




1/23 - Meg Blanton-Eanes  
1/27 - Debbie Brown



**Church Lock-up Schedule:**


1/25 - 1/31 Hank Chapman  
2/01 - 2/07 Charlie Cobb  
2/08 - 2/14 Barry Griffin  
2/15 - 2/21 Bill Munson






**Community Lunch**

Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 11:00 - 1:00, the GRASP Mission Team will host a community lunch of soup and sandwiches. It's not too late to volunteer to help with planning, setting up, greeting, serving, and clean up. We want our community to know that Ellijay First UMC cares for our neighbors and this is one small way to show that. The meal will be free of charge. Please contact Justin Easley to find out where you can best be of service to see this event through. Justin's phone number is (706) 889-7610. You may also sign up to help on the attendance form in your bulletin.



**WE'RE COMING BAAAACK!!!**

The Children First Pre-School Program will soon begin their annual SouthWest Airline Ticket promotion. This year, there are FOUR round trip tickets up for grabs! Be on the lookout for our trustee SouthWest Pilot and Flight Attendant to begin sharing more information!






**Returning to Red Bird**  
We will be going back to the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY. Mark you calendar for April 26-May 1, 2026. The cost is \$515 per person to cover lodging and meals for the week. We will spend the week working on projects to help the people of the area, one of the poorest in our country. Please let Pastor Mike know if you are interested in going.

**Our Weekly Schedule:**

Sun - Helping Hands Sunday School 8:45  
Worship Service 10:00 am  
Altars Study Group 11:00 am  
Singles/Mingles 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Mon - Team Tabitha Sewing Ministry (1st & 3rd Mon) 9:00 am -12:00 pm  
Tues - Chair Yoga 11:00 am - 12:15 pm  
Wed -LIJ Kids 3:30 - 5:00 pm  
Young Adult Bible Study 5:00-6:00 pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Thur - Chair Yoga 11:00 am - 12:15 pm




Contribution Statements have been mailed! Please be on the lookout for your statement of yearly giving to EFUMC for your tax records. Should you fail to receive yours, please contact the office for an additional copy. You may also email [finance@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:finance@ellijayfirstumc.org) requesting a copy.




Can you ring a bell?  
Would you like to learn how to?


JoAnn Davis looking for people interested in revitalizing our handbell choir. If you want more information, please contact JoAnn at 706-755-0105.



**Estate Sale**

There will be a sale at the home of our own Stan Cowan to help rehome some of his and Carol's belongings and close out their estate. The sale will be Friday, Feb. 6 from 9-4 and Saturday, Feb. 7 from 9-12. The address is 86 Carson Cove Road, Ellijay.



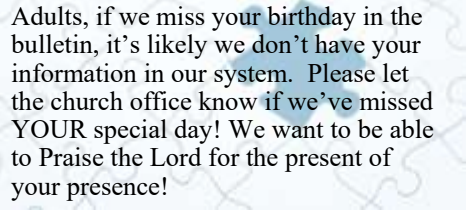


**Children's Church Needs Volunteers**

In order to follow our Safe Sanctuary Guidelines, we need more help with our growing children's church. We will have a short volunteer meeting on Sunday, February 1, at 11:10 am after the worship service. Anyone who is considering serving or is curious about what is involved, please plan to attend. We would like to make a rotation for once every other month to serve, so we need 8 volunteers to be helpers. If you need more information about the meeting or the LIJ Kid's programs, please see or call Marianne for more information. If Sunday doesn't work for you, and you are interested in serving in the LIJ Kid's program on Wednesday, please plan on attending also.

**Is there a missing piece of our puzzle?**

Adults, if we miss your birthday in the bulletin, it's likely we don't have your information in our system. Please let the church office know if we've missed YOUR special day! We want to be able to Praise the Lord for the present of your presence!



**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.

<p><u>General</u></p> <p>Juston Davis</p> <p><u>Health</u></p> <p>Brent Badinski Charles Benner Kevin Brett Mark Brown Joan Compton Brenda Eisanhart Betty Jo Hanes Ruth Hix Millie Kelley Missy Kepley Vincent Marino Wanda Sandels Ann Shearon <b>Helen Sutton</b> Dan Weaver Clyde White Bobbie Wilson</p>	<p><u>Surgery/Recuperating</u></p> <p>Tony Ganz Bill McKinney Katherine Meyer Frank Richardson</p> <p><u>Shut-In</u></p> <p>Peter Adams Ernette Calhoun Earline Copley Jim Hagopian Mack Hipp Johnny Johnson Margie Pyren Myron Seagraves Paul Stanhope Robert Westmoreland</p> <p><u>Hospice</u></p> <p>Doug Bater Shirley Goldston Ed Jeffery Rudi Lanehardt</p>	<p><u>Caregiver</u></p> <p>Nell Bater Cherie Dice Scott Goldston Carolyn Hipp Pat Johnson Julie Kepley Susan Marino Peggy Richardson Lorraine Segraves Joan Stanhope Sherry Weaver</p> <p><u>Deaths</u></p> <p>Family of Marlene Brown Family of Robert Hillhouse Family of DeWayne Lineback <b>Family of Lynn Perry</b> Family of Angie Pierce</p>
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**Our Upcoming Schedule:**

Sunday, Jan 25 - Meeting for Community Lunch planning committee and helpers following worship

Friday, Jan 30 - Set up for Community Lunch 5:00 pm

Saturday, Jan 31 - GRASP Mission Team Community Lunch Fellowship Hall from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sunday, Feb 1 - Communion Sunday  
- Children's Church Volunteer meeting after worship

Monday, Feb 2 - Team Tabitha Charity Sewing Group Fellowship Hall

Monday, Feb 9 - Administrative Council Meeting Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Thursday, Feb 12 - Men's Group @ Shane's Rib Shack 4:30 pm

Monday, Feb 16 - Team Tabitha Charity Sewing Group Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Feb 17 - Joyful Noon Circle Fellowship Hall 12:00

Wednesday, Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm

Sunday, Feb 22 - First Sunday in Lent


Thursday, Feb 26 - Book Club Fellowship Hall 2:00 pm



**Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am- 4 pm**  
**Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor, [Mike.Shearon@georgiaumc.net](mailto:Mike.Shearon@georgiaumc.net)**  
**Church phone: 706-635-2555; Fax: 706-273-2555**  
**Web site: [ellijayfirstumc.org](http://ellijayfirstumc.org)**

**Jennetta Lowery. .Administrative Assistant ....[office@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:office@ellijayfirstumc.org)**  
**Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist**  
**Sarah Thorne .....Director of Music...[music@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:music@ellijayfirstumc.org)**  
**Marianne Evans ....Children's Ministries and Preschool....  
[children@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:children@ellijayfirstumc.org)**

**Joseph Lowery.... Youth Director.....[youth@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:youth@ellijayfirstumc.org)**  
**Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician...[media@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:media@ellijayfirstumc.org)**  
**Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator**  
**Debbi Westcott....Communications.....[communications@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:communications@ellijayfirstumc.org)**  
**Finance office....Giving statements/Accounts.....[finance@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto: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, January 25, 2026  
10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday Worship Service  
January 25, 2026

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: arr by Mark Hayes  
“Here I Am To Worship”

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation  
The Reverend Dr. Michael Shearon

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

† The Greeting  
Friends of God, today Jesus calls to each of us;  
“Come! Follow me!”  
The kingdom of heaven has come near.  
Some say, “But we are walking in darkness.”  
In Christ, we have seen God’s light. The kingdom of  
heaven has come near.  
Some say, “But divisions tear us apart.”  
In Christ we are united in mind and purpose. The  
kingdom of heaven has come near.  
Friends of God, today we gather to worship God and  
to follow Jesus.  
The kingdom of heaven has come near.

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 580  
“Lead On, Oh King Eternal”

† 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

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer Rev. Dr. Shearon

The Lord’s Prayer UMH 895

†The Hymn of Preparation UMH 568  
“Christ For the World We Sing”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Mozart  
“Alleluia”

†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 by Jay Althouse  
“Built On A Rock”

† The Scripture Reading Ephesians 6:10-13

The Sermon  
“Be Strong, Stand Firm”

†The Closing Hymn UMH 575  
“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

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

†The Pastoral Benediction

†The Postlude “The Heavens Declare”  
arr by Benedetto Marcello

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

† - Stand as you are able

Ephesians 6:10-13

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty  
power.  
<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can  
take your stand against the devil’s schemes.  
<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and  
blood, but against the rulers, against the authori-  
ties, against the powers of this dark world and  
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly  
realms.  
<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that  
when the day of evil comes, you may be able to  
stand your ground, and after you have done eve-  
rything, to stand.

The word of God for the people of God.  
Thanks be to God!



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.