

Ellijay First UMC Merchandise
Ellijay First UMC MISSION
tee-shirts ARE HERE! They are
\$10 each. Come by the
church office to get
yours! Children's sizes
are available.



Thank you for the tremendous response to help! We only have a few slots to fill for the remaining time of the summer meal program. If you would like to volunteer to help, we need **2 people on July 9**, and **one person on July 16 & 23**. All of these slots are at Clear Creek Elementary School on Yukon Road. The distribution time is from 4:00 - 5:30 pm each day. Please contact the church office to sign up. 706-635-2555

**We don't pray to inform God,
we pray to involve God.
He already knows what's going
on in your life.
He is waiting for you to ask Him
for help.**

From the Finance Committee

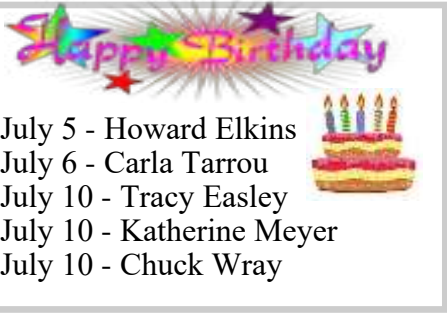
Second quarter giving statements have been e-mailed. If you did not receive yours, please contact us at finance@ellijayfirstumc.org or the church office to check your email or to request a paper copy.

The Finance Committee would like to remind everyone to use a contribution envelope from the pew when donating cash. Cash folded into your attendance form is often separated when we transfer the collection from the offering plates. Please know that all cash not in envelopes will be counted as loose cash going forward.

**Church Lock-up
Schedule:**



7/05 - 7/11 Charlie Cobb
7/12 - 7/18 Barry Griffin
7/19 - 7/25 Bill Munson
7/26 - 8/01 Hank Chapman



July 5 - Howard Elkins
July 6 - Carla Tarrou
July 10 - Tracy Easley
July 10 - Katherine Meyer
July 10 - Chuck Wray

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.



12 Fun Facts about the Fourth of July

1. We didn't actually declare independence on July 4, 1776.
2. Americans will enjoy 150 million hot dogs during the 4th.
3. Only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
4. There is something written on the back of the Declaration of Independence.
5. The average age of the signers was 45 years old.
6. The Declaration of Independence was written on a laptop.
7. Americans spend more than \$1 billion on fireworks each year.
8. Fireworks date back to 1777 for the 1st anniversary of Independence Day.
9. The U.S. Census estimates that there were only 2.5 million living in the U.S. in 1776.
10. Wearing "Old Glory" violates the U.S. Flag Code.
11. Thomas Jefferson & John Adams both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
12. July 4 was not deemed a federal holiday until 1870.

Check these facts out for yourself!
Especially about Thomas Jefferson using a laptop.

Standin' In the Need of Prayer

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

Karen Woodlief in the loss of her father.

*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... The most devout Christian signer of the Declaration of Independence was John Witherspoon, a Scottish-American Presbyterian minister, educator, and Founding Father. He was an active clergyman and the only college president among the 56 signers. Witherspoon believed that resistance to tyranny was obedience to God. His theological grounding influenced his political stance, aligning him with the Patriot cause. Witherspoon's role as a Christian leader and educator made him one of the most devout Christian figures among all of the delegates to the Continental Congress. He was from New Jersey and served as president of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, from 1768 - 1794. . Witherspoon's teachings helped shape the intellectual and moral character of our early leaders.

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
-Young Adult Bible Study 5:00-6:00 pm

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, July 5 - Communion Sunday
Monday, July 6 - Team Tabitha Sewing Ministry
Monday, July 13 - Church Council Meeting
6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
Week of July 13 - 17 Pastor Mike at
Pastor's Conference
Monday, July 20 - Team Tabitha Sewing Ministry

Who's Who in Ellijay First United Methodist? This week we would like you to get to know Marsha Lemon. Marsha is the chairperson of our Care Core. She oversees the ministries of the church that includes sending get well or sympathy cards to those requesting prayer, and roles that involve caring for our church family, as well as organizing our Prayer Team. Marsha was born in Germany into a military family. Her father served in the Army and met and married her mother who was from Innsbruck, Austria. She spent most of her life in Colorado Springs, where she raised two daughters, who blessed her with 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Marsha worked as an X-ray technician for 33 years, most of which was in practice with a pain management doctor. In December of 2019, Marsha decided to move to Ellijay after a quick visit to see what would become her property along the river. Marsha and her cat, Lulu, love being in Ellijay and we love having her as part of our church family!



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...LJkids@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
office@ellijayfirstumc.org



Sunday, July 5, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
6th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Worship Service
July 5, 2026
6th Sunday After Pentecost

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: arr by Mary McDonald
“Jesus Loves Me”

Welcome, Announcements, Invocation
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon

† The Greeting Liturgist & Congregation

We gather this morning appreciating our freedom to worship God.
May God’s grace and peace continue to guide and sustain this congregation and all of God’s people.
We draw near to the God who rules over all nations.
May God continue to bless our country and all the countries in the world.
We seek to live in harmony and peace together with all peoples on the earth.
May God continue to establish peace on earth and help us understand that it begins in our hearts.
Come, let us worship the Lord!

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 577
“God of Grace and God of Glory”

† 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 117
“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by John Carter
“Lord, I Want To Be a Christian”

†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 Men’s Ensemble
“Just a Little Talk With Jesus”

† The Scripture Reading John 8:31-36

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon
“Red, White, Blue, & You”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

†The Closing Hymn UMH 696
“America the Beautiful”

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

†The Pastoral Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude by Mark Hayes
“Be Thou My Vision”

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

† - Please, stand as you are able UMH - United Methodist Hymnal TFWS - The Faith We Sing

John 8:31-36

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

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.