

# Mountain *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | MARCH 2024

## New Service Schedule

Don't forget, Sunday, March 17th kicks off our new service schedule:

**THE 8:30 Worship Service with Choir & Orchestra**

**9:45—10:45—Sunday School**

**THE 11:00 Worship Service with band**

## Easter Services

The Friday before Easter is called **Good Friday**. It is a day to reflect and commemorate Jesus' willing sacrifice and terrible suffering on the cross to bear the fury of God's wrath and remove the guilt of our sins from us. Join our pastors on **Friday, March 29th, at 6 pm** in the Worship Center for this special service with the Lord's Supper.

On **Easter Sunday morning, March 31st, at 7:00 am**, celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with our community at the annual **Sunrise Service** at Hamilton Gardens. This early morning, outdoor service will be hosted by Hiawassee United Methodist Church with the message by Rev. Fred Whitley. This is a great way to start this Easter Sunday! Come enjoy uplifting music and an encouraging word as we praise & honor Him! A love offering will be taken and donated to a local charity serving this community.

Following the sunrise service, McConnell will continue the celebration at **THE 8:30 and THE 11:00 morning worship services**. The orchestra & choir, under the direction of Chris Adams, and the band, under the direction of Tyler Moody, will present special music.

## Church Events

- Mar 3rd—NO Senior Breakfast today!
- Mar 9th—Men's Golf Tour, Chatuge Shores Golf Club, 9:00 am
- Mar 10th—DST time Change (Spring forward)
- Mar 17th—Awana Grand Prix, Family Life Ctr, 4:30 pm
- Mar 19th—Thrive Moms, The Lodge, 6:00 pm
- Mar 24th—Men's Ministry, The Lodge, 5:00 pm
- Mar 25th—Deacon Meeting, Choir Suite, 7:00 pm
- Mar 29th—Good Friday Service, Worship Ctr, 6:00 pm
- Mar 31st—Sunrise Service, Hamilton Gardens, 7:00 am

# Week of Prayer

Every year, we observe the Week of Prayer for North American missions by praying for missionaries, their ministries and their families. Because these missionaries make Jesus known in places all over the U.S. and Canada where there's little or no gospel witness, they experience opposition and they battle loneliness and discouragement. That's why they need your prayers. Prayer is the fuel for spiritually sustaining these missionaries. Prayer Guides are available in the Information Station to help you know how to pray for them.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering envelopes for North American Missions are available in the pew pockets from March 3rd through March 31st, Easter Sunday. Won't you pray for and give to support the North American Missionaries? McConnell's goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$25,000.

## Awana Grand Prix

All parents, grandparents, kids, and interested spectators are invited to the **Awana Grand Prix** on **Sunday, March 17th** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. This is a fun & exciting Pinewood Derby style racing event that is about more than building a race car! It helps to build a bond between kids and their parents as they work together to build the best car ever! It's not only about winning the race, but winning moms, dads and kids to Christ. The leaders will have a cook off so come enjoy this and cheer the racers on!



## Preschool Registration

McConnell Weekday Preschool, 2-year-olds through 4-year-olds, will begin accepting pre-registrations for the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

### **For current enrollees & McConnell Church members**

Monday, 3/4 through Friday, 3/15  
8:00 am until 11:30 am, Preschool Area

### **For the general public**

Monday, 3/18 through Friday, 3/29  
8:30 am until 10:00 am  
Drive Thru Portico (adjacent to Preschool)

Please contact Emily Winn, 706-896-2281, if you have questions about eligibility, cost or pre-registration.

## Men's Ministry Spring Golf Tour

First Tour Date:  
March 9th, 9:00 am



Chatuge Shores  
Golf Club

Contact Jacob Thornton  
to register  
Text: 706-817-2648  
Email:  
jacoblthornton@gmail.com

## Welcome



Jakob Brown



Gary Osborne

## Sympathy to

**Angela Cooper**, at the death of her mother, Kimberly Cooper.

**Susan DeVries**, at the death of her father, Jeff Waldroup.

**Shirley Hood**, at the death of her husband, Cliff.  
**Shirley Nichols**, at the death of her brother, Odis Barrett.

**Carol O'Dell**, at the death of her sister, Jane Henson.

The family of **Rowe Garrett**.



Steve Taylor

Lead Pastor

# Pastor's Pen

## Because He Lives

This morning I was listening to one of my all-time favorite Easter songs by Keith Green who died when I was a freshman in college. It is a song filled with joy, hope, and expectation because of Jesus' resurrection. It is simply titled the Easter Song and you might want to give it a listen.

It made me wonder how our life could be different if we would live our life in the power of Jesus' resurrection. Imagine if we would live each day as an incredible gift to be lived as an adventure with our Risen Savior. How would you live differently today if you approached each day that way? In reality, both are not only available to us but are gifts waiting for Jesus waiting for us to open. So, why don't more of us live that way?

Henri Nouwen said, "What keeps us from living in light of these realities is that we have forgotten to live in the "now". "The problem is that we allow our past, which becomes longer and longer each year, to say to us: *You know it all, you have seen it all, be realistic; the future will be just another repeat of the past. Try to survive it as best you can.*"

The longer you live the more you realize how hard it is to live in the present. The past and the future keep harassing us. Our past loads us down with guilt and the future holds us back with all of its worries. Instead of living in the light of the resurrection and the freedom it came to bring, we find ourselves caught between the "Oughts" and the "What ifs". These are the real enemies of our life for they pull us backward into an unalterable past and forward into an unpredictable future.

How easy it is to forget that Jesus is still "God with Us". This means that He is the God of the present. He is always in the now no matter what the moment brings. He came to wipe away the burden of your past and the worries of the future. Learn to live in the now and in light of the resurrection. I hope you will join us this Easter Sunday as we launch our 2<sup>nd</sup> service schedule and begin our new series "Because He Lives."

He Lives! Let's live like it!

*Pastor Steve*



Redemption Point Center is a faith based recovery center in Blairsville, GA directed by Matt Pankey and his wife, Ashley. After God rescued him in 2014 from a life bound by addiction, Matt felt called to minister to those still trapped by addiction so that they may be set free through the power of Jesus Christ. Please pray for Matt and his family as they walk in obedience to God's call on their life. Pray for those in our community who are battling addiction that they may be set free through the redeeming power of Jesus Christ. For more information, please visit their website at [onelifelineministry.com](http://onelifelineministry.com).



## *New Ladies Bible Study*

Mark your calendars for Thursdays beginning March 21st, 9:45-11:45. This 6 week study will allow us to explore Jesus

starting in Genesis. "Mysteries of the Messiah" by Rabbi Jason Sobel will open our eyes to fill in the connections we may have missed between the NT and OT.

Watch your Sunday Bulletin for signup information & location.

# Servants in Ministry

## March 3

Information Station - C. & R. Larson  
Cart Drivers - Captain—D. Rabon  
S. Moates, C. Nicholson, S. Casey

## March 10

Information Station - G. Wilson, D. Heard  
Cart Drivers - Captain - G. Osborne  
D. Willrich, J. Nichols, D. Rabon

## March 17 -

Information Station - S. Hyatt, K. Long  
Cart Drivers - Captain – D. Rabon  
J. McConnell, B. Westberry, D. Rudder

## March 24

Information Station - R. Byers, N. Dearborn  
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon  
R. Signor, T. Folmar, B. Cone

## March 31

Information Station - S. Hyatt, K. Long  
Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon  
R. Signor, T. Taylor, T. Wade

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS— SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

There are two scholarships available to graduating high school seniors - the Ray Nicholson Scholarship, which is available to Towns, Union & Clay County students and the Frances Johnston Hirschy Memorial Scholarship, which is available to Towns & Clay County students pursuing a nursing degree.

Applications are available in the church office, during the month of March, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. until noon.

Applications for both scholarships must be **completed & submitted to the church office by noon on Friday, April 5, 2024.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 2—Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Group

Apr 14—First Steps Class

Apr 16—Thrive Moms

Apr 21—Men's Ministry

Apr 26—Mountain Community Chorus Concert, 7 pm

Apr 27—Mountain Community Chorus Concert, 3 pm

## *Save the Date*

VBS—June 24th—28th, with VBS Sunday on

June 30th (Family Worship Sunday)

## Volunteer Opportunities

Please let us know where you would like to volunteer. Visit this link or scan the QR Code with your phone.

<https://mccconnellchurch.org/volunteer/>

