


Happy Birthday


5/17 - Stacey Davis
 5/17 - Steve Hearn
 5/19 - Anne Rainey
 5/21 - John Marshall
 5/21 - Marylyn Vail
 5/22 - Ken McKeon



Ellijay 1st UMC
 Red Bird Mission
 T-Shirts for Sale!
 \$20 each to benefit
 the Red Bird Mission.



Today's Altar Flowers are provided by Tim Pierce in Memory & in Honor of his parents George & Jean Pierce



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.

Garden Boxes Available
 If you would like to stake claim on one of the garden boxes that are in the yard of the Student Center, please help yourself. Some have already been claimed, but some are still available. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Children's Church Volunteer Schedule:


5/17 - Marcia Bassett
 5/24 - **Help Needed**
 5/31 - **Help Needed**



Contact our Children's Director, Leah Easley, if you would like to help.

Church Lock-up Schedule:

5/17 - 5/23 Bill Munson
 5/24 - 5/30 Hank Chapman
 5/31 - 6/06 Joe Poole
 6/07 - 6/13 Charlie Cobb



J.D.'s Gospel Jam
Tonight J.D. Pearce is hosting a Gospel Jam session beginning at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. There will be plenty of Spirit-filled music and praise! Come join us!




VBS will be here soon!
 Pre-registration is now under way for children to attend this summer. VBS will be June 15 - 19 from 9:00am - 12:00 noon and is open to all children ages 4 years - rising 6th graders. We kindly request a \$10 donation to help cover the cost of student materials. Pre-registration forms are in the church office. Please fill out the insert in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate if you would like to help with Vacation Bible School this year. All help is appreciated and vital to a successful VBS.




Calling All Youth & Those Who Would Like to Help with Youth

Please join us on Sundays and Wednesdays. We will share food, fun, & faith. Come and find out how to help our community while growing your faith and continuing your walk with Christ. On Sundays, we will meet from 11am-1pm, and lunch will be provided. On Wednesdays we will meet from 3:30-5pm and there will be snacks available. For more information, please see or contact Joseph Lowery at youth@ellijayfirstumc.org or call 706-669-0172.



KENYA PROJECT

On May 26, the Kenya Project Team will be going back to Nakuru, Kenya. For more information, please contact Rachel Tarr at 770-316-4934 or at rachel.tarr@yahoo.com



Special Calendar Note:
 Our parking lot is getting a face lift this week! Please keep this in mind as you come to and from the church. It should be ready in time for next Sunday's service.



Standin' In the Need of Prayer

Everyone is in need of prayer. Sometimes some need an extra dose. When you pray this week, remember

G.R.A.S.P. & Vacation Bible School
 Pray that our need for volunteers is met for both of these ministries.

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

Did you know...today is when we observe Ascension Sunday.
 Ascension Sunday commemorates Jesus' ascension into heaven 40 days after Easter, typically observed in many U.S. dioceses on the following Sunday instead of the traditional Thursday. It celebrates Jesus taking his seat at the right hand of the Father, marking the end of his earthly ministry and the start of his reign. While it is often overlooked, it is a key element in the completion of the Gospel story.

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, May 17 - J.D.'s Gospel Jam @ 5pm
 Sanctuary

Week of May 18 - Parking Lot Paving
 Sunday, May 24 - Pentecost Sunday (Wear RED)
 Tuesday, May 26 - Faith, Hope, & Charity Grant Reception in the Fellowship Hall 1-3pm
 June 3 - 6 - Gilmer Relief & Service Project
 June 15 - 19 - Vacation Bible School
 Rainforest Falls: Exploring God's Nature

The Joyful Noon Circle will not meet during June, July, & August.
 The Book Club will not meet again until September.

Who's Who in Ellijay First United Methodist?
 Did you hear that? It was probably because of Zack Kepley, our sound technician here at Ellijay First UMC. Zack has served as the church's sound tech guy since 2016. He is an EAGLE SCOUT out of Venture Crew 402. Zack spent ten summers working at Camp Rainey Mountain, a scout camp located near Clayton, GA. For four of those years, he served as the Shooting Sports Director. He currently works at High Mountain Bread, one of our local bakeries, in addition to keeping us sounding great each week. We appreciate you, Zack!



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
 Marianne Evans....Preschool Director.....children@ellijayfirstumc.org
 Leah Easley.....Children's Director...LIJKids@ellijayfirstumc.org
 Joseph Lowery..... Youth Director.....youth@ellijayfirstumc.org
 Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist
 Sarah Thorne.....Director 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
 Ellijay, GA 30540
 706-635-2555
 office@ellijayfirstumc.org



Sunday, May 17, 2026
 10:00 am Worship Service
 Ascension Sunday

Sunday Worship Service

May 17, 2026

Ascension Sunday

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: arr by Lloyd Larson
“How Firm a Foundation”

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation
The Reverend Dr. Michael Shearon

† **Call To Worship** by Carlton R. Young
“This is a Day of New Beginnings”

† **The Greeting** Liturgist & Congregation
Look to the heavens, people of God.
See the power of the Most High God.
Christ ascends to heaven in glory.
Shout to God with cries of joy.
Clap your hand, children of Love incarnate.
Sing praises to God, our king.

† **The Hymn of Praise** UMH 154
“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”

† **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 189
“Fairest Lord Jesus”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Charity Book Putnam
“Blessed Assurance”

† **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 Natalie Sleeth
“The Time for Singing Has Come”

† **The Scripture Reading** **Acts 1:1-11**

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Shearon
“Ascension Sunday”

† **The Closing Hymn** UMH 157
“Jesus Shall Reign”

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

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

† **The Postlude** arr by G. F. Handel
“Hornpipe”
(Finale) from Water Music

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.