



Mountain Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | APRIL 2024



MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHORUS

Celebrating 50 years of Song!

Free Concerts at McConnell

Friday, April 26, 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 27, 3:00 pm

(Your donations are appreciated.)

Mountain Community Chorus is celebrating its golden anniversary this year. Founded in 1974 as a class at Tri-County Technical Institute in Peachtree, NC, the chorus is comprised of 63 members from throughout the local area, as well as, some who commute from mountain towns as far as 100 miles away. Members range in age from 15 to 88 years and over 600 vocalists have sung with the group since the chorus was formed. Auditions are held twice a year, just before the new season begins. Rehearsals are held at Young Harris College and two different concerts are presented each year. The chorus is a very vital part of our community and one that its members are very honored to be a part of.

James Carly, while serving as an adjunct professor at Tri-County Technical Institute started the chorus. After its tenure at Tri-County Technical Institute, the chorus relocated to John Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. Before moving to Young Harris College, the chorus changed the name to Community Choir and was directed by the second director, Bill Fox from 1986 until 2012. Then, Laura Stookesbury served as director until 2023 when Terry Hooper became director with Laura as assistant director.

Church Events

- Apr 2nd - Alzheimer's Support Group, FLC-219, 1:30 pm
- Apr 10th—No Wednesday Evening services or activities/Church Office Closed for Inservice Workday
- Apr 16th—Thrive Moms, The Lodge, 6 pm
- Apr 21st—Men's Ministry, Jimmy Kimsey Farm, 5 pm
- Apr 23rd —Blood Drive, FLC, 1-6 pm
- Apr 24th—Quarterly Business Conference, Worship Ctr, 6 pm
- Apr 28th—Lord's Supper (both Sunday services)

Running Into Summer



Who: North GA FCA
What: 5K run/walk fundraiser
When: April 20th, 2024, 8:30am
Where: Meeks Park Pavilion #2
Why: Raise scholarship funds for athletes to attend various FCA summer camps



How to register: Scan QR code or search "Running into Summer 5K Blairsville" online

Men's Ministry

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 21st at 5 pm for our Men's Ministry Fish Fry! We'll meet at Jimmy Kimsey's property at 390 Kimsey Cove Rd, Hiawassee, for a night of fun, food & fellowship. Spread the word & invite someone new.

Contact Steve Awtrey for more information at children@mccconnellchurch.org.

Next Steps Class

Our Newcomers Class, formerly known as the First Steps Class has been re-named as the **Next Steps Class**. If you are new to the church or 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 meet in The Lodge immediately following The 11:00 Worship Service on **April 14th** (around 12:10 pm). A light lunch will be served. This class is a prerequisite for joining the church. Please call the church office to register.

Blood Drive

There is a continual need for blood & blood products in our nation. To help meet this need, McConnell Church will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Tuesday, April 23rd, from 1 pm - 6 pm** in the Family Life Center. This drive is open for scheduling now at:

www.redcrossblood.org/

Just enter our zip code, 30546, and then click on the blood drive at McConnell Baptist Church.

Welcome



Josh & Alison
Ashe



Ted & Ina
Penland



Randy & Anna
Rivera

Sympathy to

The family of Amanda Chastain.

Sylvia Chassner, at the death of her spouse, Rob.

Gloria Deaton-McInturff, at the death of her spouse, Sam McInturff.

Tom & Maria Stimens, at the death of Tom's father, Mr. Stimens.

Nick & A.J. Vargas & family, at the death of their father, Nick Vargas.



Steve Taylor

Lead Pastor

Pastor's Pen

Because He Lives

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will either be getting ready to celebrate Easter or will have already celebrated it. Here's something I want you to think about. Of all the people who have ever lived, no one has marked and changed the course of human history more than Jesus of Nazareth. Why? Because He lives... Think about this with me for a minute.

Because He lives, He changed the way we mark time and think about history; BC, life before the birth of Jesus Christ, and AD, life after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because He lives, one cannot count the number of ministries, hospitals, charitable organizations, institutions of higher learning that have been found and inspired by his words and his life. I could go on and on but I think you get the point.

And while Easter is the highwater mark on the Christian calendar, it makes me wonder, *"What difference is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead actually making in your life right now? Is your life any different because Jesus actually walked out of the tomb conquering death, sin, and the grave?"*

Are you aware of the difference His resurrection is meant to bring in the life of one who claims Him as their Lord and Savior? Are you aware of the blessings that being one with Him is meant to make in how you live, think, and go about your daily life? Let's take this one step further.

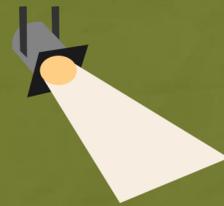
Is your life any different as a result of knowing Jesus Christ or do you continue to live like He's still dead?

I am not sure how you would answer that question but I believe the reason many Christians continue to live like the rest of the world that doesn't is actually pretty simple. They don't know what they don't know, and they don't know Him all that well either.

Knowing that Jesus rose again from the dead is all well and good, but the true impact of the resurrection on our lives comes from knowing *why*. For the next few weeks after Easter, we will explore what God's word has to say about the difference the resurrection makes in our lives in a series called **BECAUSE HE LIVES**. I hope you will join us on Sundays at either The 8:30 or The 11:00.

He Lives!

Pastor Steve



Spotlight on Missions

Clay Naylor and his wife, Kathleen, are part of a very active ministry through Christ Family Church in Dahlonega, GA. Their passion is discipling young Christians by empowering and equipping them to share the gospel with those around them, specifically to the students at UNG. Camp Merrill is also located in Dahlonega which provides Clay with an excellent opportunity to minister to those serving in our military. Please pray for Clay and his family as they minister to those God places in their path. For more information, check out their website at www.cfcnga.org

Annie Armstrong Offering Update

Our Goal: \$25,000

Received thru 3/24/2024: \$34,223

Servants in Ministry

April 7

Information Station

THE 8:30

F. Bryant, C. Armstrong

THE 11:00

P. Lehman, N. Church

Cart Drivers - Captain—D. Rabon

G. Wright, S. Jette, C. Houser

April 14

Information Station

THE 8:30

T. & G. Fowler

THE 11:00

H. Davis, C. Ayers

Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon

R. Signor, J. Church, S. Berkstresser

April 21

Information Station

THE 8:30

V. & S. Edmiston

THE 11:00

L. Shook, N. Donegan

Cart Drivers - Captain – G. Osborne

G. Denton, W Nelson, J. Hyatt

April 28

Information Station

THE 8:30

P. & R. Hanks

THE 11:00

M. & N. Stickeler

Cart Drivers - Captain - D. Rabon

B. Grimsley, W. Benson, J. Brock



SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School is coming soon! Mark your calendars for June 24th thru June 28th, 9 am until noon!

Contact Virginia Awtrey for more information at vawtrey06@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 7th

Alzheimer's Support Group, 1:30 pm

Thursday, May 16th

Preschool Graduation

Sunday, May 19th

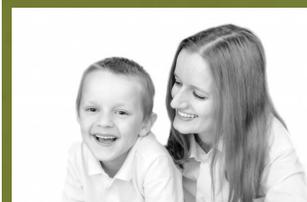
Men's Ministry

Thursday, May 23rd

Awana Banquet

Monday, May 27th

Memorial Day/Church Office Closed



Mother/Son

Night of Fun!

(Nerf & Nachos)

We want to invite all our PEAK Kids moms & sons to join us for a night of Nerf Wars & Nachos on Friday, May 10th at 6 pm @ McConnell. We'll be making our own tasty nachos & participating in some fun Nerf battles. Contact Steve Awtrey for more information @ children@mcconnellchurch.org.