

Our Weekly Schedule:

Sun - Helping Hands Sunday School 8:45 am
 Altars Study Group 11:00 am
 Singles/Mingles 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Wed - LIJ Kids 3:30 - 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall
 Young Adult Bible Study 5:00-6:00 pm
 Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Children's Church Needs Volunteers

The sign of a growing church is having the laughter and energy of children!

In order to follow our Safe Sanctuary Guidelines, we need more help with our growing children's church. We have 10-14 kids attending children's church each Sunday. We would like to make a rotation for once every other month to serve, so we need 8 more volunteers to be helpers. Please see or call Marianne for more information if you are willing to help fill this need. If Sunday doesn't work for you, we have Wednesday availability to serve also. We have 16-18 LIJ Kids coming after school until 5:00 pm.



Congratulations to Barry & Anjannett Griffin on the birth of their grandson! Noah Gray Griffin was born 12/16/2025. He weighed 7.14 lbs and was 20" long.

4th Sunday of Advent

Today we light the candle of LOVE. Purple reminds us once more of the Royalty of Jesus Christ and the love that motivated God's plan for salvation.

Dear Lord, as we light this candle of Love, we thank you for sending Your Son to us. He is the ultimate unconditional gift of love. Let Your love fill our hearts this Christmas season and help us to love others as You have loved us. May your love guide us and shine brightly through us in all that we do.



Church Lock-up Schedule:

12/21-12/27 Mike Shearon
 12/28 - 1/3 Charlie Cobb
 1/4 - 1/10 Charlie Cobb
 1/11 - 1/17 Barry Griffin



Let's spread kindness here at home and see its impact globally. Check out www.kind30.org



12/21 - Carol Ashurst
 12/21 - Carolyn Hipp
 12/22 - Gene Evans
 12/22 - Ruth Hix
 12/24 - Lorraine Segraves
 12/26 - Larry Lykins, Jr.

Incoming 2026 Administrative Council

Chairperson - Carolyn Hipp
 Vice Chair - Stacey Davis
 SPRC - Howard Elkins
 Lay Leader - Tony Ganz
 Delegate to Conference - Marsha Vautrot
 Secretary - Jenny Easley
 Treasurer - Judy Wray
 Finance Chairperson - Cindy Corn
 Trustee Chairperson - Joe Poole
 Membership Chairperson - Anne Rainey
 Missions Co Chairs - Joseph Lowery & Karen Woodlief
 Singles/Mingles - Janet Lynch
 Care Core Co Chairs - Micki Steif & Marsha Lemon
 Men's Group - Jessie Easley & Fred Allen
 Women's Group - Carla Tarrou
 Scout Coordinators - Sherry Bramlett & Zack Kepley

Altar Guild - Marylyn Vail
 Children's Ministry - Marianne Evans
 Youth Ministry - Joseph Lowery
 Young Adult Ministry - Justin & Emily Barton
 Music - Sarah Thorne

Community Lunch

On January 31, 2026, the GRASP Mission Team will host a community lunch of soup and sandwiches. More information to come.



There will be a planning meeting on 1/4/26 to look forward at the new year and the exciting things that are and will be happening in 2026 at Ellijay First United Methodist Church. The meeting will take place at 11:30 following the Worship Service. If you are on the 2026 Administrative Council, please make every effort to attend and participate. Let's make 2026 the BEST year yet in the history of our church.

Prayers for the Week

Pray without ceasing for family/friends, teachers, doctors, pastors, World Leaders/Military, the weak, sick, & hungry, ourselves. Prayer Request Forms are in the Pew Racks
 Names highlighted in **bold** are new additions or changes to the Prayer List.

General

Juston Davis

Health

Brent Badinski
 Charles Benner
 Kevin Brett
 Mark Brown
 Joan Compton
 Brenda Eisanhart
 Sharon Fletcher
Anjannett Griffin
 Betty Jo Hanes
 Ruth Hix
 Millie Kelley
 Missy Kepley
 Vincent Marino
 Alyse Munson
 Lynn Perry
 Wanda Sandels
 Ann Shearon
 Dan Weaver
 Clyde White

Upcoming Surgery

Rick Thaxton

Recovering from Injury

Warren Williams

Surgery Recuperating

Suzy Ganz
 Tony Ganz
 Bill McKinney
Kathrine Meyer
 Bill Munson

Shut-In

Peter Adams
 Marlene Brown
 Ernette Calhoun
 Earline Copley
 Jim Hagopian
 Mack Hipp
 Johnny Johnson
 Margie Pyren
 Myron Seagraves
 Paul Stanhope
 Robert Westmoreland

Hospice

Doug Bater
 Shirley Goldston
 Ed Jeffery
Rudi Lanehardt

Caregiver

Nell Bater
 Cherie Dice
 Scott Goldston
 Carolyn Hipp
 Pat Johnson
 Julie Kepley
 Susan Marino
 Lorraine Segraves
 Joan Stanhope
 Sherry Weaver

Deaths

Family of Paul Compton
 Friends of Stan Cowan
 Family of Robert Hillhouse
 Family of Susan Krebbs
Family of DeWayne Lineback
 Family of Don White

Prayer Request forms are in the pew racks. Please fill free to complete and drop in the offering plate if you have a request.

This week at our church...

12/24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary

Please note that the Church office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from December 22 - 26 and on December 31 & January 1 for the New Year holiday.

The beautiful flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today by Mrs. Mary Jo Lowery in loving memory of Mr. Tommy L. Lowery, Sr.



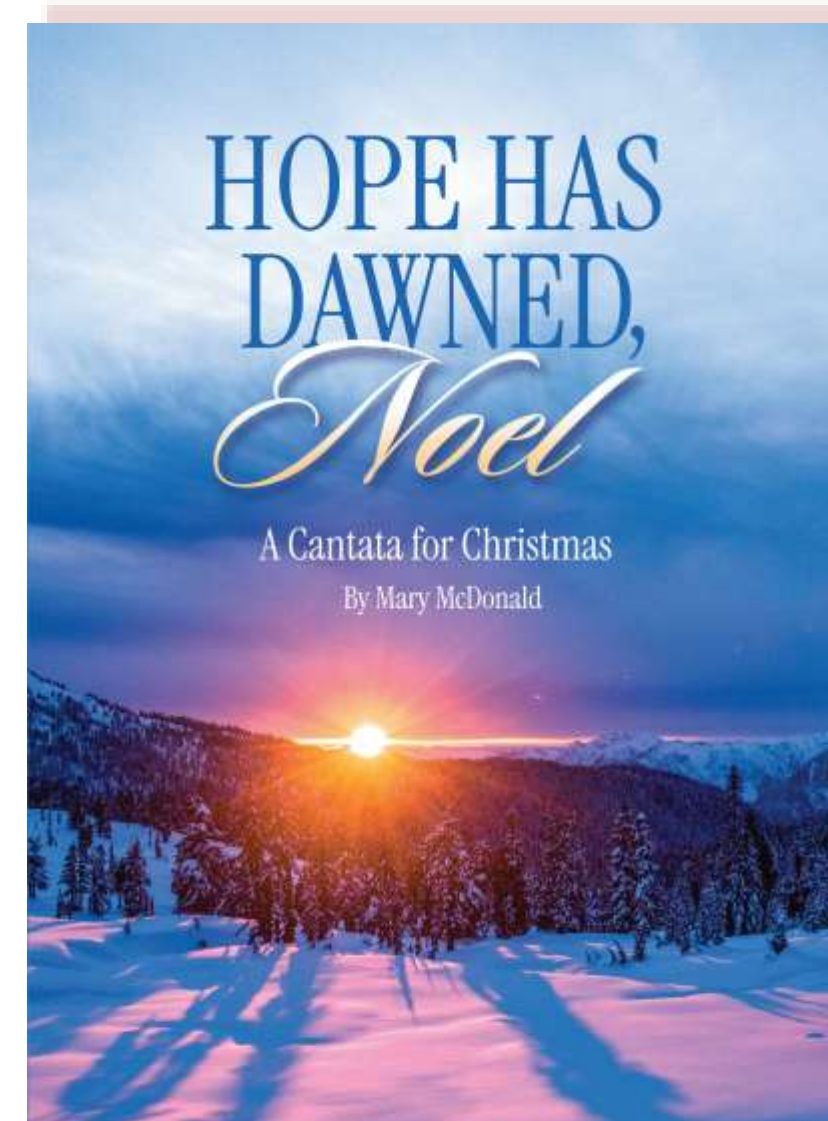
Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am- 4 pm
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor, Mike.Shearon@NGUMC.net
Lay Leader Rick Thaxton 770-241-1852 rlthaxton@etcmail.com
Church phone: 706-635-2555; Fax: 706-273-2555
Web site: ellijayfirstumc.org

Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist
Marianne EvansChildren's Ministries and Preschool....
children@ellijayfirstumc.org
Jennetta Lowery. .Administrative Assistantoffice@ellijayfirstumc.org
Sarah ThorneDirector of Music...music@ellijayfirstumc.org
Debbi Westcott ... Youth Director.....youth@ellijayfirstumc.org
Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator
Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician...media@ellijayfirstumc.org
Finance office....Giving statements/Accounts.....finance@ellijayfirstumc.org



Ellijay First United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor

75 McCutchen Street
 PO Box 472
 Ellijay, GA 30540
 706-635-2555



Sunday, December 21, 2025
10:00 am Worship Service
4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday Worship Service

The 4th Sunday of Advent

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: Gabrielle Cornett & Susan Gooch
“In The Bleak Midwinter” arr by Mary McDonald

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Allen & Barton Family

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation

Rev. Dr. Shearon

† The Hymn of Praise

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH 234

† 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 and Congregational Prayer

Rev. Dr. Shearon

The Lord’s Prayer

UMH 895

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music “Rise Up Shepherd and Follow”
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

Presentation of the Christmas Cantata

Hope Has Dawned, Noel

By Mary McDonald

1. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
2. Hope is Dawning
3. Come Jesus, Heavenly Light
4. My Soul Sings - soloist JoAnn Davis
5. Our Lord, Emmanuel!
6. How Great Our Joy!
7. Sing We Noel
8. Silent Night, Child of Light
9. Worship Christ, the Newborn King
10. Hope is Dawning (Reprise)

Narrators

Zack Kepley & Sarah Corn

Ellijay First United Methodist Chancel Choir

Director.....Sarah Thorne

Pianist.....Gabrielle Cornett

Sopranos

Alison Baker
JoAnn Davis
Maryse Gelder

Susan Gooch
Katherine Meyer
Karen Patton

Kimberly Weber

Altos

Meg Blanton-Eanes
Jan Day

Jennetta Lowery
Barbara Fogle

Peggy Richardson

Tenors

Gordon Eanes
J. D. Pierce

Frank Richardson
Warren Williams

Baritones

Tom Lowery

David Patton

Harrison Smith

HOPE- longing for a certain thing or event to happen; being filled with great anticipation of something we want to be true. Christ brought to us that hope, one that was told to Isaiah by an angel 700 years prior to Jesus’ birth. Imagine waiting, longing, hoping for a Savior to come to earth to bring redemption to all people.

In **Hope Has Dawned, Noel**, we look back over the events leading up to the birth of Christ and journey through the hope experienced by Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds, Angels, Magi, and even Zachariah and Elizabeth in the birth of John the Baptist. These events would eventually lead us to the birth of Christ, the hope of all the world.

~ Mary McDonald

†The Closing Hymn

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

UMH 220

Anyone wishing to join Ellijay First United Methodist Church may come forward during the closing hymn.

†The Pastoral Benediction

Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”

arr by Mary McDonald

Prayer team members are available after the service. They will be wearing white shawls.

† Please stand as you are able

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.