be misunderstood by their enemies. With nine million people in Israel, surrounded by hundreds of millions who are sworn to their destruction, Israel has no other choice. But what about us? When we see such things taking place, what should be our response as Christians?

Give into worry and fear? When we see what is going on in the world around us and in the Middle East, it is easy for us to wonder if the end is near. We hear of wars and rumors of wars, and it is easy to let our hearts be troubled by the possibility of being pulled into another global conflict. The site of the crucifixion is once again the most controversial and contested plots of land on the planet. And we worry. More than once, **Jesus says "don't."**

***Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matt. 6:34 (NIV)***

Now what makes this next statement so amazing is that Jesus spoke it to his disciples on the night when one of them would betray him, the rest would abandon him, and they would watch him die on the cross.

***Do not let your hearts be troubled. John 14:1 (NIV)***

The best action we can take right now is not to give into worry or fear but to pray. To pray effectively, it helps to be informed about what is going on but not so much that we become consumed with it.

### **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem**

(Psalm 122:6).

In addition to physical protection, the people of Israel desperately need to know the only true source of peace: the Prince of Peace.

### **Pray for wisdom for the Israelis as they respond and for protection from their enemies.**

(1 Peter 5:8)

### **Pray for the spiritual battle taking place.**

(Ephesians 6:18)

What Jesus said then, he says to us now. *"Do not let your hearts be troubled."* God is still on the throne, and He is in control regardless of what is happening right now or what may happen tomorrow.

*In His Care,*

*Pastor Steve*



## Grounds Work Day

Wayne Hundley & the Grounds Committee are coordinating a church grounds work day on **Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am** until noon. Bring a 5-gallon bucket

and your yard tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, blowers, etc.). Come prepared to help dig up or pull weeds, clean up the fall leaves and prepare our grounds for winter! What a great opportunity to serve and be outdoors!

Questions or want to sign up? Call the church office at 706-896-2281.



## Servants in Ministry

### November 5

Welcome Desk - N. Dearborn, P. Greene  
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon  
B. Westberry, S. Jette, S. Moates  
PEAK Kids - C. & J. Shively  
PEAK Jr - M. Adams

### November 12

Welcome Desk - G. Wilson, C. Ayers  
Cart Drivers - Captain - R. Peterson  
S. Casey, D. Willrich, C. Houser  
PEAK Kids - D. Timpone  
PEAK Jr - C. Larson

### November 19

Welcome Desk - K. Long  
Cart Drivers - Captain - R. Parkman  
J. Hyatt, J. McConnell, S. Collins  
PEAK Kids - J. & L. Ledford  
PEAK Jr - T. Crawford

### November 26

Welcome Desk - P. & R. Hanks  
Cart Drivers - D. Rabon  
R. Signor, G. Boyd, C. Nicholson  
PEAK Kids - E. Williams  
PEAK Jr - P. Hundley

## Op Christmas Child

Return your filled shoeboxes to the church **by Sunday, November 12th** to begin their journey to reach the children of the world. As you pack, pray for the child God has chosen to receive the shoebox you've prepared just for them! Please remember to make a \$10 per shoebox donation to Samaritan's Purse to help pay for the shipping costs and, please, fill the shoeboxes completely but **do not overstuff them!** They have a long way to travel!

You can also "build a box" online at [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/)

If you choose this option, please call the church office and let us know how many you built online so we can include these in our total.

### ATLANTA DISTRIBUTION CENTER

A group from McConnell is planning a trip to the Operation Christmas Child Distribution Center in Atlanta on Tuesday, December 5th. They will leave from the church early that morning and will work in the distribution center from 10 am until 4 pm. If you'd like to join this group, contact Nancy Stahl at home: 706-896-9943, mobile: 770-883-2356 or email: [nstahl@windstream.net](mailto:nstahl@windstream.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**—December

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**—Ladies Christmas Brunch

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**—Called Church Conference

**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**—Thrive Moms

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**—First Steps Class

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Cantata, 6 pm,—  
*The Promise of Christmas***

**Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**—Red Cross Blood Drive

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

No Sunday School

Worship Service—10:15 am

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—6 pm**

## Sympathy to

**Jackie Su Brumbaugh, Melissa Brumbaugh-Sudduth & Shiela Brumbaugh & families** at the death of Jackie's husband & Melissa's father, & Sheila's father-in-law, Gene Brumbaugh.

**Ashley & Chris Burrell**, at the death of Ashley's father, Derryl Cone.

**John & Angie Kelley, Richard & Karen Kelley**, at the death of their sister-in-law, Wanda Kelley.

**Rick Jernigan**, at the death of his wife, Lorraine Jernigan (former members.)

**Betsy Stultz**, at the death of her husband, Richard Stultz.

**Missy Thomson & Robert & Rachel Thomson**, at the death of Missy's husband and Robert's father, Rob Thomson.