

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

In order to follow our Safe Sanctuary Guidelines, we need more help with our growing children’s church. We have 10-14 kids attending children’s church each Sunday. Extra hands and eyes are required with this group of high energy kids. 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.



3rd Sunday of Advent

Today we light the Joy Candle. The pink color reflects a shift from Repentance to Joy of the Coming of Jesus Christ as we draw closer to His birth.

God of Joy, we light this pink candle today to celebrate the Joy that you brought into the world through Jesus. Fill our hearts with the same Joy that the shepherds and wise men had upon seeing your Son. Help us spread this Joy to others. Let it shine through our words and actions.



Church Lock-up Schedule:

12/14-12/20 Barry Griffin
12/21-12/27
12/28 - 1/3 Hank Chapman
1/4 - 1/10 Charlie Cobb



Let’s spread kindness here at home and see its impact globally. Check out www.kind30.org

Happy Birthday

12/7 - Steve Cahlhoun
12/12 - Julian Gendraeau
12/12 - Janet Lynch

GRASP Meeting December 16th

There will be a Zoom planning meeting on December 16 at 5:00 pm. We are working out details for a Community Breakfast to enlist involvement from businesses and individuals in Gilmer County to help with upcoming GRASP projects. Please contact Debbi Westcott @ 706-455-3207 for the Zoom link.



There will be a planning meeting on 1/4/26 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.

The Heart that Grew Three Sizes

We are engaged in a 4 week study exploring the classic Christmas tale, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” through the lens of faith. There is a children’s class and a youth class, which meet on Wednesdays. The adult Sunday School class, Helping Hands, is participating during their Sunday morning meeting time. Pastor Mike is also incorporating the lessons into his sermons during Advent. Come see if you can increase the size of your heart as well.



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 to the Prayer List.

<u>General</u> Juston Davis Armstrong Dice	<u>Surgery Recupenerating</u> Suzy Ganz Tony Ganz Millie Kelley Bill McKinney Bill Munson Karen Vitelli Emily Westbrook	<u>Caregiver</u> Nell Bater Cherie Dice Scott Goldston Carolyn Hipp Pat Johnson Julie Kepley Susan Marino Lorraine Segraves Joan Stanhope Sherry Weaver
<u>Health</u> Brent Badinski Charles Benner Kevin Brett Mark Brown Joan Compton Brenda Eisanhart Sharon Fletcher Betty Jo Hanes Ruth Hix Missy Kepley Vincent Marino Alyse Munson Lynn Perry Wanda Sandels Ann Shearon Dan Weaver Clyde White	<u>Shut-In</u> Peter Adams Marlene Brown Ernette Calhoun Earline Copley Jim Hagopian Mack Hipp Johnny Johnson Rudi Lanehardt Margarie Pyren Myron Seagraves Paul Stanhope Robert Westmoreland	<u>Deaths</u> Family of Paul Compton Friends of Stan Cowan Family of Ginger Hearn Family of Robert Hillhouse Family of Susan Krebsbs Family of Mary Uthlaut Family of Don White
<u>Upcoming Surgery</u> Rick Thaxton	<u>Hospice</u> Doug Bater Shirley Goldston Ed Jeffery	<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>

Ellijay First UMC Upcoming Events

12/14 11:30 am Celebration of the Life of Stan Cowan Sanctuary
12/17 5:00 pm LIJ Kids Christmas Dinner & Play Fellowship Hall
12/21 10:00 am Christmas Cantata Sanctuary
12/24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary

Please note that the Church office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from December 22 - 26 and on December 31 & January 1 for the New Year holiday.

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am- 4 pm
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor, Mike.Shearon@NGUMC.net
Lay Leader Rick Thaxton 770-241-1852 rlthaxton@etcmail.com
Church phone: 706-635-2555; Fax: 706-273-2555
Web site: ellijayfirstumc.org

Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist
Marianne Evans Children’s Ministries and Preschool....
children@ellijayfirstumc.org
Jennetta Lowery. .Administrative Assistant office@ellijayfirstumc.org
Sarah Thorne Director of Music...music@ellijayfirstumc.org
Debbi Westcott ... Youth Director.....youth@ellijayfirstumc.org
Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator
Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician...media@ellijayfirstumc.org
Finance office....Giving statements/Accounts.....finance@ellijayfirstumc.org



Ellijay First
United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor

75 McCutchen Street
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Ellijay, GA 30540
706-635-2555



Sunday, December 14, 2025

10:00 am Worship Service
3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday Worship Service
The 3rd Sunday of Advent

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: Handbell solo by JoAnn Davis
“Still, Still, Still” arr by Anderson/Page

The Lighting of the Advent Candle
The Easley Family

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation
Rev. Dr. Shearon

Call To Worship “Jesus Shall Reign”
by Watts and Hatton

† The Greeting Rick Thaxton, Liturgist & Congregation
We gather today in great hope, longing to see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.
The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God’s name.
May our worship strengthen our hands, make firm our trembling knees, and unburden our fearful hearts.
The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God’s name.
Knowing that God is near, let us be patient with the times and with one another.
The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God’s name.
To all who ask about our hope, let us tell the good news of what we have seen and heard.
The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God’s name.

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 250
“Once In Royal David’s City

† 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.

The Children’s Sermon

Pastoral and Congregational Prayer Rev. Dr. Shearon

The Lord’s Prayer UMH 895

†The Hymn of Preparation UMH 218
“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music “The Wexford Carol”
arr by Mark Hayes

†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 arr by Lloyd Larson
“Emmanuel *with*, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

† The Scripture Reading Luke 1: 26-38

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Shearon
“Biblical Joy”

†The Closing Hymn UMH 224
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Anyone wishing to join Ellijay First United Methodist Church may come forward during the closing hymn.

†The Pastoral Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude “Comfort, Comfort Now My People
arr by Larry Shackley

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

† Please stand as you are able

Luke 1:26-38 The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

²⁸ And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’

²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.

³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’

³⁵ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.’

³⁸ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

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.