



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 peek** meetings, one **TODAY** after the service, & one on Wednesday, May 6 at 5:00pm. Please make plans to attend one of the two meetings for a sneak peek at our VBS program **Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God** and find out how you can help.



ZUMBA Resumes

Ms. Terri Healey is back and ready to Zumba! Beginning May 4 @ 4:30pm at the **Scout Hut**, Terri and her class will meet each **Monday & Thursday** throughout the summer and fall months. Join them for fun exercise each week.

Ellijay 1st UMC Red Bird Mission T-Shirts for Sale! We have extra t-shirts like what our Red Bird Team is wearing this week. Get yours in the church office before they are gone. \$20 each to benefit Red Bird.



The Red Bird Mission dinner was a tremendous success! Thank you to all who came, donated and volunteered. Over \$1,600 was raised.



Children's Church Volunteer Schedule:

- 4/26 - **Help needed**
- 5/03 - Linda Dickerson
- 5/10 - **Help needed**
- 5/17 - Marcia Bassett
- 5/24 & 5/31 - **Help Needed**



Church Lock-up Schedule:



- 4/26 - 5/02 Hank Chapman
- 5/03 - 5/09 Charlie Cobb
- 5/10 - 5/16 Barry Griffin
- 5/17 - 5/23 Bill Munson



- 4/27 - Suzy Ganz
- 4/30 - Shay Lykins



Thank You!

The GRASP Mission team would like to thank everyone for their help and support with the Community Meal. We couldn't have done it without you.



The kitchen crew of the church is hosting Wednesday night supper this week on April 29 at 5:30pm. The yummy bites will be fried chicken, sides, and desserts. While you're enjoying dinner, we'll have a friendly Bingo competition with prizes. Come hungry and ready to compete!

J.D.'s Gospel Jam

Our own J.D. Pearce is planning a Gospel Jam session on Sunday, May 17. For more information, or to participate, please contact J.D. @ (704) 578-8222.



Ushers Needed

Male or Female, if you would be willing to serve as an usher during our worship service, please sign up on the Attendance Registration insert in your bulletin, or call the church office @ 706-635-2555

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.

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....

The 2026 Spring Red Bird Mission Team Members; Pastor Mike Shearon, JoAnn Davis, Heather Lowery, Joseph Lowery, Barbara Nickle, Donald Nickle, David Patton, Kimberly Webber, & Lloyd Vautrot

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...The Blessing of the Animals in the United Methodist Church is a service celebrating God's creation and humanity's role as stewards of animals. Often held around St. Francis of Assisi's feast day or during the Easter season, it emphasizes love, care, and gratitude for pets, strengthening community outreach. It highlights interdependence with creatures, affirming their place in God's good creation. Pastor Mike had the honor of blessing the animals during the Friends of Gilmer Animal Shelter event last weekend here in Ellijay.



Our Weekly Schedule:

Every Sunday
- Helping Hands Sun. School 8:45am
Worship Service 10:00am
Altars Study Group 11:00am
Singles/Mingles 1:00 - 3:00pm

Every Wednesday
-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



Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, April 26 - Friday, May 1
Red Bird Mission Team in Beverly, Kentucky
VBS Sneak Peak Meeting Fellowship Hall 11:15am
- Wednesday, April 29 - Kitchen Crew Mission Meal @ 5:30pm Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, May 2 - CLC's Run for the Sun 5K Scout Hut @ 6:00am
- Sunday, May 3 - Communion Sunday
- Wednesday, May 6 - VBS Sneak Peak Meeting Fellowship Hall @ 5pm
- Thursday, May 7 - UMMen Workday @ 3pm
- Saturday, May 9 - FOGAS drive thru Vaccines for pets Church Parking Lot 9am - 1pm

Who's Who in Ellijay First United Methodist?

Joseph Lowery is the Director of Youth Ministries for our church. He plans, organizes, and directs programs that involve our youth, 6th - 12th grades. He is continually exploring ideas and ways to engage the youth of our church and community to become better disciples for Christ. Joseph also happens to be a product of EFUMC's youth program, having grown up in this church. Thank you, Joseph, for all that you do!



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
Marianne EvansPreschool Director....children@ellijayfirstumc.org
Leah EasleyChildren's Ministries...LIJkids@ellijayfirstumc.org
Joseph Lowery.....Youth Ministries.....youth@ellijayfirstumc.org
Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist
Sarah ThorneDirector of Music...music@ellijayfirstumc.org
Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician...media@ellijayfirstumc.org
Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator
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, April 26, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
Sunday of Easter

Sunday Worship Service

April 26, 2026

4th Sunday of Easter

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: arr by Jay Rouse
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation

Call to Worship by Paul Beloche
"Open The Eyes of My Heart"

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

Do you need a guide?
The Lord is our shepherd.
Do you need a path to new life?
The Lord is our gate.
Do you need rest?
The Lord restores our souls.
Come, let us worship.

† **The Hymn of Praise** UMH 138
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

† **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

The Lord's Prayer UMH 895

†**The Hymn of Preparation** UMH 396
"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Joel Raney
"Tis So Sweet to Trust In 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

The Choir Anthem arr by Mark Weston
"Walk With Me, Lord"

†**The Scripture Reading** **Romans 12:9-16**

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Wallace Wheelles
"Expected Behavior in the Family of God"

The Closing Hymn UMH 174
"His Name is Wonderful"

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

†**The Pastoral Benediction**

†**The Postlude** arr by Mark Hayes
"They'll Know We Are Christians"

*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.