

INSIDE MCCONNELL

Fall 2025

A CHURCH ALIVE



HELPING PEOPLE FIND AND FOLLOW JESUS

mcconnellchurch.org



A CHURCH ALIVE!

Welcome to McConnell Memorial Baptist Church!

We are a vibrant, multigenerational faith family located in the heart of the Northeast Georgia Mountains. **Our mission** is “To Help People Find and Follow Jesus”. During our weekend experiences, we engage God’s Truth through worship music and practical messages designed to empower you to apply Biblical wisdom to your daily life. We do this with two services: One blended, the other contemporary. **Our goal** is to create an environment where you can encounter God's love and feel His transformative presence.

At McConnell, we believe that faith is a journey best shared. We offer numerous opportunities for you to deepen your faith and build meaningful connections. Our Sunday School Groups offer a supportive environment where you can connect with others on your spiritual journey, receive care, and find encouragement.



YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE.



mcconnellchurch.org

GATHERINGS

SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

Hebrews 10:25 reminds us not to forsake the gathering, as some are in the habit of doing, but to encourage one another all the more. There is something beautiful that happens when we gather to connect with God and others.

Our commitment every week is to create vibrant multigenerational experiences for everyone (no matter your faith background) to participate in connection with God's life-transforming power, presence and love- and to do this with others! We accomplish this by offering two services- 8:30 AM Blended Worship Service with choir and orchestra and 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service with the band.

We believe that there is a place here that is perfect for you, your family, friends, and co-workers, and we invite you to experience God's very best!



WEDNESDAY EXPERIENCE

Wednesday night we have multiple gatherings going on at once.

6:00 PM thru 7:30 PM:

- Peak Kids K-5th Grade in Family Life Center
- Summit Students 6th-12th Grade in The Lodge
- Parents' Group in the Family Life Center Room #233.

Wednesday in the Word with Pastor Steve Taylor meets in the choir suite from 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM

Women in the Word- 6:00 PM FLC Room #219

Prayer Groups meet 6:45 PM - 7:30 PM in #026LL



SUNDAYS | 8:30 AM Blended Service & 11 AM Contemporary Service

mcconnellchurch.org/church-online

COMING UP

Upcoming Sermon Series



Austin Tibbetts
Connections & Care Pastor

October 19th

We're excited to welcome Austin Tibbetts, our new Connections & Care Pastor, as he preaches and shares his heart for ministry. Austin grew up at McConnell, served in youth ministry, and most recently was Student & Family Pastor at Morris Hill Baptist Church. Don't miss this special Sunday!

WITHOUT A KING: The Book of Judges

4-6 Week Series, Beginning October 5th

We all witnessed the "NO KING" protest earlier this summer, but what happens to a society when the belief is we can do whatever they want? That nation or society is heading for trouble, and it strongly parallels the events that took place in Israel when they forgot God was king. Though Judges can be dark, it will also lead us to yearn for a loving King who gives order and meaning to life: Jesus Christ.

WORD'S TO LIVE BY- LORD'S SUPPER

SUNDAY October 26th

Your thoughts can hold you back, push you down, and feed you lies. But they can also lift you up! Is it time for you to change the way you're thinking? Start with something simple—let's find some Words to Live By. The way we think affects the way we speak and the way we speak affects how we live. Knowing who we are in Christ has the power to change everything.

THE ARRIVAL: ADVENT SERIES 2025

November 30th- December 24th

Ever notice how Christmas amplifies everything? The good becomes great while the hard things feel harder. But Christmas doesn't have to be either great or hard. There's a hope that overcomes anything. On a silent night, a light broke through the darkness. The world watched in awe as love stepped in. Jesus changed everything—including the life that's possible for us. We can experience the wonder of our Savior. Together we'll reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love found in Him with our series, The Arrival.



Join us December 14 at 6:00 PM in the Worship Center for a night of music, celebration, and the true joy of Christmas! Experience orchestra and choir, contemporary music, and creative presentations that bring the story of Christ to life.

Bring your family and friends and celebrate the greatest gift of all, Jesus!

Baptism

BAPTISM, is an outward public expression that signifies a change has happened deep inside our heart. We believe that baptism is an experience based on a personal decision to follow Christ. Being baptized is the first step of obedience we take after we accept Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Sign up at mcconnellchurch.org/baptism



GET CONNECTED



CONNECT CLASS

Interested in more information or joining us as a member of McConnell?

Signup for our "Connect Class"

November 16, and December 21 @ 9:45 AM

Call the church office at 706-896-2281



CONNECT WITH US

At McConnell Church, we want to help you stay connected and informed about everything happening in our church family. Our Connection Card is the perfect way to do that! Whether you're a first-time guest, a regular attendee, or looking to get involved, filling out a Connection Card allows us to keep you updated on events, ministries, and opportunities to grow in your faith. You can also request prayer or share how we can support you. Scan the QR Code above to fill out the connection card now, or find one in the pew pockets in the Worship Center. You can bring the filled out card or screen shot of your submission to the First Steps desk in the lobby for a gift from us!



SERVE

We recognize that for some people, volunteering their time is a great way to connect with God and others. Serving is an important part of getting involved in the community of any church.

WHERE CAN I SERVE?

Volunteers carry out their serving roles and tasks in various areas of shared ministry. From Peak Kids to the Production Team, there is a place for you.

NEED MORE INFO?

Click on the link below to fill out a volunteer form. The form will give you options to choose a serving area that might interest you. Once we receive the form we will contact you with more information and answer any questions you may have.



mcconnellchurch.org/volunteer

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As a church, our purpose is to help people connect with God and others. The purpose of our Sunday School groups is to help people strengthen these connections and grow as disciples.

This reflects our desire to follow Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:19-20 NIV**

There's a group for you!

Builders We share burdens and blessings as we pray and study Scripture together, always with a view to live for God's purposes. We welcome all age groups! **Location:** Family Life Center, Room 234 Curriculum: Bible Studies for Life, Senior Adult

Esther, online & in person A group of ladies who faithfully serve the church in prayer, encouragement and giving. **Location:** Worship Center, Main Level, Room 132 Curriculum: Bible Studies for Life, Senior Adult

Cornerstone is composed of active retired people who want to interactively study God's word, learn from each other, and apply God's word to their daily lives. **Location:** Family Life Center, Room 231

Jabez If you want to verbally participate or you want to sit and listen, either is fine. Support for each other is very evident. **Location:** Family Life Center, Room 233

Encouragers We are the Encouragers, a lively and congenial group of senior adults who enjoy studying the Bible together, as well as developing deep and caring personal relationships. **Location:** Family Life Center, Room 230

Searchers Diverse group with retirees, working folks, natives and those who have moved to Hiawassee. **Location:** Family Life Center, Room 219

Solid Rock Book by book, verse by verse study of God's Word with opportunities for discussion. **Location:** Family Life Center, Room 229

T.E.L. A wonderful class of ladies who love the Lord, are mission-minded and who care for one another. **Location:** Worship Center, Main Level, Room 127

S.O.S. is an encouraging body of believers that enjoys interactive dialogue during our elective Bible studies. We endeavor to uncover the truths in God's Word as we collectively study and participate each week. **Location:** Worship Center, Upper Level, Room 226

Salt of the Earth Multigenerational group of believers encouraging one another to live the life Jesus made the way for. **Location:** Worship Center Upper Level, Room 224

Hesed A class for all ages. Diving into God's unwavering love by studying God's Word as well as various other Bible study books and videos. **Location:** Worship Center Upper Level Room 225

Seekers of the Word A multigenerational class of couples and singles passionate about studying God's Word through published Bible studies. We engage in meaningful discussions and grow together by learning from one another. **Location:** behind Choir Suite.

THE WAY



Location: The Lodge

New to Sunday School Groups?
This is the group for you!

mcconnellchurch.org/sundayschool

CONNECTIONS & CARE

McConnell Church Family,

I cannot adequately express the excitement and deep honor I feel at the possibility of joining the McConnell staff as your next Connections & Care Pastor. This church, and this team of pastors – have been extremely influential in my formation as a disciple of Jesus, husband, pastor, and man of God. For my wife, Taylor, our son, Beck, and me, it would truly be a dream come true to serve alongside you in the mission of helping people find and follow Jesus.

McConnell has been an anchor throughout so many seasons of my life. From visiting with my grandparents as a child when services were held in “The Lodge,” to being present for the first Sunday in the Worship Center, to attending Pastor Steve’s very first Sunday on staff, McConnell has shaped my walk with Christ in countless ways. During my college years at Young Harris, I was blessed to be part of the college ministry here and to sit under the teaching of Pastor Danny Byers. Pastor Steve has since become one of my greatest mentors, and Pastor Jeremy gave me the privilege of serving alongside him as the Youth Ministry Intern during my senior year. McConnell has also been central to my most personal milestones—marrying the love of my life, Taylor, in this church; being ordained by McConnell’s ordination council; and being sent out to seminary at Gardner-Webb University. Time and again, God has used this church to challenge, guide, and grow me as a disciple of Jesus. For all of this, I am profoundly grateful.

For the past four years, I have served as the Student & Family Pastor at Morris Hill Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Those years have been some of the most humbling, stretching, and rewarding of my life. Let me be clear: we are not pursuing this opportunity because of dissatisfaction or burnout in Chattanooga. Things there have been wonderful. Rather, we believe wholeheartedly that God has made it unmistakably clear that He is calling us to this specific role at McConnell. The story of how He has led us here is a testimony of His providence, and we are filled with gratitude for the way He has prepared us for this next chapter.

At the core of my calling is a passion to help people recognize the reality and beauty of God in everyday life. Taylor and I lead our family with the conviction that we exist to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. I believe God has called me to walk alongside others as we grow together in discipleship to Jesus. Building bridges for those who feel disconnected—helping them engage with the church and discover their gifts for service—brings me immense joy. My seminary emphasis was in Pastoral Care and Counseling, and that remains a central part of my ministry calling. I love helping people connect with opportunities to grow, serve, and experience the life Jesus offers.

We love the North Georgia mountains and consider this area home. But more than anything, what excites us most is the opportunity to grow in Christ alongside the people of McConnell—people who have invested in us, prayed for us, and loved us more than we could ever repay.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to come before you as a candidate, and I look forward to preaching in view of a call on Sunday, October 19. It will be a joy and privilege to open God’s Word with you and to share more of my heart for ministry. Until then, please know of our gratitude, love, and eagerness to see all that God has in store for McConnell. May He be glorified in everything ahead!

Pastor Austin Tibbets

Austin Tibbets

Candidate for Connections & Care Pastor

McConnell Baptist Church



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NEXT GENERATION

Peak Kids K thru 5th Grade



Sunday Praise & Worship is offered to children pre-school age through 5th grade. Children are checked in at the Children's Department and remain there for both Sunday School & PEAK Kids Worship. PEAK Kids offers children an energetic and fun Worship Service of their own filled with praise and God's word.

Wednesday Evening

FREE Family meal is provided at 5:00 PM

PEAK Check-in at 5:45 PM

PEAK Kids from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

OCT

8

No youth activities (School Fall Break)

OCT

22

Church Fall Festival

OCT

31

Fall Festival @ the Fairgrounds

NOV

26

No church activities (School Thanksgiving Break)

DEC

9

Peak Kids Paint Party (Ages Pre-K – 2nd grade) @ 6pm

DEC

11

Peak Kids Paint Party (Ages 3rd–5th grade) @ 6pm



Join Peak Kids on
Facebook!

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear McConnell Family,

Fall is my favorite time of year for so many reasons. I love waking up to the cool, crisp mornings, watching the leaves change color over the mountains, and enjoying a big bowl of homemade chili! It's also my birthday on October 21st, in case you were wondering but that's beside the point. 😊

Each year, I take time to evaluate every part of our Peak Kids ministry to see how we can continue to improve and ensure your children get the very best experience. That sometimes means making a few changes and this year, we're excited about one that we believe will make a big impact!

Over the past year, our 11:00 AM Peak Kids service has really grown, especially with the number of new kids joining us particularly in our preschool and kindergarten age group. Because of this growth, we feel it's the right time to split our 11:00 AM service into two separate worship experiences:

- One for Preschool & Kindergarten
- One for 1st through 5th Grade

This change will allow us to offer age-appropriate teaching and worship tailored to where each child is spiritually.

What's Changing:

- Starting in October, we will only offer Peak Kids Worship at 11:00 AM.
- There will no longer be a Peak Kids Worship service at 8:30 AM.
- Sunday School at 9:45 AM will continue as normal for all age groups.
- Families who attend the 8:30 AM service are welcome to use our Family Worship Room, and of course, the nursery will still be available during all services.

To help make this happen, our amazing Children's Ministry Assistant, Alexis Brown, will lead the Preschool & Kindergarten group during the 11:00 AM hour, and I'll continue to lead the 1st–5th Grade group.

You may already be aware that we've been using this split format on Wednesday nights, and it's been working wonderfully! Alexis has been leading our younger group, and I've been with the older kids, and we've seen great results.

At Peak Kids, everything we do is centered on helping kids find and follow Jesus. That continues to be our mission and prayer as we step into this next season. I truly believe these changes will help us reach even more kids with the love of Christ in a way that speaks to their hearts and minds.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out – I'd love to connect with you!

In Christ,

Pastor Steve Awtrey

Pastor Steve Awtrey
Children's Pastor



NEXT GENERATION



6th thru 12th Grade

**DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR,
EVERY WEDNESDAY 3-7:30 PM**

- HANGOUT TIME 3-5:15 PM
- FAMILY DINNER 5:15-6:00 PM
- SERVICE & SMALL GROUP 6-7:30 P.M.

EVERY SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:45-10:45 AM

Join the Mission & Serve with Summit Students!

Want to make a lasting impact on the next generation? Summit Students is looking for passionate leaders to serve as Small Group Leaders, Hang-Out Time Volunteers, or Wednesday Night Meal Volunteers. Whether you're mentoring students, creating a welcoming space, or serving a meal, your role matters!

Fill out a quick application and take the first step in shaping young lives. Let's build faith, foster community, and grow together!



IMPORTANT DATES

- **Wednesday, October 8** – No Wednesday Night Activities (Fall Break)
- **Wednesday, October 22** – Church-Wide Fall Festival (6:00–7:30 PM, in lieu of youth services)
- **Wednesday, November 26** – No Wednesday Night Activities (Thanksgiving Break)
- **Wednesday, December 24** – Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Follow us on Instagram @Summit.students
or on Facebook @ Summit Students Parents
to stay up to date on youth events.**

Scan for more Info



INTRODUCING



MCCONNELL CHURCH
YOUNG ADULTS

The artist formerly known as 'Pathfinders'

We're thrilled to introduce **McConnell Young Adults (MCYA)**, the new name and vision for our young adult ministry here at McConnell. What began as a college ministry called **Pathfinders** has grown into something more – **a ministry with room to include all young adults in our church and community.**

While we still deeply love and welcome our Young Harris College students (you're not going anywhere!), we've recognized a growing need to create space for young adults in every season – whether you're navigating college life or stepping into the workforce.

**This rebrand helps clarify our mission
and invite more people to the table.**

Our goal is simple but bold: **to equip young adults to walk in the way of Jesus with intentionality, depth, and meaningful community.**

We'll gather every Sunday morning for Sunday School

9:45 - 10:45 AM in the choir suite, & some Sunday nights for Community Hangs

Each night will include worship, teaching, and real-life discussion that helps us follow Jesus together in this formative season of life.

To stay in the loop:

- **Follow us on Instagram [@mcconnellyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/mcconnellyoungadults)**
- **Scan the QR code below to sign up for text alerts and know when and where we'll be meeting each week.**



SINCERELY,
YOUNG ADULTS PASTOR

Andrew Rogers



NEXT GENERATION



Mondays 3:15 PM thru 5:15 PM FLC

What does AWANA stand for?

Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." Timothy 2:15

What do Kids do in AWANA?

All club meetings begin with a brief flag ceremony with pledges to the American flag and AWANA flag, followed by prayer. The remainder of the meeting is divided into: Handbook Time, Game Time, and Council Time.

****No Awana November 10 for Teacher Workday or November 24th for Thanksgiving.**

McConnell Preschool 2 thru 4 year olds

A Joyful Beginning to the 2025–2026 School Year!

We are overjoyed to welcome 46 wonderful children and their families to the McConnell Weekday Preschool for this 2025–2026 school year! As we begin this journey together, we celebrate many meaningful "firsts"—for some children, it's their very first step away from home. Our caring preschool staff is here to gently guide each child, creating a safe, nurturing space where they can grow, explore, and thrive.

At McConnell, we believe true learning blossoms through joyful discovery. That's why our classrooms are filled with hands-on experiences, engaging materials, and—most importantly—the love of Christ.

Our mission is simple: to help children learn, laugh, and feel deeply loved each and every day, all within a Christ-centered learning environment.



Please contact Emily Winn, 706-896-2281 with any questions

mcconnellchurch.org

PASTOR'S NOTE

Hey McConnell Family

Today I felt overwhelmed and at a loss for reasons I can't explain... Maybe you've had those kinds of days as well... Since the writing of my last article for the Inside McConnell, a lot has happened on multiple fronts. Sometimes, it seems so much is happening so fast that it's hard to keep up or to know what to do next. Think about it.

- Summer has come and gone. Fall is here and we are getting ready to enter into the one of the busiest times of the year.
- Pastor Danny and Retta have answered a new call to Biltmore Baptist Church and are now closer to their sons and grandchildren. I still find that one hard to believe but I definitely know that God's hand was in it from the beginning. I cannot tell you how grateful I am to have worked alongside of Danny for the past eleven years and how excited I am for the man God has led us to in order to continue the work Danny has been faithfully doing and build on it. While no one can replace Danny, both Danny and I believe he is the right one for the job. You'll soon discover why.
- The Founder of Turning Point USA, Charlie Kirk, was assassinated and his untimely death has left many shaken, but I also believe God will use it for good. I am praying that God will raise up thousands to take his place and continue to carry on the mission of speaking the message of God's truth and hope into a world that so desperately needs to hear.

So, what do you do when you don't know what to do? You do what so many others have done in the past. You go looking for help from the only One who truly knows what's going on and who is able to bring clarity and direction. King Jehoshaphat knew that feeling as well. When he found himself surrounded by a hostile coalition of enemies, Jehoshaphat did what we all do in hopeless situations: He cried out to God.

O our God... we do not know what to do, but we are looking to You for help. 2 CHRONICLES 20:12

That's risky and refreshing honesty for any leader when they're standing before their people. In front of God and everyone else, Jehoshaphat openly declared his country's weakness and his own helplessness, and he appealed to God for help. And that's when he heard from God.

Think about it. Honesty, humility, and faith are the right posture for hearing from God about anything. Most of us cry out to God in desperate situations, but often with a sense of hopelessness and no real expectation that He will answer. But Jehoshaphat began his appeal differently (2 Chron. 20:6-9). He worshiped, expressed his confidence in God's power, and stated his expectation for God to intervene. His prayer wasn't just desperation, but desperation combined with faith. That's a powerful combination.

What desperate situation do you need God to speak into? Hebrews 11:6 tells us "it's impossible to please God without faith". The obvious implication is that faith pleases Him, even if it's desperate faith. And it's God's nature to respond to those who believe. When you need God to speak, but be confident that He will answer, even if that answer takes time. Look to Him in every desperate situation." [Adapted from the One Year Hearing God Devotional by Chris Tiegreen].

Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve Taylor
Lead Pastor



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MINISTRIES

Men's Ministry

Our Men's Ministry at McConnell is dedicated to fostering spiritual growth, building strong relationships, and encouraging men to live out their faith with purpose. Through Bible studies, fellowship events, and service projects, we strive to support one another in our walk with Christ and in our roles as husbands, fathers, and leaders.



OCT
19

NOV
16

Men's Ministry Gathering

Sunday, 5:00PM in the Lodge (Dinner Provided)

Women's Ministry

Creating opportunities for women to connect with God, one another, and their community.

Ladies Night Out

OCT
19

All women of the church are invited to an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and line dancing! No experience? No problem! We'll have an instructor to guide us step by step—so come ready to laugh, learn, and kick up your heels

5:00 PM Overlook 55. 6950 Teate Toad Young Harris, Ga 30582

The Women's Conference at McConnell Church was nothing short of transformative. From the first note of worship to the final prayer, the atmosphere was charged with energy, joy, and a deep sense of community.



mcconnellchurch.org

MINISTRIES

Thrive Moms

A community for moms to encourage and inspire you to do more than JUST SURVIVE motherhood. We believe God wants us to THRIVE and walk confidently in who He calls us to be as mothers.



Below are the Thrive Mom dates to add to your calendar for the third quarter of 2025.

OCT
21

NOV
18

DEC
16

In the Lodge at 6:00 PM

Singles Ministry



"McConnell Singles Ministry is providing opportunities for single adults to gather and grow spiritually with other singles. Our goal and hope are to help your faith in Christ mature amid life experiences and expanding interests!"



McConnell Singles Ministry is providing opportunities for single adults to gather and grow spiritually with other singles. Our goal and hope are to help your faith in Christ mature amid life experiences and expanding interests!

This summer we were able to host monthly small group activities like the Meet & Eat at local restaurants; a Bread and Biscuits event where we learned to make biscuits and sourdough bread! We also enjoyed the privilege of partnering with our church family and hosted a church-wide game night with a delicious dinner included.

We are grateful for everyone who attended each of these events. We look forward to you being a part of the McConnell Singles Ministry this Fall!

Find us on Facebook "McConnell Singles" for details on our upcoming monthly and quarterly events including Friendsgiving and a monthly Meet & Eat!



We're on Facebook! "McConnell Singles"

mccconnellchurch.org

MISSIONS

We are dedicated to making a positive impact both locally and globally. McConnell Church provides opportunities for you to serve and make a meaningful difference in our community and beyond. Whether it's through local community impact or global mission, we believe everyone has a unique purpose and calling. We are here to help you discover and fulfill yours, contributing to God's positive change in the world.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Short Term Mission Trips: Reaching Out, Building “REGIONAL” Bridges.

Our Short Term Mission Trips take us to “NEIGHBORING REGIONS,” where we partner with qualified local organizations and individuals to address specific needs. These one to five day trips are usually a few hours drive from our church. These trips are arranged by our team leaders and allow us to use our unique skills and labor to make a tangible impact on the lives of others. Click on the link below to view our new Short Term Mission Trip promotional video.



Samaritan's Purse offers DISASTER RELIEF to “ALL AREAS.”

Samaritan's Purse offers disaster relief to “ALL AREAS.” These trips are organized by Samaritan's Purse and offer McConnell the opportunity to send our teams to work in the areas of need. These trips are usually overnight five day trips and occur anywhere that a disaster strikes. Watch this video below by clicking on the link to view one of our Samaritan's Purse deployments.



Women's Missionary Union

WMU is an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our goal is to make disciples of Jesus who live on mission. To learn about, pray for, support and do missions. Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 6th, Room 042 at 10:00 AM. All women are invited to join us as we learn about how people are serving others here at home, in our state, our nation and our world.



Operation Christmas Child

Starting Sunday October 12, shoeboxes will be available in the church lobby for Operation Christmas Child. Each box—filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items—shares the love of Jesus with children around the world.

17 Collection Deadline: November 23

Join us in making an eternal impact, one shoebox at a time!

mcconnellchurch.org/missions

MISSIONS



When is it okay to ask for help?

Why is it so difficult to ask for help? For many, the thought of needing assistance feels like a sign of weakness. We worry about being a burden, or that our request will be seen as an admission of failure. In a world that often celebrates independence and self being sufficient, turning to others can feel like a last resort. But the Bible tells us a different story. In Acts 20:35, we read that Jesus himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." While this is often interpreted as a call to generosity, it also highlights the profound blessing that comes with helping others. When we allow someone to help us, we are offering them a sacred opportunity to live out their faith. We are giving them the chance to be a blessing, to put love into action, and to experience the joy of giving.

Just as there is a blessing in giving, there is a profound blessing in receiving. When we humbly accept help, we are not only acknowledging our own need but also affirming the goodness and generosity of others. We are creating a space for community, for shared burdens, and for Christ's love to flow between us. It's a beautiful cycle: we give and are blessed, and we receive and, in doing so, we bless others.

So, how do we navigate this journey of giving and receiving?

- Turn to the Holy Spirit: When you are faced with a burden that feels too heavy to carry alone, or when you are in a position to help someone, seek guidance from the Holy Spirit. Pray for wisdom, and for the courage to either extend a hand or humbly accept one.
- Embrace Humility: Recognize that every one of us has a time when the load becomes too heavy. There is no shame in admitting you need help, and no pride in believing you can do it all alone.
- See It as a Shared Blessing: Remember that giving and receiving are two sides of the same coin. When we allow others to help us, we are giving them a gift—the gift of being able to live out their faith and experience the true joy of giving.

Let us be a community that not only gives generously but also receives graciously, always turning to Jesus Christ as our guide. If you need help with household projects that seem too difficult, please contact the church office for GraceWorks assistance.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



mcconnellchurch.org/missions

MISSIONS

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (Local) and in all Judea and Samaria (National), and to the end of the Earth (International)."
Acts 1:8

Highlighting our Partners

We partner with many incredible ministries and missionaries locally, nationally, and internationally, according to the Lord's words in Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (Local) and in all Judea and Samaria (National), and to the end of the Earth (International)." Each month, we want to highlight the powerful work that the Lord is doing in and through these ministries.

State



Maddie Alessi

She is one of our missionaries that we help to support here in the States. As she was serving in Japan as a missionary, Maddie had to return to the states during the pandemic. She still felt a strong call for the Japanese people and partnered with Reliant ministries to reach the Japanese people in the Alpharetta area. They host Bible studies, English Classes, and international parties. They have seen many Japanese internationals accept Christ and share it with others, even with their families and friends back in Japan. For more information, please check out their website at reliant.org

International



International: Operation Mobilization

Operation Mobilization is a missions organization that sends Christians to fulfill the great commission. They believe every follower of Jesus has been uniquely gifted to reach the lost. OM seeks to equip and empower their missionaries to go where the Lord leads, whether that be in their local communities or even across the globe in hard to reach places. For more information, please check out their website at www.om.org



Mission to the World, Stannard's, Munich, Germany

"Mission to the World" aids missionaries in 100 different countries worldwide. They seek to plant and revitalize churches in order to make disciples of all nations. Michelle Stannard, Patsy Daniels' granddaughter, and her husband, Luke, serve as missionaries with MTW. They serve in pastoral training and ministry via Reformed seminary in Munich, Germany. Please join us in prayer as they minister to the people of Munich. For more information, please check out the MTW website at mtw.org

mcconnellchurch.org/missions

GIVE



Why we give

At McConnell, we believe generosity is an act of worship and a reflection of God's heart. Your giving fuels our mission to help people find & follow Jesus, support our community, and advance the Gospel locally and globally. **Giving is more than a financial transaction—it's a spiritual decision that reflects our trust in God and gratitude for His provision.**

What is designated?

Your above-and-beyond gift to a designated fund multiplies the reach of the body of Christ. Designated funds are managed by specific leaders in our church and are only used for the designated ministry, e.g. Youth, Women's Ministry, or Missions. When you give to a designated fund, you're saying to God, "I know the importance of this specific ministry. Use my gift to assist them beyond their planned budget, providing extra support for the work You've called them to do."

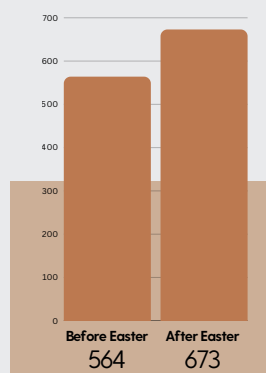
who's giving?

478 families have given this year!
69% of active members have given this year

80% of gifts are given in person
Average in person gift is \$904.12
(this includes large donations)
Average online gift is \$217.36
(this includes recurring gifts)

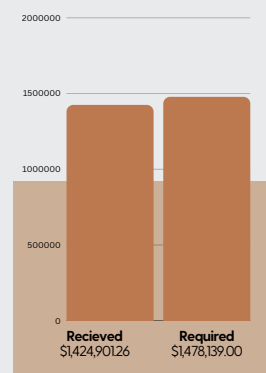
online vs. in person

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE



That's a 19% increase!

BUDGET RECEIVED TO REQUIRED



Almost balanced!

Because of your giving!

God is doing incredible things in the life of our church! Since launching our second service 18 months ago, our attendance has nearly doubled—and **we've seen an additional 19% growth since Easter** of this year alone. **With every new face comes a new story of God's transforming work, and we are humbled to see lives changed week after week.** This growth has also expanded our opportunities to minister. Because of your faithful tithes and offerings, our church can provide more groups, host more ministry events, and extend greater care to those in need. None of this would be possible without a church family that is not only receiving but also giving generously. As God sends people to McConnell, those people are becoming part of the mission—serving, giving, and helping us share the hope of Christ even further.

Thank you!

Every gift you give makes sure this church continues sharing the love of Christ in our community and beyond. **Because of your faithfulness, lives are being changed, families are being strengthened, and the gospel is reaching further than ever before.** We are deeply grateful for your partnership in the mission of helping people find & follow Jesus.

If you have any questions—spiritual or financial—about giving, we'd love to walk with you. Please contact our Financial Administrator, Merritt Turner, at merritt@mcconnellchurch.org or call the church office.

Questions?

mcconnellchurch.org/give

Upcoming events.

OCTOBER

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

OCT
8

FALL BREAK

Church Office Closed
in-service workday

OCT
12

OCC SHOEBOX KICK-OFF

OCT
16

SENIOR BREAKFAST

8:30AM-10:00AM
FLC

OCT
22

FALL FESTIVAL

5:00 PM
FLC

OCT
26

MCCONNELL DAY @ YHC

1:30PM Women's / 3:30PM
Men's
Young Harris College Soccer

OCT
26

LORD'S SUPPER SUNDAY

OCT
29

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

6:00 PM
Choir Suite

OCT
31

CANDY AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

5:00PM
Ga Mountain Fairgrounds

**Office closed October 27th-28th for Staff Retreat



McConnell Day at Young Harris College

Join us as we support YHC athletics at McConnell Day!
Everyone from McConnell Church will receive free admission
—just let them know you're with McConnell at the gate.

- Saturday, October 25 – Soccer: Women's 1:30 PM | Men's 3:30 PM

- Saturday, November 8 – Volleyball: 2:00 PM

Come cheer on the Mountain Lions and enjoy a fun day
together as a church family!



mcconnellchurch.org/events

Upcoming events.

NOVEMBER

NOV
5

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
6:00PM LL022

NOV
8

MCCONNELL DAY @YHC
2:00PM
Young Harris College
Volleyball

NOV
13

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
Towns County Rec Center

NOV
16

CONNECT CLASS
9:45 AM

NOV
20

SENIOR BREAKFAST
8:30AM-10:00AM
FLC

NOV
26-28

**OFFICE CLOSED FOR
THANKSGIVING**

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mcconnellchurch.org/events

Upcoming events.

DECEMBER

DEC
14

CHRISTMAS AT MCCONNELL
6:00 PM
Worship Center

DEC
9

SENIOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TRIP
8:30AM-10AM

DEC
18

SENIOR BREAKFAST
8:30AM-10:00AM
FLC

DEC
21

CONNECT CLASS
9:45 AM

DEC
24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
4:00PM & 6:00PM
Worship Center


December Missions Highlight.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Helps to support international missions and missionaries as they take the Gospel to all nations, tribes, & tongues.

WMU

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS WHO LIVE ON MISSION

A black and white portrait of Lottie Moon, a woman with dark hair styled in a bun, wearing a dark dress with a white collar and a white bow at the neck. The portrait is set within an oval frame decorated with holly leaves and berries.

mcconnellchurch.org/events

PASTORS



Lead Pastor

Steven Taylor

revsteve@mcconnellchurch.org



Executive Pastor

Jeremy Pearson

jeremy@mcconnellchurch.org



Connections & Care Pastor

Austin Tibbetts

Austin@mcconnellchurch.org



Worship Pastor

Chris Adams

music@mcconnellchurch.org



Worship & Media Pastor

Tyler Moody

tyler@mcconnellchurch.org



Children's Pastor

Steve Awtrey

children@mcconnellchurch.org



Youth Pastor

Andrew Rogers

andrew@mcconnellchurch.org

mcconnellchurch.org/staff

OUR CORE VALUES

FOUND PEOPLE FIND PEOPLE

As followers of Jesus, we are called to share the hope we've found in Him. We actively seek to bring others to Christ and help them discover His life-changing love.

SAVED PEOPLE SERVE PEOPLE

We believe that when people experience the love of Christ, it inspires them to serve others. Our mission is to reach beyond ourselves and make a difference in our community and beyond.

GROWING PEOPLE CHANGE

Spiritual growth brings transformation. We're committed to nurturing faith in ways that lead to real and lasting change, allowing God to shape us more into the image of Christ.

YOU CAN'T DO LIFE ALONE

We believe in the power of community. Life is better together, and we encourage building meaningful relationships that support, encourage, and strengthen us in our faith journey.

YOU CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD

We embrace a spirit of generosity, knowing that God is abundantly generous toward us. Whether it's our time, talents, or resources, we trust that giving to others reflects God's heart and that He will always provide more than we can imagine.



mcconnellchurch.org