



LIJKids will resume weekly classes on August 12. Leah is leading an 8 week study titled “Campfire Stories”. They meet each Wednesday after school from 3:30-5:00 pm. All children 1st through 5th grade are welcome. For more information, see Leah Easley, Director of Children’s Ministries.



Our Sanctuary will be open on August 3 (the first day for students) at 7:00am for anyone who would like to use it for prayer for the school year.

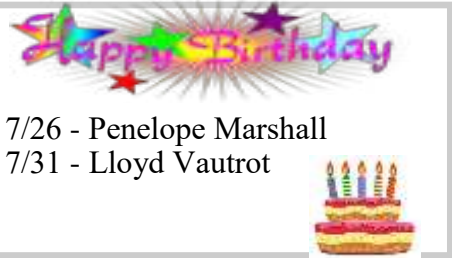


Red Bird Fall Mission Trip
If you would like to join us on our Fall mission trip to the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY, scheduled for Sept 20-25, please sign up by September 2. The cost is \$515 per person, which covers your meals and lodging for the week. Please contact Karen Woodlief at (770) 891-1088 or the church office to add your name to the list.

Don’t forget to sign up for the Wednesday night **Mission Meal** on **August 12** at **5:30pm**. Proceeds will benefit the Sept. trip to Red Bird. The menu will be: Pulled Pork sandwiches, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, and dessert. Sign up on the Attendance Registration in your bulletin or contact the church office at 706-635-2555.

Church Lock-up Schedule:

7/26 - 8/01 Hank Chapman
8/02 - 8/08 Charlie Cobb
8/09 - 8/15 Barry Griffin
8/16 - 8/22 Bill Munson



Blessing of the Backpacks
Students, Teachers, Administrators, and School Support Staff, be sure and bring your backpack on **August 9** for our annual blessing of the backpacks for the school year.



Our Weekly Schedule:

- Every Sunday**
- Helping Hands Sun School 8:45am
Worship Service 10:00am
Singles/Mingles 1:00-3:00pm
- Every Wednesday**
-Young Adult Bible Study 5:00-6:00 pm
- Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 - 8:00 pm



Fall Native American Gathering

Ellijay First United Methodist will host The North Georgia Committee on Native American Ministries gathering on Saturday, September 12 from 10:30 - 1:30. If you would like to help prepare the meal to be served, please see the insert in this week’s bulletin. You can also register for the event on the insert.

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.



Ellijay First UMC “We are on a MISSION” tee-shirts are available in the church office today! Get yours for only \$10. Adult sizes to 3XL. Children’s sizes are also available.



Standin’ In the Need of Prayer
Everyone is in need of prayer. Sometimes some need an extra dose. When you pray this week, remember
Benjamin Tucker, Clyde White, Loretta Mattaliano, and the Family of Pastor Clinton Greene
God knows the need.
*Prayer Request forms are in the pew racks.
Please fill free to complete and drop in the offering plate if you have a request.*

A Heartfelt Thank You from Red Bird Mission

Today, we are writing you not just to say thank you, but to share the profound difference your kindness is making here at Red Bird Mission. Your gift is an answer to prayer and a beacon of hope for the families we serve. Whether you raised your hand to volunteer, dropped off essential supplies, or made a financial contribution this season - your generosity has moved our mission forward. Every single gift, in every form it arrived, has directly impacted the lives of those we serve. In these beautiful hills, we are often blessed with the sight of a red cardinal. To us, the cardinal is a sweet reminder of God’s constant care, a flash of hope against the deep green of the forest, and a symbol of the vital spirit of our community. Just like that faithful red bird, your generosity brings warmth, joy, and a reminder that no one forgotten. You are a living testament to the beauty of a servant’s heart. We are reminded of the truth found in Galatians 6:9 “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Because you have not grown weary in doing good, families are finding relief, students are looking toward bright futures, and our community is feeling the tangible embrace of Christ’s love. Your generosity is the wind beneath our wings, allowing us to keep soaring and meeting needs where they are greatest.

Who’s Who in Ellijay First United Methodist?

Staying with the Finance Committee members, this week we introduce Judy Wray. Judy serves as our church Treasurer. She joined Ellijay First UMC in 2024 and immediately started volunteering in the church office. Once her skills were discovered, we nabbed her to serve on the Finance Committee, as she has an extensive background in business administration and finance. Judy was born and grew up in Quincy, Florida. She and her husband, Chuck, recently celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild who all live in Florida. They have also graciously taken on the task of keeping the flower boxes in the Columbarium fresh with seasonal plants. Judy is a true asset to Ellijay First UMC and we love having her here!



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 Director...LIJKids@ellijayfirstumc.org
Joseph Lowery..... Youth Director.....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
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-635-2555
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Sunday, July 26 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
9th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Worship Service
July 26, 2026
9th Sunday After Pentecost

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: arr by Lloyd Larson
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Welcome, Announcements, Invocation
The Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon

† The Greeting Liturgist & Congregation
Give thanks to God, for God is good.
God’s goodness and mercy are sure.
Sing to the Spirit, for the Spirit is here.
The Spirit knows the ache for connection deep within us.
Praise Christ Jesus, who loves us with a love that is boundless and true.
Give thanks to God, and sing God’s praises, as we worship together this day.

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 337
“Only Trust Him”

† 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 Leah Easley

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer Rev. Dr. Shearon

The Lord’s Prayer UMH 895

†The Hymn of Preparation UMH 496
“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music by Giovanni Gastoldi
“In Thee Is Gladness”

†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

Special Music Frank & Peggy Richardson
“I’ll Never Fully Know” by Joe E. Parks

† The Scripture Reading Hebrews 11:1
Ephesians 3:20
Romans 8:24-25

The Sermon
“What Does Christian Hope Look Like?”

†The Closing Hymn UMH 467
“Trust and Obey”

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

†The Pastoral Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude arr by Jane Holstein
“The Power of Your Love”

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

†-Please stand, as you are able.

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal

Hebrews 11:1

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us

Romans 8:24-26

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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.