

The **SPR Committee** will meet **today** following the worship service .

Be sure to sign up for the **March 25th Wednesday night dinner** on your attendance registration. The menu will be Poppy seed chicken, rice, beans, and desert. Donations benefit the Pre-school.

## Church Lock-up Schedule:



3/15 - 3/21 Bill Munson  
 3/22 - 3/28 Hank Chapman  
 3/29 - 4/04 Joe Poole  
 4/05 - 4/11 Charlie Cobb

### Wanna Get Away?



**March 25, 2026** is the **last day** to make your \$20 donation to win **FOUR** round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines. On that day, Children First Preschool will host our **March Wednesday night dinner** and hold the drawing for the winning ticket. See Marianne for your opportunity to fly! You may also make your donation in the church office Monday - Thursday. Thank you in advance for your support of our own Children First Preschool.



Remember to sign up in the church office if you would like to see **The Passion of The Christ** on Good Friday, April 3 at 11:30. The movie will be shown at the local theatre, Mountain Cinemas, with the doors opening at 11:00 am. There is no charge for this event. Remember there is a 65 seat limit, so sign up soon!



### Immediate Need

We **need two adults each Sunday** that are willing to help with Children's Church. If we have 8 people, then each only has to help one Sunday each month. If you can fill this immediate need, please let Marianne know. There is no planning or preparation involved on your part, just your willingness to serve our children. Call Marianne if you are interested or curious.

### Easter is just around the corner!

The Children's Ministry needs eggs for our annual Easter Egg hunt. Please, if you are able, donate a dozen plastic eggs that are already filled. You can drop off eggs in the blue bucket outside the church office.



April 26 - May 1, we are returning to Beverly, KY to the Red Bird Mission. We have had several sign up to go, and we have room for more. **You have until Sunday, March 22** to add your name to our list. Please contact Pastor Mike, Joseph Lowery, or the church office if you would like more information. We would love a strong presence as we serve God through this mission.



### Fun Fridays & Super Sundays

Ellijay First UMC YOUTH is launching a new youth program starting **Friday, March 20**. Come join in on Fridays and Sundays from 5-7pm for fun, food, and fellowship. Share the news with your kids and grandkids who are in **6th through 12th grades**. There will be games, laughter, and fun Christian fellowship.

The Community Lunch has been rescheduled!

The community lunch that was postponed due to winter weather in January has been put back on the church calendar for April 18. If you want to help with it, or with GRASP this summer, then attend our planning meeting on Sunday, March 22 right after the worship service in the fellowship hall. See Joseph Lowery for info.

### 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 <b>Cherie Dice</b> Brett Welch David & Jeanette Marcellino	<u>Upcoming Surgery</u> <b>Tanya Gaspard</b>  <u>Recuperating from Surgery</u> <b>Nicole Calhoun</b> Lanny Lane Bill McKinney Vincent Marino Katherine Meyer Jason Neubert Frank Richardson Rick Thaxton	<u>Hospice</u> Doug Bater Shirley Goldston Ed Jeffery  <u>Caregiver</u> Nell Bater Scott Goldston Carolyn Hipp Pat Johnson Julie Kepley Susan Marino Peggy Richardson Lorraine Segraves Joan Stanhope Sherry Weaver
<u>Health</u> Brent Badinski Charles Benner Kevin Brett Mark Brown <b>Joan Compton</b> Tom Damron Brenda Eisanhart <b>Christine Garner</b> Betty Jo Hanes Ruth Hix Johnny Jones Missy Kepley John Mahan Anthony Palmeri Betty Perry Wanda Sandels Ann Shearon Mike Vitelli Dan Weaver Clyde White	<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>Deaths</u> Family of Gordon Eanes, Sr. <b>Family of Rudi Lanehardt</b> Family of Perry Lynes

*Prayer Request forms are in the pew racks. Please fill free to complete and drop in the offering plate if you have a request.*

### 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:

Tuesday, March 17 - Joyful Noon Circle 12:00pm \*  
 Friday, March 20 - Fun Friday Youth Fellowship 5:00-7:00pm \*  
 Saturday, March 21 - UMCOR Early Response Training 8:30-3:30 \*  
 Sunday, March 22 - GRASP planning & Community Lunch meeting\*  
 Sunday, March 22 - Super Sunday Youth Fellowship 5:00-7:00pm \*  
 Wednesday, March 25 - Preschool Mission Dinner & Southwest Ticket drawing 5:30pm \*  
 Thursday, March 26 - Book Club 2:00pm \*  
 Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday

\*This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

**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 Director.... 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... ....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, March 15, 2026  
 10:00 am Worship Service  
 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday Worship Service  
March 15, 2026  
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

**The Chiming of the Hour**

**The Prelude:** "Prelude in G" arr by J S Bach

**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**  
Come into the light of God.  
**Christ's brightness will guide our way.**  
Come into the wisdom of God.  
**The Spirit's insight will reveal new truths.**  
Come into the praise of God,  
**Worship opens new doors in our hearts.**

† **The Hymn of Praise** UMH 140  
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

† **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 381  
"Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

**The Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**The Offertory Music** arr by Mark Hayes  
"The Light of the World is Jesus"

†**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 Joseph Martin  
"Peace For the Journey"

† **The Scripture Reading** **James 4:6-10**

**The Sermon**  
"Submitting to God"

†**The Closing Hymn** UMH 128  
"He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought"

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

†**The Pastoral Benediction**

†**The Postlude** arr by Howard Helvey  
"Sing Praise"  
*Israeli folksong*

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

† - Stand as you are able

**James 4:7-10**

<sup>6</sup> The LORD gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

"God opposes the proud  
but gives grace to the humble."

<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

<sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

<sup>9</sup> Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.

<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

**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.