

**FUMC Firestarter's Prayer for the Week**  
Humiliate us, Lord, when we seek to glorify ourselves.  
Help us to direct ALL our praise only to you, to whom all glory rightly belongs. Amen.



### September Mission Dinner

The September Mission Dinner will be held on Wednesday, September 25 at 5:30 PM. The program topic will be the **Mountaintop Boys Home**. Our speaker will be Donnis Steele, Director.

Menu: Chicken Casserole, Glazed Carrots, Green Beans, Rolls and Dessert

Please make a reservation for the meal by calling the church office 706-635-2555 so we will know how much food to prepare.

### It's Time to Think About the Warming Center! Volunteers are Needed!

An informational meeting for this year's Warming Center will be held Thursday, September 26th @ 6pm at the Civic Center classroom. There is a need for volunteers to prepare food, stay with guests all night, to provide transportation and more.

### Announcing an exciting new part of the Care Core called **Friends Team!**



Friends who cook  
Friends who drive  
Friends who visit

The intent is to assist our members with short term needs like a new baby, recovery from surgery, or transportation to an appointment.

Contact Sharlee Cobb or Paula Acree for more information.

Sign up for this team on the podiums!

Church Lock-up Schedule:  
9/22: Hank Chapman 9/29: Bill Munson 10/06: Lloyd Vautrot



## LIJ Kids News

Calling all Kids!

Our normal Wednesday after school fun is back!

The normal schedule for this Fall will be 3:30-5:00 pm.

We will continue our normal pick-up at EES after school.

We are excited to get back to digging into God's Word and having fun in the name of Jesus!

**No LIJ Kids on Wednesday, September 25 due to fall break.**



9/25: Warren Acree

9/26: Ed Boyd

### The Shoeboxes are Here!

November 17th is Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Sunday

This may be a child's only gift and only chance to hear about the love of Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider packing a box or two and return them by November 17th.

**Thank you!**

### Handbell Ringers Needed!



Have you ever thought it might be fun to play the handbells in church? This is your chance!

For inquiries, please call/text

Sarah Thorne at 706-972-0014.

### Financial and Attendance Updates

Please check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for updated financial information.

The Finance Committee will meet on September 23rd @ 5pm.

**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 rlthaxton@etcmail.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 Music.....choir@fumcellijay.org**

**Susan Marino...Admin Asst/Financial Secretary**

**...ellijayfirstoffice@gmail.com**

**Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator**

**Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician**



# Ellijay First United Methodist Church

75 McCutchen Street

PO Box 472

Ellijay, GA 30540



Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor

September 22, 2024

## Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*The Liturgical Color is Green*  
The Worship of God

**Prelude** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" *arr. by Mark Hayes*

### The Chiming of the Hour

### Welcome, Announcements and Invocation

**Focusing Words:** James 3, Proverbs 31, Mark 9

Breathe in and invite the Spirit of Wisdom to fill your soul.  
Breathe out, recalling the Spirit of Love that connects you  
with all God's children.

### † Choral Call to Worship

"Surely the Presence" *by Lanny Wolfe*

† **The Greeting** - Proverbs 31, Psalm 1, James 3

Liturgist Becky Moon

Leader: Happy are those who follow paths of righteousness.

**People: We take delight in the wisdom of God.**

Leader: Happy are those who reach out to those in need.

**People: We find delight in the love of God.**

Leader: Happy are those who set aside envy.

**People: We draw delight in the selflessness of God.**

### † The Hymn of Praise:

"Take Up Thy Cross" UMH 415

†*Congregation standing as able*

*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 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 & Congregational Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

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

"Be Still, My Soul" UMH 534

### The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Mike

### The Offertory Music:

"Give Me Jesus" Traditional Spiritual, arr by Mark Hayes

### † 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: "Will There Be Any Stars"

solo by Joann Davis

*arr by Stanley W. Cowan*

(Please refer to insert)

### The Scripture: Mark 8:31-9:1

### Jesus Predicts His Death

<sup>8:31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

### The Way of the Cross

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

<sup>9:1</sup> And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

### The Sermon: "An Ill-Conceived Rebuke"

Pastor Mike

### The Closing Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory" UMH 577

During this time, the Pastor and Prayer Team are available at the altar for anyone desiring personal or corporate prayer.

### †The Benediction

### †The Choral Benediction

"How Great Thou Art" (refrain) UMH 77

### The Postlude

"Lift High the Cross" *arr by John Carter*

### **Invitation to Church Membership**

Anyone wishing to join this church may come forward during the closing hymn.  
Know that you are always welcome here.