

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



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

A Message from our Youth Leader

This year marked a rebuilding season for youth ministry, reconnecting with our young adults through GRASP, involvement of youth and young adults in our Kenya and Red Bird mission trips and many seasonal activities. Thank you for your prayers, volunteer hours, and support that made this year possible. The incoming youth leader, Joseph Lowery, inherits an active ministry ready to grow thanks to your investment in our youth and young adults. Thankfully, Debbi Westcott



Live Nativity Update

This year's live nativity plans have been postponed until 2026. **Thank you to Lori McCurdy** for your time and talents in the creation of new costumes for future church pageantry. We are very appreciative of the love and care you put into each article of clothing.



Children's Church Needs Volunteers

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. Extra hands and eyes are required with this group of high energy kids. 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.



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 to the Prayer List.

General

Juston Davis
Armstrong Dice

Health

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

Hospital/Rehab

Pat Daniels

Upcoming Surgery

Tony Ganz
Bill Munson

Surgery Recuperating

Alison Baker
Suzy Ganz
Steve Hearn
Millie Kelley
Karen Vitelli
Emily Westbrook

Shut-In

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

Hospice

Doug Bater
Shirley Goldston
Ed Jeffery

Caregiver

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

Deaths

Family of Paul Compton
Family of Ron Cornett
Friends of Stan Cowart
Family of Ginger Hearn
Family of Susan Krebbs
Family of Mary Uthlaut
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.

Ellijay First UMC Upcoming Events

12/7 Communion Sunday
1:00 pm Visitation with family of Paul Compton Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm Celebration of the Life of Paul Compton Sanctuary
12/8 6:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting Fellowship Hall
12/11 1:30 pm Book Club Canterbury Restaurant ← corrected time and location
12/14 8:30 am Church wide pot luck Christmas Breakfast Fellowship Hall
11:30 am Celebration of the Life of Stan Cowan Sanctuary
12/17 5:00 pm LIJ Kids Christmas Dinner & Play Fellowship Hall
12/21 10:00 am Christmas Cantata Sanctuary
12/24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary

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 7, 2025

10:00 am Worship Service
2nd Sunday of Advent



The Heart that Grew Three Sizes
We are engaged in a 4 week study exploring the classic Christmas tale, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" through the lens of faith. There is a children's class and a youth class, which meet on Wednesdays. The adult Sunday School class, Helping Hands, is participating during their Sunday morning meeting time. Pastor Mike is also incorporating the lessons into his sermons during Advent. Come see if you can increase the size of your heart as well.



12/6 - Hank Chapman



Church Lock-up Schedule:

12/7 - 12/13 Charlie Cobb
12/14-12/20 Barry Griffin
12/21-12/27 Bill Munson
12/28 - 1/3 Hank Chapman



Today we light the Candle of Peace. It represents the peace that Jesus Christ brings to our hearts and lives. Purple symbolizes Royalty and Repentance for the Lord's Coming.

Father God, as we light this candle of Peace, we ask You to prepare our hearts for your coming. Clear the paths in our lives from things that keep us from you. Make room in our hearts for Your Presence and Peace. May we welcome you with open hearts and lives for Your Glory.



Sunday Worship Service
The 2nd Sunday of Advent

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: “Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming”
arr by Mark Hayes

The Lighting of the Advent Candle The Corn Family

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation
Rev. Dr. Shearon

Call To Worship “Jesus, Name Above All Names”
by Nadia Hearn

† The Greeting Rick Thaxton, Liturgist & Congregation

People of God, Christ has invited us here!
We gather to praise God, who brings justice and righteousness to all.
We gather to five thanks to God for hope and peace.
Bless be the Lord, who has done marvelous things.
Let us praise God together!

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 61
“Come, Thou Almighty King”

† 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 Hymn of Preparation UMH 211
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1 & 2

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music “I Wonder As I Wander”
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

Special Music “I Hear The Prophet Callin”
Soloist Maryse Gelder by Pepper Choplin

† The Scripture Reading Isaiah 60:3-6

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Shearon
“Christmas in Disguise”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

†The Closing Hymn UMH 209
“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

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

†The Pastoral Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude “Holy Is the Lord”
arr by Larry Shackley

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

† Please stand as you are able

Isaiah 60:3-6 New Revised Standard Version

- 3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their
nurses’ arms.
- 5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the
abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.



Last Sunday we learned of the passing of Stan Cowart. Stan and his wife, Carol, joined Ellijay First United Methodist in 2008. Both were very active until her passing in 2013. Stan continued to be a vital part of the congregation and choir right up until the end of his life. He was an accomplished musician and composed several anthems, some of which have been performed by our own choir. He retired from Eastman Kodak and held 57 U.S. Patents. He and Carol did not have children of their own, but he “adopted” many of our youth. He loved the youth of our church and would bypass adults to greet them, usually by name. Stan’s presence will be missed by all. We will have a Celebration of Stan’s Life on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 11:30 am at the church.

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.