



Feb. 25: Debra Halligan
 Feb. 25: Joyce Pruett
 Feb. 26: Dan Serritella
 Feb. 28: Steve Purvis
 Mar. 1: Penny Davis
 Mar. 1: Andre Healan
 Mar. 2: Stan Cowan
 Mar. 2: Joseph Gaston
 Mar. 3: Fawn Lowery

Single Mingles Events

**Sunday, 2/25 -
 Game Day at EFUMC at
 1:00 PM.**

Vespers Service

**Unique
 Contemplative
 Worshipful
 Powerful Prayer**
 Prayer that flows from a
 free mind
Friday, March 1, 2024
5:00 p.m.
**Questions: call the church
 or Warren Acree
 706-273-1134**

Church Lock Up

2/19-2/25 Hank Chapman
 2/26-3/3 Joe Poole

Upcoming Calendar

Tuesday February 27th
 11:00 a.m. Bible Study
 4:00 p.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, February 28th
 12:00 noon Lunch & Learn
 Acts 16
 5:00 p.m. Mission Dinner

Friday, March 1st
 5:00 p.m. Vespers

Greeters Needed

We are trying to get our greeting program back up and running, and to do that we need smiling faces! If you would like to participate and share a smile for others on Sunday mornings, please contact Judy Leonard.
 Email:
 judykhleonard@gmail.com
 or text 706-273-9115.
 Leave name, phone number and email address



Save the Date AARP Driving Class

There will be a AARP driving class at the Church on Saturday, March 9th in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Kelly Cherry to register at 423-243-8146. Taking this class may save you money on your car insurance.

LIJ Kids Wednesday After School

February 28th: Letter E surprise character
 Mission Wednesday Meal Prep
 Please RSVP to the Church Office if you are planning to stay for dinner

SAVE THE DATE - Mission Dinner

Our monthly mission dinner for February will take place this Wednesday, February 28th @ 5:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Kent Sanford who will talk to us about New Beginnings and their efforts in the community to help those who are challenged to find affordable housing. The signup for the Mission Dinner is on the back of today's attendance sheet.

FUMC Firestarter's Prayer for the Week



Lord, your promise comes to us not through the law, but through faith. It is in your suffering that your covenant is proven, and by your grace salvation is given. Amen

Many thanks to Sarah Thorne for directing the Choir while Susan was out of town.



Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Rev. Dr. John Brantley, Pastor 404-323-5646 john@brantley.net
 Rev. Chris Shoemaker, Associate Pastor 229-848-3264, pastor@brothershoe.com
 Church phone: 706-635-2555; Fax: 706-273-2555

Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist
 Marianne Evans Children's Ministries and Preschool.... children@fumcellijay.org
 Susan Gooch.....Director of Musicchoir@fumcellijay.org
 Ann Hanline.....Admin. Asst/Financial Sec...office@fumcellijay.org
 Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator
 Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician
 Claudia McKeon....Organist



Ellijay First

United Methodist Church
 75 McCutchen Street, P.O. Box 472
 Ellijay, GA 30540

February 25, 2024 - Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship - The Color is purple

The Worship of God

Welcome and Announcements

The Chiming of the Hour

Focusing Words: "Let go and let God." This is not just a phrase; it's a lifestyle. "Die to the old and embrace the new." This is not just a phrase, but a promise of possibilities in God that we often cannot see.

Prelude

"Give Thanks"

arr. by Fred Bock

The Call to Worship "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

arr. by Fanny J. Crosby and William H. Doane

† The Greeting

Leader: In promise and covenant, God calls.

People: In hope and trust, we respond.

Leader: In love and faithfulness, God saves.

People: In gratitude and joy, we come.

Leader: Let us worship and praise God's holy name.

† The Invocation

† The Hymn of Praise

"The God of Abraham Praise"

UMH 116

† **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.

Prayers of the People

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**
"Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone" UMH 424

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:
March from the "Occasional Oratorio"
by G.F. Handel

† **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 "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"
by George Herbert & John Leavitt

The Scripture Romans 4:13-25 NRSV

Sermon "Justified By Faith" Pastor

The Closing Hymn
"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" UMH 297

† **The Benediction**

† **The Choral Benediction**
"Lamb of God "

The Postlude
"This Little Light of Mine" *arr. by John Carter*

Following the service, the Prayer Team is available at both the Narthex and Altar. They are wearing white scarves.

† *Congregation Standing (as able)* *UMH - United Methodist Hymnal*
TFWS - The Faith We Sing

Romans 4: 13-25

God's Promise Realized through Faith
¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."

¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already^l as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³ Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.