

Happy Birthday

2/22 - Rachel Tarr
 2/23 - Danny Farnham
 2/26 - Daniel Serritella



Church Lock-up Schedule:

2/22 - 2/28 Hank Chapman
 3/01 - 3/07 Charlie Cobb
 3/08 - 3/14 Barry Griffin
 3/15 - 3/21 Bill Munson

LIJ KIDS

Friday, March 6 will be our next First Friday Family Night. Please bring any board or card games you want to play or teach others to play. We will meet from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. Please join us for family fun and fellowship!

Who Should Pray

The young: to learn how to live.
 The old: to know humility.
 The rich: for compassion.
 The poor: for comfort.
 The dreamer: for enchantment.
 The practical: for counsel.
 The weak: for strength.
 The strong: for direction.
 The haughty: for warning.
 The humble: for exaltation.
 The troubled: for peace.
 The weary: for rest.
 The sinner: for salvation.
 The doubting: for assurance.
 All Christians: for guidance.

SOUTHWEST AVAILABLE NOW!!

You have until **March 25, 2026** to make your \$20 donation to win FOUR round trip Southwest Airline tickets. On that day, the Children First Preschool will host a Wednesday night dinner (@ 5:30) and hold the drawing for the winning ticket.

How do I get in on it? See your friendly flight crew member (aka Marianne) for your opportunity to fly! You may also donate (purchase tickets) in the church office Monday - Thursday. Thank you in advance for your support of Children First Preschool here at EFUMC.

LIJ KIDS will NOT meet on Wednesday, Feb 25, due to Gilmer County Schools Winter Break.

The Handbell Choir will begin practice on Wed., February 25, at 5:30 pm. If you want to join, please contact JoAnn Davis at 706-755-0105.

REDBIRD
 a United Methodist Mission in Beverly, KY

Information meeting after church today in the Fellowship Hall. Come learn what it is about.

Early Response Training

The Methodist Men's group is hosting an **UMCOR training in early response** for disaster relief at Ellijay First UMC on Saturday, March 21. The event will be from 8:30am - 3:30pm. The cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch and training materials. Area UMC men are invited to attend. There is a 40 seat limit, so register in the church office by March 11.

There will be a **Spiritual Life Retreat** at Camp Glisson March 13-15. If you are a youth, or would like to find out about being a chaperone volunteer, Joseph Lowery has the information. 706-669-0172.



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.

<u>General</u> Juston Davis Brett Welch	<u>Recuperating from Surgery</u> Jim Brownell Johnny Ganas Bill McKinney Vincent Marino Katherine Meyer Jason Neubert Frank Richardson	<u>Hospice</u> Doug Bater Shirley Goldston Ed Jeffery Rudi Lanehardt
<u>Health</u> Brent Badinski Charles Benner Kevin Brett Mark Brown Joan Compton Brenda Eisanhart Betty Jo Hanes Ruth Hix Johnny Jones Missy Kepley Wanda Sandels Ann Shearon Mike Vitelli Dan Weaver Clyde White Bobbie Wilson	<u>Shut-In</u> Peter Adams Ernette Calhoun Earline Copley Jim Hagopian Mack Hipp Johnny Johnson Margie Pyren Myron Seagraves Paul Stanhope Robert Westmoreland	<u>Caregiver</u> Nell Bater Cherie Dice Scott Goldston Carolyn Hipp Pat Johnson Julie Kepley Susan Marino Peggy Richardson Lorraine Segraves Joan Stanhope Sherry Weaver
<u>Upcoming Surgery</u> Betty Perry Lanny Lane	<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>	
<u>Deaths</u> Family of Gordon Eanes, Sr. Family of Lynn Perry Family of Angie Pearce Family of Helen Sutton		

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

Wed -LIJ Kids 3:30 - 5:00 pm
 Young Adult Bible Study 5:00-6:00 pm
 Handbell Choir Practice 5:30 - 6:30
 Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 - 8:00 pm



Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Feb 22 - First Sunday in Lent
 Sunday, Feb 22 - Red Bird Meeting 11:15 Fellowship Hall
 Thursday, Feb 26 - Book Club Fellowship Hall 2:00 pm
 Sunday, March 1 - Communion Sunday
 Friday, March 6 - LIJ Kids First Friday Game Night, Fellowship Hall
 Sunday, March 8 - Daylight Savings Time begins
 Monday, March 9 - Administrative Council Meeting 6:00 pm



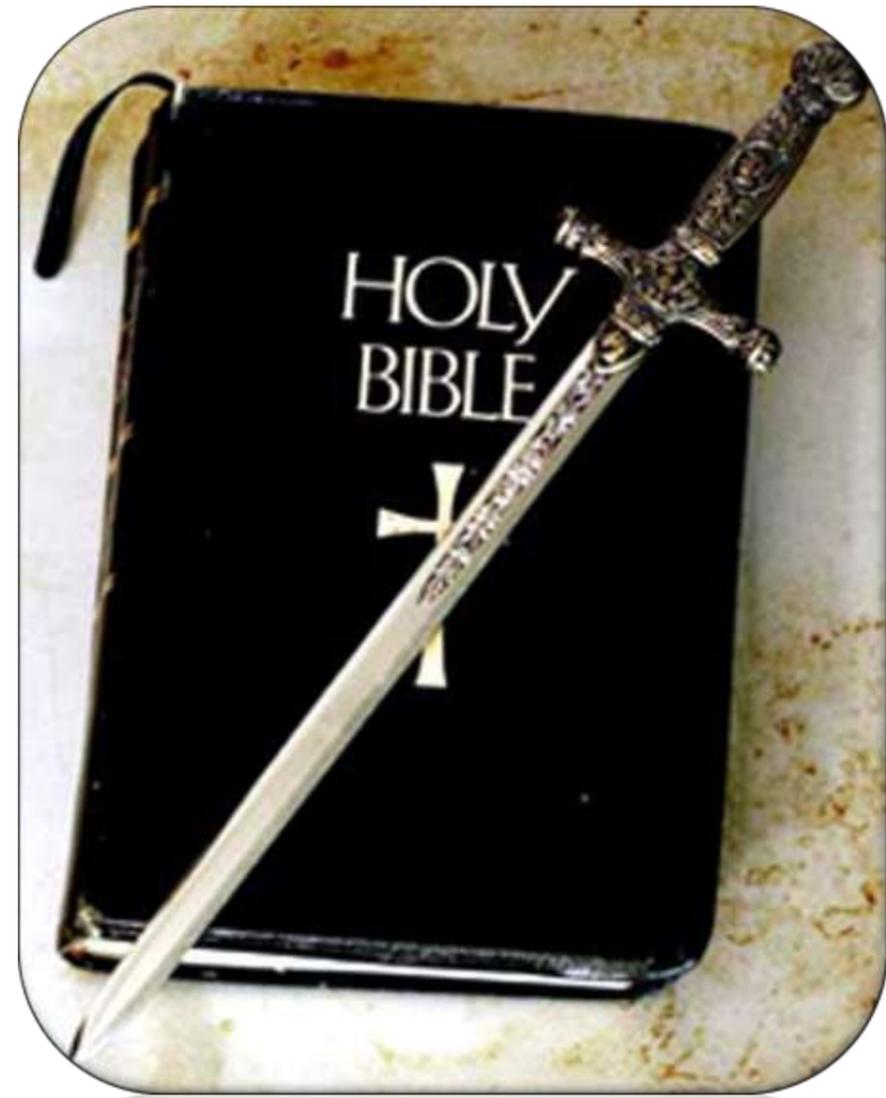
Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am- 4 pm
 Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor, Mike.Shearon@georgiaumc.net
 Church phone: 706-635-2555; Fax: 706-273-2555
 Web site: ellijayfirstumc.org

Jennetta Lowery...Administrative Assistantoffice@ellijayfirstumc.org
 Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist
 Sarah ThorneDirector of Music...music@ellijayfirstumc.org
 Marianne EvansChildren's Ministries and Preschool....
children@ellijayfirstumc.org
 Joseph Lowery.... Youth Director.....youth@ellijayfirstumc.org
 Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician...media@ellijayfirstumc.org
 Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator
 Debbi Westcott....Communications Coordinator.....
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, February 22, 2026
 10:00 am Worship Service
 First Sunday of Lent

Sunday Worship Service
February 22, 2026
The First Sunday of Lent

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: "A Mighty Fortress" arr by Mark Hayes

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation
The Reverend Dr. Michael Shearon

Call To Worship arr by Buchanan
"Lord, Who Throughout Theses Forty Days" "

† **The Greeting** Liturgist & Congregation
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.
When we confess our transgressions, Christ's grace and forgiveness encompass us.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.
Open yourselves to the teachings and wisdom of the Spirit.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

† **The Hymn of Praise** UMH 73
"O Worship The 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.

Children's Sermon

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer Rev. Dr. Shearon

The Lord's Prayer UMH 895

†**The Hymn of Preparation** TFWS 2113
"Lamb of God"

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Mary McDonald
"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

†**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 Lloyd Larson
"When Jesus Walked the Wilderness"

† **The Scripture Reading** **Ephesians 6:17**
Hebrews 4:12-13

The Sermon
"The Sword of the Spirit - Part 1"

†**The Closing Hymn** TFWS 2088
"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (sing twice)

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

†**The Pastoral Benediction**

†**The Postlude** arr by Stuart Dauermann
"The Trees of the Field"

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

† - Stand as you are able

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Other Scripture for Reference:

Job 11:7
Jonah 2:9
1 John 4:8-10
John 12:49
Sermon Notes:

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.