

**What is a lay leader?** In the United Methodist Church, the lay leader is our representative at meetings, conferences and a leader of our local church ministry. Here at EFUMC, our lay leader for 2024 is Rick Thaxton. When you see Rick, thank him for his service. He can also be reached by email @ RLThaxton@etcm.com.

### Grief Support Group to begin in August 2024

Are you experiencing the pain of loss? Loss of a loved one, friend, a spouse? There is a healing place for you!

Please consider joining a grief support group. We meet on Tuesdays from 11:30 to 1+ beginning August 6th

We will meet at the Church beginning August 6th for 8 weeks. There is no charge for the support group, but there is limited availability.

Contact Paula Acree @ 770-570-9958 to ensure your spot in a group and/or for more information.



### FUMC Firestarter's Prayer for the Week

**Help us Lord to love as you love; the love that is beyond normal human comprehension.**

### Blessing of the Backpacks

August 11th

Calling all students, teachers, and support staff, please bring your backpacks, brief cases or "Tool Belts" to be blessed.



### Church Lock Up

7/21-7/27 : Bill Munson  
7/28-8/03: Hank Chapman  
8/04-8/10: Lloyd Vautrot  
8/11-8/17: Charlie Leonard

7/17: Jenny Easley  
7/18: Linda Daughtry  
7/20: Nell Bater

### Financial Update

Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for complete financial information.  
Needed Weekly: \$9963  
Received 7/14: \$9428 (inc \$4395 for New Beginnings)  
Needed to Date: \$332,928  
Received to Date: \$325,865

### LIJ Kids Summer Fun Dates

**August 11th** - Blessing of the Backpacks during the 10am service. Following the service, we will go to the Davis house for a pool party and lunch. Bring a towel!  
Please RSVP to Marianne

### MISSION DINNER - July 24th

The Mission Dinner this Wednesday at 6pm will highlight the recent mission trip to Mountain Park Academy in Kenya. Logan Mashburn and Addy Poole will share their experiences and an update will be provided on the progress around the school.  
The tasty menu will include: Pulled pork, Sweet potatoes, Mixed greens, Cornbread and Dessert.  
Come out to hear about this wonderful mission.

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am- 4 pm**  
**Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor, Mike.Shearon@NGUMC.net**  
**Lay Leader Rick Thaxton, 770-241-1852**  
**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 Music.....choir@fumcellijay.org**  
**Susan Marino...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  
July 21, 2024

*The Liturgical Color is Green*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### The Chiming of the Hour

**Focusing Words:** Ephesians 2, Mark 6  
The promise of peace cannot be secured through strength of arms but through self-giving love.

† **Prelude** "Praise My Soul the King of Heaven"  
*arr by Lloyd Larson*

#### † Call to Worship

† **The Greeting** (Ephesians 2, Mark 6)

Leader: When you are weary in your bones...

**People: here you will find rest.**

Leader: When you are divided from family and friends...

**People: here you will find peace.**

Leader: When you are discouraged and downhearted...

**People: here you will find hope and courage.**

Leader: When you are looking for a shepherd to guide you..

**People: here you will find succor and peace.**

#### † The Invocation

#### † The Hymn of Praise

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

UMH 277

† **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:**

“Near to the Heart of God”    UMH 472

**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. here.

**The Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**The Offertory Music:** “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” with Dona nobis pacem

*arr by Mary McDonald*

† **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**

**Special Music:** “Yes, My Lord!”

*performed by soloist JoAnn Davis*

*arr by Jay Althouse*

**The Scripture:** Mark 6:45-56, Job 9:8, Romans 1:16

**The Sermon:** “Confidence in the Truth, Relevance, and Power of the Gospel”                      Pastor

**The Closing Hymn:**

“Lord of the Dance ”                      UMH 261

† **The Benediction**

† **The Choral Benediction**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” ( vs 1)    UMH 664

**The Postlude** “How Firm a Foundation”

*arr by John Turifoy*

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

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

**Mark 6:45-56**

**Jesus Walks on the Water**

<sup>45</sup> Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. <sup>47</sup> Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup> He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, <sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” <sup>51</sup> Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup> for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. <sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup> They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

**Job 9:8**

He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.

**Romans 1:16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.