

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 Guide-lines, 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.



Community Lunch

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



Happy Birthday

12/28 - Micki Steif
12/29 - Holly Shearon
12/30 - Jan Allen
12/31 - Jacqueline Poole

Church Lock-up Schedule:

12/28 - 1/3 Charlie Cobb
1/4 - 1/10 Charlie Cobb
1/11 - 1/17 Barry Griffin
1/18 - 1/24 Bill Munson



2026

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, urselves. Prayer Request Forms are in the Pew Racks Names highlighted in bold are new additions or changes to the Prayer List.		
<u>General</u> Juston Davis	<u>Surgery Recuperating</u> Suzy Ganz Tony Ganz Bill McKinney Kathrine Meyer Bill Munson Rick Thaxton	<u>Caregiver</u> Nell Bater Cherie Dice Scott Goldston Carolyn Hipp Pat Johnson Julie Kepley Susan Marino Lorraine Segraves Joan Stanhope Sherry Weaver
<u>Health</u> 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	<u>Shut-In</u> Peter Adams Marlene Brown Ernette Calhoun Earline Copley Jim Hagopian Mack Hipp Johnny Johnson Margie Pyren Myron Seagraves Paul Stanhope Robert Westmoreland	<u>Deaths</u> Family of Paul Compton Friends of Stan Cowan Family of Robert Hillhouse Family of Susan Krebs Family of DeWayne Lineback Family of Don White
<u>Recovering from Injury</u> Warren Williams	<u>Hospice</u> Doug Bater Shirley Goldston Ed Jeffery Rudi Lanchardt	<i>Prayer Request forms are in the pew racks. Please fill free to complete and drop in the offering plate if you have a request.</i>



January 2026 at Ellijay First United Methodist Church

Jan 4 - Communion Sunday
Admin Council Planning Meeting, Fellowship Hall 11:30am
Jan 5 - Team Tabitha Charity Sewing, Fellowship Hall 9:00am
Jan 8 - Men’s Group, Shane’s Rib Shack 4:30pm
Jan 12 - Administrative Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm
Jan 20 - Joyful Noon Circle, Fellowship Hall Noon
Jan 22 - Book Club, Fellowship Hall 2:00pm
Jan 31 - GRASP Mission Team Community Lunch Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU ALL!

The church staff wishes to thank you for the generous Christmas gifts and Staff Bonus. Each person in our congregation brings so much into our lives. Thank you for being a part of our church. It is a joy to work at Ellijay First UMC. We hope God blesses you and your family, especially during this season and in 2026!

Pastor Mike, Marianne, Debbi, Jennetta, Julie, Zack, Sarah, Gabrielle, & Caitlynn

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 28, 2025
10:00 am Worship Service
1st Sunday After Christmas

Sunday Worship Service

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude:

“In Dulce Jublio”

arr by Mary McDonald

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation

Rick Thaxton

Call To Worship

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

by John W. Work, Jr.

† The Greeting

Jennetta Lowery, Liturgist & Psalm 34

Congregation

I will bless the Lord all the time!

We’ll never stop praising our God!

Magnify the Lord with me.

Together we’ll lift his name high.

Taste and see - the Lord is good!

Relax and rejoice - you are safe in him.

When trouble comes, cry out to God.

He is always around you, protecting you.

The Lord is near to the broken,

He saves those who are crushed.

God sees us, God hears us, God knows us.

He rescues us from all our fears.

Listen everyone – this is the way to live:

Speak truth, speak kindness,

walk away from what is wrong,

choose to do what is right,

seek peace and follow peace.

We’ll never stop praising our God!

† The Hymn of Praise

“He Is Born”

UMH 228

† 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.

Children’s Sermon

Marianne Evans

Prayer from the Pulpit

Jan Day

The Lord’s Prayer

UMH 895

†The Hymn of Preparation

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

UMH 229

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music

arr by Mary McDonald

“A Christmas Lullaby”

†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

Choir Anthem

“Worship Christ, the Newborn King”

by Mary McDonald

† The Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-11

Today’s Message

“Safety Net”

†The Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World”

UMH 246

Anyone wishing to join this church may come forward during the closing hymn.

†The Pastoral Benediction

Jan Day

†The Postlude

“Bring a Torch, Jennette, Isabella”

arr by Mary McDonald

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

5¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the com- mitted, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

3 “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

4 “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

5 “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud own- ers of everything that can’t be bought.

6 “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

7 “You’re blessed when you care. At the mo- ment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

8 “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

9 “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you re- ally are, and your place in God’s family.

10 “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

11-12 “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomforta- ble. You can be glad when that happens— give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.*

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heav- en.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are per- secuted for the sake of righteous- ness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^c on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5: 1 – 11

New Revised Standard Version

Matthew 5: 1 – 11

The Message

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.