

The Red Bird Mission Team will be traveling to Beverly, KY next Sunday, April 26. They will be working to improve living conditions for the people of the Red Bird Mission. Come show this team your support on Wednesday, April 22 at 5:30. There will be a meal of hotdogs & hamburgers and all donations that evening will help support this mission and the people of Beverly, KY. Sign up on the Record of Attendance found in today's bulletin.

**Red Bird Mission Team Meeting**

The missioners who are going to Red Bird this month will have a meeting today after the Worship Service. We will discuss the work site we have been assigned and the list of items you need to pack. Contact Pastor Mike if you are not able to attend the meeting.

Ellijay 1st UMC - Red Bird Mission T-Shirts for Sale!

We have a limited supply of the shirts our Red Bird Team will be wearing next week. Get yours in the church office before they are gone. \$20 each to benefit Red Bird.



**Church Lock-up Schedule:**

- 4/19 - 4/25 Bill Munson
- 4/26 - 5/02 Hank Chapman
- 5/03 - 5/09 Charlie Cobb
- 5/10 - 5/16 Barry Griffin



4/20 - Barbara Chapman  
4/23 - Karen Vitelli

**It's almost time for Vacation Bible School!**

We are planning this year's VBS and your help is needed! There will be two sneak peak meetings, one on Sunday, 4/26 after the service, & one on Wednesday, 5/6 at 5:00pm. Please make plans to attend one of the two meetings for a sneak peek at Rainforest Falls and find out how you can help.

Today's Altar flowers are in honor of Mrs. Barbara Chapman's 90th birthday! They are placed in the sanctuary with love from her family. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Barbara!

**Altar Flowers**  
If you have an occasion that you would like to place flowers on the Altar in honor or memory of someone or to commemorate an event, please contact the church office by Wednesday, prior to the Sunday you wish to provide them. Contact the church office for more information.

The Ladies Joyful Noon Circle would like to thank everyone for the support shown last Sunday at their Soup & Sale. The Circle raised over \$1300 for the missions they support.



Please Note... We are phasing out the Post Office Box and switching all of our mail to the physical address. Please make any necessary changes with your financial institution if you have contributions sent directly to the church. The address is **75 McCutcheon Street Ellijay, GA 30540**

**Standin' In the Need of Prayer**  
Everyone is in need of prayer. Sometimes some need an extra dose. When you pray this week, remember these names....  
Joseph & Heather Lowery, Lynn Higginbotham, and Anderson Hamm  
God knows their needs.  
*Prayer Request forms are in the pew racks. Please fill free to complete and drop in the offering plate if you have a request.*

**Methodism 101... Why do pastors wear a robe?**  
A pastor's robe, particularly white, symbolizes the covering of sin by the righteousness of Jesus Christ, highlighting that the minister's human flaws are hidden by God's grace. It represents being clothed in salvation and the "robe of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:10), shifting focus from the individual to Christ's work.



**Our Weekly Schedule:**

- Sun - Helping Hands Sun. School 8:45am  
Worship Service 10:00am  
Altars Study Group 11:00am  
Singles/Mingles 1:00 - 3:00pm  
Youth Super Sundays 5:00-7:00pm
- Wed - LIJ Kids 3:30 - 5:00 pm  
Young Adult Bible Study 5:00-6:00 pm  
Handbell Choir Practice 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- Fri - Youth Fun Fridays 5:00-7:00 pm



**Upcoming Events:**

- Sunday, April 19 - Red Bird Mission Team Meeting after the service/ Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, April 21 - Joyful Noon Circle 12:00pm /Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, April 22 - LIJ Kids Earth Day Mission 3:30pm  
Mission Meal for Red Bird 5:30pm
- Thursday, April 23 - Book Club Meeting 2:00pm Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, April 25 - Native American Gathering @ Pine Log UMC 11:00 - 2:00
- Wednesday, April 29 - Mission Meal @ 5:30pm Fellowship Hall

**Who's Who in Ellijay First United Methodist?**  
Leah Easley, Director of Children's Ministries, is the newest staff member at Ellijay First UMC. Leah has taken one of Marianne Evans's hats and is now sporting it nicely. She is the one who coordinates activities for children from age 4-ish through 5th grade. She plans children's church lessons each Sunday, Wednesday LIJkids missions and activities, service missions for our children, VBS, and other seasonal activities. We are happy to have Leah on board and look forward to all she has in store for our children's programs.



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

Jennetta Lowery...Administrative Assistant ....[office@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:office@ellijayfirstumc.org)  
Marianne Evans ....Preschool Director....[children@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:children@ellijayfirstumc.org)  
Leah Easley .....Children's Ministries...[LIJkids@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:LIJkids@ellijayfirstumc.org)  
Joseph Lowery.....Youth Ministries.....[youth@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:youth@ellijayfirstumc.org)  
Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist  
Sarah Thorne .....Director of Music...[music@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:music@ellijayfirstumc.org)  
Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician...[media@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto:media@ellijayfirstumc.org)  
Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator  
Finance... ....Giving statements/Accounts.....[finance@ellijayfirstumc.org](mailto: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, April 19, 2026  
10:00 am Worship Service  
3rd Sunday of Easter

# Sunday Worship Service

April 19, 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter

## The Chiming of the Hour

**The Prelude:** by John F. Wilson  
“I Will Sing of My Redeemer”

**Welcome, Announcements and Invocation**  
by the Reverend Dr. Michael Shearon

**Call to Worship** by Paul Baloche  
“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

† **The Greeting** Liturgist & **Congregation**

Even if we feel abandoned and alone,  
**Christ meets us here.**

Even when we become lost and disoriented,  
**Christ rescues us in our need.**

Even when our hearts are touched by the frost,  
**Christ warms our spirits.**

Even when all light has faded to black,  
**Christ illumines our Way.**

Here in this house of worship enter, rejoice, and come home.

† **The Hymn of Praise** TFWS 2223  
“They’ll Know We are Christians”

† **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 402  
“Lord, I Want to be a Christian”

**The Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**The Offertory Music** arr by Mark Hayes  
“Just As I Am/Gymnopedie”

†**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**

**The Choir Anthem** arr. by Roy Ringwald  
“Because He Lives”

†**The Scripture Reading** **Galatians 5:22 - 6:4**

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. <sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

**6** Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. <sup>2</sup> Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. <sup>4</sup> Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else.

**James 5:8 - 9, & 19 - 20**

<sup>8</sup> You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Don’t grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door! <sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, if

someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, <sup>20</sup> you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

**The Sermon** Rev. Dr. Shearon  
“Winning Back the Wanderers”

**The Closing Hymn** UMH 133  
“Leaning On The Everlasting Arms”

*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  
“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

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

† - Please, 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.