



Ellijay First United Methodist Church

75 McCutchen Street, P.O. Box 472

Ellijay, GA 30540

Dr. John Brantley

March 19, 2023 Third Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship - The Color is Purple

The Worship of God

Welcome and Announcements

The Chiming of the Hour

Focusing Words: Be Thou our vision, O God. Be our eyes. Be our hearts. Be the grace that flows through our lives. Only with your eyes can we see rightly.

Prelude

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

by J. S. Bach

***Call to Worship**

“Were You There”

† The Greeting

Leader: Dawn is breaking. Christ’s light is shining.

People: The Light of the world shines in our lives.

Leader: Put aside the cares of the night.

People: In the Lord, we live in the light.

Leader: Even in the darkest valley, God illuminates our path.

People: Even in times of despair, hope shines forth.

Leader: Sleeper, awake! Christ’s light is shining.

People: The Light of the world shines in our lives.

† The Invocation

† The Hymn of Praise

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

UMH 454

† **The Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

† **The Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

† **The Hymn of Preparation**

“Lamb of God”

TFWS 2113

† *Congregation Standing (as able)*
**11:00 am Service Only*
8:45 am Service Only

UMH-United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS-The Faith We Sing

You Are Welcome Here

You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your Heavenly Father. Come then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips, into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the men and women who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built this historic place of worship and to all who have beautified it and hallowed it with prayer and praise. Beseech His blessings on those who love this house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest upon your going out and your coming in.

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” *arr. by Smith/Hustad*

† **The Presentation and Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Anthem “How Great the Love” *by Mary Kay Bealls*

The Scripture John 9:1-41 NRSV

The Sermon “I See Said the Sinner” Pastor

† **The Closing Hymn** “Be Thou My Vision” UMH 451
(sing twice)

† **The Benediction**

*† **The Choral Benediction** “O How He Loves You and Me” *by Kurt Kaiser*

The Postlude “Lamb of God” *by George Bizet*

*Our Service of Worship has ended
Our Worship through Service begins*

Invitation to Church Membership

Anyone wishing to join this church by profession of faith or by transfer of your membership, please come forward during the closing hymn or speak to the pastor following worship. Know that you are always welcome.

John 9:1-41

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus¹ to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.



**Easter Egg Hunt
Eggs Needed!!**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be after the 11:00 a.m. service on April 9th. We need your help by sending in a dozen or so filled eggs. You may fill them with candy or a special treat. There will be a box outside the office by the staff mail slots.

Thanks for your support as this is a special treat for our children!

Our Presence

March 5 - Total - 170
8:45 - 51
11:00 - 119
March 12 - Total - 135
8:45 - 33
11:00 - 102

“UMCOR Flood Buckets”

The Blue Buckets at each entrance are there to collect donations for the UMCOR flood buckets that will be assembled Wednesday night, March 29. UMCOR estimates that it will cost approximately \$75.00 per bucket. We have purchased 50 buckets and hope to be able to fill all of them.



**Stephen Ministry
Support**

**But I call to God, and
the Lord saves me.
Psalms 55:16**

- Betty Ann Archer
baarcher50@gmail.com
- Jackie Boyd
jkegrandma@gmail.com
- Debra McCoy
dlan659659@gmail.com
- Bob Stephens
rfs@ellijay.com
- Allan Tarr
allantarr@gmail.com
- Rick Thaxton
rlthaxton@etcmail.com



THANK YOU!

With your help in donated time and money, we packed 30,000 meals on March 4th at the packing event. At this time, we do not know where the meals will be sent.

Matthew 25:40
‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

**What’s Happening This Week at
Ellijay First United Methodist Church**

Prayers For The Week

- Megan Atkinson
- Phil Bennett
- Diana Butram
- Raven Calhoun
- Rose Chastain
- Mary Thelma Cole
- Jo Jo Davis
- Todd De La Rosa
- Emma Ford
- Shelby Graham
- Caleb Grizzle
- Ron Hall
- Rosie Haney
- Gwendolynn Hanish
- Marie Holt
- Barbara Johnson
- Lanny Lane
- Shannon Leeper
- Jackie Leva
- Ethelyne Lingle
- Sandy Locklear
- Tom & Mary Jo Lowery
- Brittany Martin
- Miranda McGinnis
- Lynn McKibbin
- Jeanne Munson
- Andrea O’Connor
- Patrick O’Donnell
- Bill Patton
- George Paxson
- Phil Perry
- Ansleigh Richardson
- Pat Roller
- Sam, Hannah, Alex & Jordyn Schaich
- Scott
- Kevin Seligmann
- Bob Steif
- Ryan Summers
- Jerry Tuso
- Ukraine
- Bryan Urquhart
- Karen Vitelli
- Kay Willis
- Our World

**Calendar for the Week
March 19, 2023**

- Sunday, March 19th**
8:45 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Single Mingle
Grape Vine Wreaths -
Acree Farm
6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- Monday, March 20th**
9:00 a.m. Team Tabitha
4:00 p.m. Zumba
- Tuesday, March 21st**
11:00 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 noon Noon Circle
3:00 p.m. NOGS
- Wednesday, March 22nd**
3:30 - 5:00 LIJ Kids
5:00 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting
- Thursday, March 23rd**
4:00 p.m. Zumba
- Saturday, March 25th**
8:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
8:30 a.m. Grace In Him
- Sunday, March 26th**
8:45 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Youth Group



Firestarters' Prayer for the Week

Lord of the Wild, there is an emptiness inside us that the loves of this world are eager to fill. They rush at us from every corner, saying they are the fountain we need. We want to love nothing more than you, Jesus, and for our loves to find their order in the context of your love for us and for your world. In Jesus's name, amen.



Seder Meal

Seder Meal

On April 6, Maundy Thursday, at 5:00 p.m. we will celebrate the Last Supper Seder meal as did Jesus and his Disciples. After the meal there will be foot washing, if you feel led to participate, or you can leave the dining area in a symbolic walk to Gethsemane toward our sanctuary and remain there in silence to pray with Jesus before Holy Communion is served. Come share this sacred last meal, the breaking of bread and the wine in remembrance of the last night of Jesus' life which he sacrificed for us. We will have a full meal this year and will request reservations at a later time.

Single Mingle Activities

- Mar. 19: Grape Vine Wreaths
Acree Farm 2:00-4:00
- Mar. 24: Fish Fry
Catholic Church 4:40 -7:00
- Mar. 26: Gilmer Arts Playhouse
2:00-4:00



- Mar. 20: Will Parks
- Mar: 22: Addyson Poole
- Mar: 22: Chuck Taylor
- Mar. 23: Loretta Mattaliano

LIJ Kids News



All children ages 4 years thru 5th grade are welcome to join us for LIJ Kids!
You are invited! Bible Story, Crafts, Games, Music, Fun

“WHERE KIDS CAN HAVE A BLAST LEARNING GOD’S WORD”
A GREAT PLACE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BRING FRIENDS, PLAY, PRAY,
LAUGH AND LEARN ABOUT GOD Wednesdays 3:30-5:00

Save the Date: Mission Wednesday, March 29th
We will be packing hygiene kits to go along with the flood buckets.

Save The Date

- March 29: Kenya Mission
Dinner and Flood Bucket Packing
- April 2: Palm Sunday
10:00 Cantata - One Service Only
- April 9: Easter
7:00 Sunrise Service at Logan's
Funeral Home Pavilion
9:00 Pot Luck Breakfast
11:00 Worship followed by
Easter Egg Hunt
- April 22: High Tea
- June 19 - 23: Vacation Bible School

Our Gifts of Time

Church Lock-up

- 3/13-3/19 Lloyd Vautrot
Bill Munson
- 3/20-3/26 John Davis
Hank Chapman

Greeters

- | | | | |
|------|-------|---------|----------------|
| 3/19 | 8:45 | Narthex | Judy Leonard |
| | | Portico | Dean Carlsen |
| | | Office | Donna Carlsen |
| | 11:00 | Narthex | Sandy Williams |
| | | Portico | Allan Tarr |
| | | Office | Gene Evans |
| 3/26 | 8:45 | Narthex | Bill Johnson |
| | | Portico | Mike Graham |
| | | Office | Stacy Graham |
| | 11:00 | Narthex | Lori McCurdy |
| | | Portico | Jean Smilie |
| | | Office | Stacey Davis |

Stellar VBS

“Shine Jesus’ ‘Light!
SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 19-23 9:00 -12:00
Planning meetings for VBS are
March 22nd at 5:00 OR
March 29th at 1:00 in the Big Youth
Room
Interested in helping, teaching,
crafting, snacking, planning, or
decorating?
Please come join us as we plan for a
wonderful VBS!!!!

Grief Support Group

A new series of grief support groups will begin the week of April 10th.

Call Paula Acree at
770-570-9958 for more
information or to register.