

INSIDEMCCONNELL

December 2025

A CHURCH ALIVE



HELPING PEOPLE FIND AND FOLLOW JESUS





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.

GATERINGS

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 Gods 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

COMINGUP





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.

Christmas Eve

December 24 at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Join us this Christmas Eve as we gather to celebrate the hope and joy of Jesus' birth. Whether you come with family or on your own, you'll find a warm, welcoming place to worship, reflect, and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We'll share in Scripture, worship, carols, and a meaningful message as we focus our hearts on Christ. Everyone is invited come experience Christmas together at McConnell!



Christmas Together December 14th at 6:00 PM

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! This Christmas at McConnell you are family!

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



GELCONNECTED



CONNECT CLASS

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

Signup for our "Connect Class"

December 21 @ 9:45 AM

Call the church office at 706-896-2281



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.



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 attender, 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!



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, na- tives 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.

New to Sunday School Groups?

This is the group for you!





CONNECTIONS & CARE

Commitment can be scary... why is that? We all feel the current cultural shift of our time – which is earning us the name "anti-commitment generation." The individualistic cultural moment we find ourselves in praises the self-made man or woman. It's easy to find ourselves bragging about our own ability to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps, defy the odds, and overcome life's obstacles by our own ability. That mindset works, until it doesn't. The reality we all come to find out, is that we NEED the community of the people of God. In fact, we are all hard-wired for relationship to one another, and we are not meant to do life alone.

To become a member of McConnell Baptist Church, is to make a commitment to live by our shared beliefs built on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, and to support the work God has called us to – as a unified team. As Paul states, "... so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5). Membership is McConnell's process of publicly proclaiming that which is already a reality: in Christ Jesus, we belong to each other.

This is significant but also humbling – because when we commit to becoming a member of McConnell Baptist Church, we commit to looking out for each other, being held accountable by one another, and serving the Kingdom of God as a unified team. It's a formal acknowledgement of our belonging & accountability to this body of believers. It's a commitment to a partnership in ministry, calling, and belonging – to grow in discipleship to Jesus together, and reach those who do not know Christ – together!

What does it take to become a member of McConnell? First, come visit us at the connect desk this Sunday! At the Connect Desk we gather some general information, to begin the process of getting you connected with the ministries of the church. Second, we invite you to sign up for the next Connect Class – which happens every 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:45AM – for an hour of Pastor Jeremy & Pastor Austin providing a general overview of the ministries of McConnell. Third, we invite you to set a time to share your story with one of our pastoral staff & ask any questions you might have about our church. Lastly, we would love to present you as a member of the church – either by baptism, or if already baptized, by a public announcement to this body of believers. Don't worry – you won't have to come down front! One of our pastors will introduce you and / or your family with a picture on the screen at the end of a service.

I would love to answer any questions you have about McConnell – so please reach out to me! I look forward to growing as a unified team together in all God is going to do ahead!

Fastor Austin fibbets

Austin Tibbetts

Connections and Care Pastor

Austin@McConnellchurch.org

NEXT GENERATION

Peak Kids K thru 5th Grade



Sunday Praise & Worship is offered to children preschool 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





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

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



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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



IMPORTANT DATES

- Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM
- Wednesdays start back January 7th our normal wednesday night schedule kicks back off after school begins the first full week of January!
- The WKND February 13-15th Our local youth weekend retreat will be valentines weekend!
 - We are In desperate need of host homes! If you would be willing to allow a small group of middle and highschoolers stay at your house for the weekend, call Andrew!

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

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!

Scan for more Info







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, & once a month 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

To stay in the loop:

- Follow us on Instagram <u>@mcconnellyoungadults</u>
- Scan the QR code below to sign up for text alerts



SINCERELY,
YOUNG ADULTS PASTOR

Andrew Rogers

NEXIGENERATION



Mondays 3:15 PM thru 5:15 PM FLC

Awana Zip Line January 4 @ 5:00 PM

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 4th, 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 5th, after school. (No Awana Clubs on January 19th as that day is a holiday for Towns County Schools.)

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

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.





Women's Ministry

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

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.







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.

Thrive Mom Dates in December and January

Christmas Party

8 Hiawassee Brew at 6:00 PM

20 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!



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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"

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.



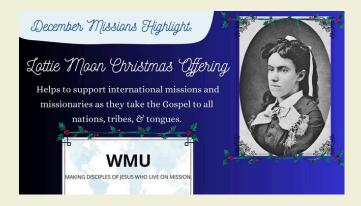
Samaritan's Purse offers DISASTER RELIEF to "ALL AREAS."

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.



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.













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 s 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 <u>reliant.org</u>

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 Daniel's 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 mtworg



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."

2026 Budget Approval

The 2026 budget is available at the Connect Desk or Office Front Desk during office hours.

A public discussion about the budget will happen before Wednesday's Bible study in the choir suite on 12/03/2025

For one-on-one questions, members of the finance committee will be available beforehand.

The vote to approve the 2026 budget will be 12/07/2025 at both the 8:30 and 11:00.



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 Tumer, at merritt@mcconnellchurch.org or call the church office.



Upcoming events.

DECEMBER

9	TUESDAY 08:30 AM	SENIOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TRIP
14	SUNDAY 06:00 PM	CHRISTMAS TOGETHER
18	THURSDAY 08:30 AM	SENIOR BREAKFAST
18	THURSDAY 06:00 PIM	THRIVE MOMS CHRISTMAS PARTY HIAWASSEE BREW
21	SUNDAY 09:45 AM	CONNECT CLASS
24	WEDNESDAY 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12/23 - 01/01



PASTORS





Lead Pastor
Steven Taylor
revsteve@mcconnellchurch.org



Executive Pastor
Jeremy Pearson
jeremy@mcconnellchurch.org



Connections & Care Pastor
AustinTibbetts
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

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