

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.



I would like to thank the Methodist Men’s Group for their kindness and generosity at Christmas. The Children First preschool teachers were very appreciative and blessed by your gift. Blessings in the New Year for you all!

I would also like to give a shout out to our church preschool board for continuing to love on our teachers throughout the school year.

Love,  
Marianne

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



1/5 - Marcia Bassett  
1/8 - Mary Jo Lowery  
1/10 - Mike Thompson



Church Lock-up Schedule:

1/4 - 1/10 Charlie Cobb  
1/11 - 1/17 Barry Griffin  
1/18 - 1/24 Bill Munson  
1/25 - 1/31 Hank Chapman



There will be a planning meeting after church today for the Administrative Council members and anyone ho wishes to join in planning for the new church year. We are excited 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.



Mt. Top Boys Home

Pastor Mike had the opportunity to bless the Mountain Top Boys Home with a new washing machine and a 20 person tent. They were excited to receive both and send thanks to Ellijay First UMC for continuing to support the 15 boys that call Mountain Top home.

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.

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  
Bobbie Wilson

Surgery Recuperating

Suzy Ganz  
Tony Ganz  
Bill McKinney  
Kathrine Meyer  
Bill Munson

Shut-In

Peter Adams  
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 Lanchardt

Caregiver

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

Deaths

**Family of Marlene Brown**  
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.*

Recovering from Injury

Warren Williams



WELCOME!

Sunday, Dec 21, Robert, Kathy, & Jessica Hubbard joined our church family. They come+ to us from Lawrenceville UMC. We are so very glad to have you with us and look forward to growing in faith with you.

We lost another long time member on Saturday, December 27, 2025. Mrs. Marlene Brown joined EFUMC in October 2000. She was active in the Joy Circle. She was also a regular volunteer at Faith Hope & Charity for many years. After a fall several years ago, she had to go into rehab for a period of time. She was on our Shut-In list until just recently. She passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family. Visitation with her children and grandchildren was held Saturday, Jan 3 at Bernhardt Funeral Home. We will hold fond memories of Marlene, as we remember her contributions to Ellijay First UMC.



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

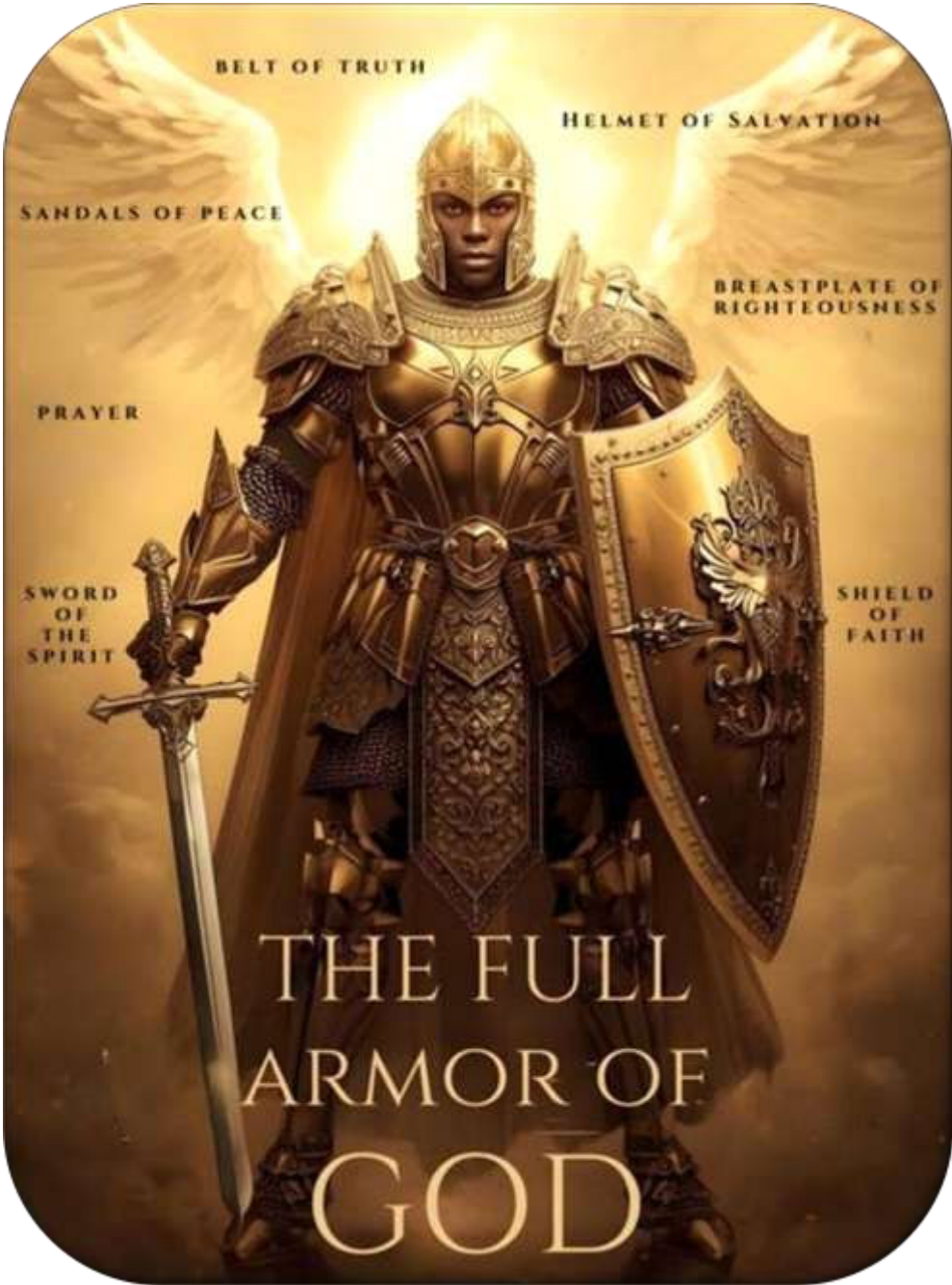
**Jennetta Lowery. .Administrative Assistant ....office@ellijayfirstumc.org**  
**Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist**  
**Sarah Thorne .....Director of Music...music@ellijayfirstumc.org**  
**Marianne Evans ....Children’s Ministries and Preschool....**  
**children@ellijayfirstumc.org**

**Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator**  
**Joseph Lowery.... Youth Director.....youth@ellijayfirstumc.org**  
**Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician...media@ellijayfirstumc.org**  
**Debbi Westcott....Communications.....communications@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, January 4, 2026  
10:00 am Worship Service



Sunday Worship Service  
Communion Sunday

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: arr by Jay Althouse  
“Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him”

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation

Call To Worship “What Child is This”  
by William C. Dix

† The Greeting Tony Ganz & Congregation  
In this holy season of Christmas,  
Christ comes to us again.  
In this quiet after the harried days of December,  
God invites us to pause and reflect.  
Our journey has led us here.  
The Spirit is with us now.  
Let us bow down as sages of old,  
and worship Christ our King.

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 157  
“Jesus Shall Reign”

† 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 223  
“Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Mark Hayes  
“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

†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 “Good News, Good News”  
by Jill Gallina

† The Scripture Reading Isaiah 14:12-15

The Sermon  
“Spiritual Warfare”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

†The Closing Hymn UMH 249  
“There’s A Song in the Air”

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

†The Pastoral Benediction

†The Postlude “Behold That Star”  
arr by Mark Hayes

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

† - Stand as you are able

Isaiah 14:12-15

<sup>12</sup>How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

<sup>13</sup>You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

<sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

<sup>15</sup>But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.



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.