

Be sure to sign up for the **March 25th Wednesday night dinner** on your attendance registration, or call the church office by noon Monday, 3/23. The menu will be Poppy seed chicken, rice, beans, and desert. All donations benefit our Children First Pre-school.

Time to "Get Away" is Getting Away!

This WEDNESDAY is the **last day** to make your \$20 donation to win **FOUR** round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines. Children First Preschool will host our **March Wednesday night dinner on 3/25** and hold the drawing for the winning ticket. See Marianne or stop by the church office before opportunity slips away. Thank you in advance for your support of Children First Preschool.



You guys are EGGCELLENT!

Our basket is running over with joy for all of the Easter Eggs that you have donated. Thank you!

Marianne & our LIJ Kids



Today is the last day!

April 26 - May 1, we are returning to Beverly, KY to the Red Bird Mission. We have 10 missionaries signed up to go, and we have room for more. Please contact Pastor Mike or Joseph Lowery today to get your name on the list! The cost is \$515 with some scholarships available.



Fun Fridays & Super Sundays

Ellijay First UMC YOUTH is now meeting on **Fridays & Sundays**. Come join us from 5-7pm for fun, food, and fellowship. Please, share the news with your kids and grandkids who are in **6th through 12th grades**. There will be games, laughter, and disciple building for Christ. Contact Joseph Lowery with questions or if you wish to help. Joseph's number is 706-669-0172

Church Lock-up Schedule:



3/22 - 3/28 Hank Chapman
3/29 - 4/04 Joe Poole
4/05 - 4/11 Charlie Cobb
4/12 - 4/18 Barry Griffin



The Free Community Lunch has been rescheduled!

The community lunch that was postponed due to winter weather in January is rescheduled for April 18. If you would like to help with it, or with GRASP this summer, then join us after church **today** for our planning meeting. We will meet in the fellowship hall.

If you are curious about the livelihood of our church, remember that the financial report, names of Church Council members, and other information & updates are always available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Check it out!

Special Thank You



Thanks to Fred & Jan Allen and Emily Barton for making yesterday's UMCOR training a success! Thanks also to Thom Shores for leading the training & all who were in attendance, including those from Cartecay & Epworth UMCs.

Remember to sign up in the church office if you would like to see the 2004 movie **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, but there is a 65 seat limit, so sign up soon!



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.

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

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, 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
Friday, April 3 - *The Passion of The Christ*, 11:30 am Mountain Cinemas - Good Friday Service 6:00 pm

*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 Assistantoffice@ellijayfirstumc.org
Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist
Sarah ThorneDirector of Music...music@ellijayfirstumc.org
Marianne EvansChildren'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@elijayfirstumc.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 22, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday Worship Service

March 22, 2026

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: "Lord of the Dance" 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
Cry out to God.
God listens to us.
Hope in God.
God forgives us.
Wait for God.
God's love is faithful.
Come Spirit of God. We wait for your presence.
We trust in your abiding promises.
Breathe the breath of your power into us this day,
that we may experience the power of new life,
the promise of forgiveness,
And blessing of community. Amen.

† **The Hymn of Praise** UMH 420
"Breathe on Me, O Breath of God"

† **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 2158
"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Larry Shackley
"Christ Be In My Waking"

† **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

Anthem arr by Sponberg, Smith, and Hall
"There is a Fountain"
Vocal Quartet: Gordon Eanes, Meg Blanton-Eanes,
J.D. Pearce, Sarah Thorne

† **The Scripture Reading** **Matthew 5:33-37**
James 5:12

Matthew 5:33-37 **And Jesus Said...**

³³ "You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.

³⁴ But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne.

³⁵ And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King.

³⁶ Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black.

³⁷ Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

James 5:12

¹² But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Shearon
"Telling the Truth"

† **The Closing Hymn** UMH 98
"To God Be The Glory"

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

† **The Pastoral Benediction** Rev. Dr. Shearon

† **The Postlude** arr by John Carter
"Hymn of Promise"

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

† - Stand as you are able

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.