

Mountain Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2024



Hello McConnell Family,

We've got some exciting news to share with you as we gear up for a new chapter in our church's story. We exist to help people find and follow Jesus! We're about to launch a second service, and it's all about reaching more people with the love of Jesus.

At McConnell, we're all about relationships – with God and with each other. We believe that we're connected to God and He created us to connect with others and share the good news. It's as simple as that – found people find people.

Our outreach efforts have been great, but there's more work to be done. Why? Because outreach isn't just a program; it's a mindset. It's about people who genuinely care and want to help others find and follow Jesus. It's a way of thinking that guides our actions and pushes us to fulfill the Great Commission.

Remember, saved people serve people. This isn't just for a select few; it's a team effort. We're inviting everyone to join us – every hand on deck! We're not just adding a service time; we're expanding our reach to impact the community around us.

Come take a walk with us as we walk with God. We're not just starting a new service; we're changing lives and we want you to be a part of it. Here are some dates and details on our second service launch, and let's make a difference together. Watch the Sunday Bulletin and social media for more information!

Excited for the journey ahead,

McConnell Baptist Church Staff

84 CHURCH ST HIWASSEE, GA 30546

PHONE: 706-896-2281 EMAIL: INFO@MCCONNELLCHURCH.ORG

Church Events

- Jan 1st—Church Office Closed
- Jan 7th—Senior Breakfast, 8:00 am, Family Life Ctr
- Jan 7th—AWANA Zip Line & Dinner, 5 pm, Family Life Ctr
- Jan 13-15th—Strength to Stand, (Summit Students), Pigeon Forge
- Jan 16th—Thrive Moms, 6:00 pm, The Lodge
- Jan 19th—Men's Conference, FLC & The Lodge, 6-9 pm
- Jan 20th—Men's Conference, The Lodge, 9—noon
- Jan 22nd—Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm, Choir Suite

GriefShare®

SUPPORT GROUP

Starts Thursday, February 1st, 10 am – 12 noon, Rm 219, Family Life Ctr, Facilitated by Nancy Stahl

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process. A GriefShare group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief.

At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. At each weekly meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, pastors, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics, plus you'll hear relatable personal stories of grief. After that is a small-group discussion to allow people time to talk, share support, and personally apply what they learned on the video.

Everyone will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process. Sign up today at www.griefshare.org.



AWANA Zip Line & Dinner

Parents - Here's an awesome opportunity to spend a fun evening with your kids (Sparks thru Trek) and other parents while enjoying dinner

with the Awana leaders. You can watch your kids have a fun & exciting time "zip lining" through the Family Life Center on Sunday, January 7th, 5 pm to 7 pm. *We do need you to remain with your kids for the zip line!*

McConnell's Awana Clubs will resume their weekly meetings in the Family Life Center on Monday, January 8th, after school. (No Awana Clubs on January 15th as that day is a holiday for Towns County Schools.)

Volunteers Needed

The Nominating Committee will begin work soon and they need to hear from you! If you are interested in serving on a church committee or ministry team, please don't wait to be asked—let us know how and where you would like to serve. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Nancy Stahl, Steve Edmiston, Tammy Hollingshead, Ron Robinson, Gloria Wilson & Lindy Denton.

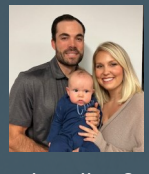
Welcome



Caitlin Ayers



Dudley & Debbie
Bluhm



Chandler &
Hannah York
& Cove

Sympathy to

Shiela Brumbaugh, at the death of her sister, Cheryl Parker.

Allan Driskell, at the death of his wife, Peggy West Driskell.

Bob & Kathy Hill, at the death of Kathy's parents, Theodore & Hazel Thomas.

Homer & Jeanine Goddard, at the death of Homer's daughter, Lisa Goddard.

Mike & Rachel Mathis, at the death of Mike's mother.

Steve Awtrey

Children's Pastor
& Men's Ministry
Coordinator



Men, it's time to step up!

As most of you know I grew up in a middle-class family in Birmingham, Alabama. My father, Charles, was a fireman & homebuilder and my mom, Barbara, taught kindergarten at our local church. I have one sibling, my older brother David, who is the lead pastor today at First Baptist Pinson, Alabama. Overall, it was a normal upbringing, except the *spiritual leader* of my home was not my dad. He was too busy to bother with attending church & left that responsibility to my mom. My mother made sure David & I were at church every time the doors were open. It seemed like I spent more time at church, than I did anywhere else, even my own home.

As a young boy I always wondered why church was so important to my mom but meant so little to my dad. Now, as a husband & father myself I realize how valuable the spiritual role & responsibility of the father is. God designed & created every man to take the responsibility as the spiritual leader of his home. For way too long men have sat on the sidelines & have let the mothers fill that role for their family. Men, it's time to step up & fill the role & responsibility that God has called you to.

Statistics say that when kids come to Christ first, 3.5% of families will follow. When mom comes to Christ first, 17% of families will follow. **But when dad comes to Christ first, 93% of families will follow.** Men, you were created with a purpose to be the spiritual leader of your family, so get in the game & take ownership of that responsibility.

In January, our church will be hosting a **Men's Conference** for our community. This is a great opportunity to join men all over Towns County & be encouraged to become the men God created you to be. So, make sure you're here on **Friday, Jan 19th & Saturday, Jan 20th**, & invite someone to come with you. It's going to be an incredible weekend!

I don't want to end without letting you know that my dad, Charles Awtrey, committed his life to Jesus Christ when he was 76. My brother, David, baptized him & up until a year ago he was at church every time the doors were open. He is now 92 years old. So, no matter what age you are, or where you're at in your relationship with Jesus Christ, it's never too late to get in the game, because **Men, it's time to step up!**

Steve A.



McConnell Baptist Church

84 Church St, Hiawassee, GA 30546



PASTOR, AUTHOR
BRIAN BRANAM



FREE TO REGISTER!
Scan the QR code above

FRIDAY

JAN 19th
6-9PM

Dinner by:
**Happy
Hawg BBQ**

SATURDAY

JAN 20th
9AM-12PM

Activities:
**Breakfast
Service
Free Raffle**

RAFFLE INCLUDES:

- BROWNING CITRUS
- 12 GAUGE OVER/UNDER
- \$200 GIFT CARD FROM OSBORN FARMS
- GMMFG CONCERT TICKETS
- MANY OTHER LOCAL GIFTS AND SERVICES

Not good with QR Codes??
Call or Email Pastor Steve Awtrey to Register
Phone: 205-567-7729, Email: sawtrey24@gmail.com

Servants in Ministry

January 7

Welcome Desk - J. McConnell, K. Long
Cart Drivers - Captain—D. Rabon
P. Anderson, S. Jette, S. Moates
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

January 14

Welcome Desk - E. & G. Wright
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon
S. Collins, J. Nichols, C. Nicholson
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

January 21

Welcome Desk - B. & J. Ziegenfuss
Cart Drivers - Captain – G. Osborne
S. Casey, J. McConnell, D. Willrich
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

January 28

Welcome Desk - T. & S. Jette
Cart Drivers - Captain —D. Rabon
G. Boyd, R. Signor, B. Westberry
PEAK Kids - TBD
PEAK Jr - TBD

Financial News

2024 Offering Envelopes

will be available in the Welcome Center on December 31st.

Annual contribution statements

These will be emailed to those who have an email address on file in mid-January. Watch your email for this important message! For those **without** an email address on file, you may pick up your statement in the church office after mid January or we will mail at the end of the month.

Quarterly Financial Reports

For the Oct-Dec 2023 quarter will be available on Sunday, January 28th, at the Welcome Desk.

Quarterly Church Conference

will be Wednesday, 1/31/2024, 6:00 pm, in the Worship Center.

Upcoming Events

Feb 1st

GriefShare Support Group Begins

Feb 9th

Daddy/Daughter Date Night

Feb 11th

First Steps Class
Men's Ministry Super Bowl Party

Feb 18th

Lord's Supper

Feb 23rd-25th

The WKND (Summit Students)

New Service Schedule

Beginning March 17, 2024

The 8:30 (Worship Service with Choir & Orchestra)

9:45 am - Sunday School for all ages

The 11:00 (Worship Service with Band)