



LIJ Kids meet weekly on **Wednesday** after school from **3:30-5:00 pm**. All children 1st through 5th grade are welcome. Leah is planning a camp out to celebrate the end of this series they have been studying on Friday, October 23 behind the Scout Hut. Look for more information and an invitation to the congregation to join in the fun.



Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat is on Oct 28 in the church parking lot. If you would like to enter a car trunk, truck bed, or SUV hatch, please complete the form found in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate or turn in at the church office. We hope to have around 30 trunks for the kiddos to visit this year. If you have questions, please see Leah Easley, our Children's Ministry Director.



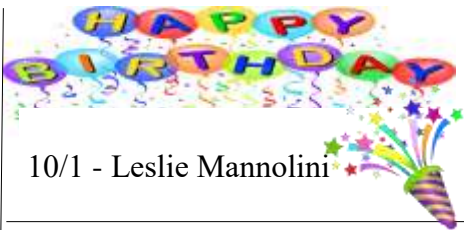
Historical Scrapbook

If you have pictures to share for the church history scrapbook, please contact Carla Tarrou. You can contact the church office for more information or drop pictures off during office hours. Carla is in the church office every Thursday afternoon from noon until 4:00pm.



Church Lock-up Schedule:

9/27 - 10/03 Hank Chapman
10/04 - 10/10 Charlie Cobb
10/11 - 10/17 Barry Griffin
10/18 - 10/24 Bill Munson



10/1 - Leslie Mannolini

Wednesday Night Dinners

The **dinner** that was schedule for **Wed, September 30 has been postponed** to a later date yet to be determined. We do have several Wednesday dinners scheduled for October. The Choir will sponsor a dinner on 10/14. On 10/21 LIJ Kids will have a dinner and skit. Trunk or Treat will be on 10/28 with hot dogs available. We hope all will plan to attend.

Our Church Family Album Will not be complete Without YOU!

You may now select an appointment time to have your family's portrait taken for our new pictorial directory. If you would like to schedule online, go to www.ucdir.com You will use the Church Code: **ga259** The online family password is **ga259member** This will be available daily, excluding weekends. The online scheduling will not be accessible during the weekend so that we can do in person scheduling before and after church services. You will find a sign up table located in the Fellowship Hall before and after Sunday Services today and each Sunday until October 18. Please share this information with church members/attenders who you do not see in the congregation so they do not miss their chance to be in our new directory. Please contact the church office if you need additional help or with any questions or concerns about this process.

The Youth Chess Club meets every **Thursday from 3:30-5:30 pm** at the **Student Center**. If you are interested in attending or would like to volunteer to help, contact Joseph Lowery, Youth Ministry Director, at 706-669-0172.



Standin' In the Need of Prayer

Everyone is in need of prayer. Sometimes some need an extra dose. When you pray this week, remember Warren Williams's niece, Jennifer Lean, who lost her husband, Garrison Hamm, Anderson Hamm, & numerous unspoken prayer requests God knows each need & desire.

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

Our Regular Schedule:

Sunday

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

Monday

Team Tabitha Sewing Ministry 9:00am
Zumba - 4:30pm Scout Hut

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study - 11:00am Room 11
Chair Yoga 11:30am - Scout Hut
United Women of Faith - 12:00 noon
Fellowship Hall (3rd Tuesday)
NOG Bible Study 4:00pm (1st & 3rd Tuesday) Room 11

Wednesday

LIJ Kids 3:30-5:00 pm
Young Adult Bible Study 5:00-6:00 pm
Handbell Practice Resumes 5:30-6:30 pm
Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Thursday

Chair Yoga 11:30am - Scout Hut
Book Club 2:00pm (4th Thursday)
Youth Chess Club 3:30-5:30
Student Center
Methodist Men 4:30pm (1st Thursday)
Fellowship Hall



Yearly Charge Conference

The Charge Conference for electing officers for 2027 is set for **next Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 5:30 pm** in the Sanctuary. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, will be officiating. We hope you will be in prayer for God's direction and make plans to attend.



We will have Pastor Appreciation Sunday on Oct. 11 and encourage you to show appreciation & express your gratitude for Pastor Mike's spiritual leadership & guidance with a card, a special prayer, or in your own unique way.

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, September 27, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
18th Sunday After Pentecost**

Sunday Worship Service
September 27, 2026
18th Sunday After Pentecost

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: arr by Lloyd Larson
“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Welcome, Announcements, Invocation Warren Williams

Passing of the Peace Congregation

The Call to Worship by Jackson Henry
“What A Mighty God We Serve”

† The Greeting Liturgist & Congregation
Moses listened to the guidance of the Lord rather than quarreling of the people.
We will set aside our grumbling and quarrels, that we may hear the voice of God more clearly.
The poetry of the psalmist invites us to “give ear” to Divine teaching.
We will incline our ears, and listen for ways to share the presence of God.
The letter to the Philippians encourages them and us to have the same mind as Christ, and to empty ourselves, that we might be filled.
We will humble ourselves as Christ was humble, opening our very lives to the ongoing call of God.

† The Hymns of Praise UMH 731
“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

† 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.

Red Bird Team Testimonies

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer Rev. Dr. Wallace Wheelles

The Lord’s Prayer UMH 895

†The Hymns of Preparation UMH 405
“Seek Ye First”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Mary McDonald
“Jesus Loves Me”

†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 arr by Jack Schrader
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

† The Scripture Reading Matthew 18:21-35

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Wallace Wheelles
“A Disease Worth Catching”

†The Closing Hymns UMH 438
“Forth In Thy Name, O Lord”

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

†Benediction Rev. Dr. Wheelles

†The Postlude arr by John Carter
“Fantasy on Holy Mana”

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

†-Please stand, as you are able. UMH - [United Methodist Hymnal](#)

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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.