



LIJ Kids will have a camp out to celebrate the end of the Campfire Stories series they have been studying. The festivities begin at **6:00pm on Friday, October 23** taking place **behind the Scout Hut**. All are invited to attend. JD Pearce will be playing music, with everyone singing, sharing a meal, and seeing what the LIJ Kids have been studying each week. You can even camp out all night with them if you brave enough. Call the church office at 706-635-2555 & sign up to join in the fun!



Operation Christmas Child
The shoe boxes are in and ready to be filled. You can pick yours up in the back hallway. You can also use your own box that is the size of a shoebox. All boxes are **due** back on **Sunday, November 15**. See Pam Chapman for details.



Smart Drivers' Course For Seniors

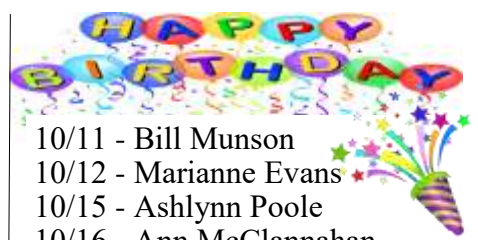
The Singles/Mingles group is sponsoring an AARP Smart Driver course at Ellijay First UMC on Saturday, October 24. The class is from 8:30am-3:30pm. If you are an AARP member, the course is \$20 (\$25 for non-members). You can register with the instructor, Kelly Cherry, by calling 423-243-8146. Bring your lunch, your valid AARP card, and your driver's license. You may qualify for a discount on your automobile insurance after completing the course. See Ann McClannahan if you have questions.

Mountain Top Boys' Home
Saturday, October 24 will be the annual BBQ @ the Mountain Top Boy's Home located at 65 Mountain Top Way in Sugar Valley, GA. The event is from 11:00am-1:00pm. The residents of the Boys' Home will be giving tours of the campus. They are also offering a chance for two round trip Southwest Airline tickets to one lucky winner. You can purchase your chance online if you can't attend the BBQ. Check out their website at mountaintophomes.org



Church Lock-up Schedule:

10/11 - 10/17 Barry Griffin
10/18 - 10/24 Bill Munson
10/25 - 10/31 Hank Chapman
11/01 - 11/07 Charlie Cobb



10/11 - Bill Munson
10/12 - Marianne Evans
10/15 - Ashlynn Poole
10/16 - Ann McClannahan

Wednesday Night Dinner
The Choir will host dinner **this Wednesday, October 14th** at **5:30pm**. The menu is Pasta, Bread, Salad, & dessert. Sign up on the attendance slip found in your bulletin or in the church office by Monday 10/12.

Interested?
Pastor Mike would like to offer a class in **Methodism 101**. Call the church office if you have interest in attending this class.



Children First Preschool Fundraiser Honey Baked Gift Cards

Our Preschool is participating in Honey Baked Ham's Gift Card Fundraiser! For every gift card bought on line or in the church office the preschool gets 20% of the cost of the card. See Marianne or Jennetta to purchase by cash or check, or go to the link below to place your order. This is great for gift giving or you can purchase a card before you order your holiday ham or turkey to help out our preschool!

Honeybaked.com/fundraising/Children_First
then click on "Start Supporting"

Schedule your Photo Now!
You can sign up for your picture for the new directory in the Fellowship Hall before and after Sunday Services today and next week. 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**

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

Jerry Boyne, Frank Richardson, and many unspoken requests for prayer.

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 (1st and 3rd Monday)
Zumba - 4:30pm Scout Hut

Tuesday
Ladies Bible Study - 11:00am Room 11
Chair Yoga 11:30am - Scout Hut
Women in 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 pm Student Center
Methodist Men 4:30pm (1st Thursday) Fellowship Hall
Zumba - 4:30pm Scout Hut

Who's Who in Ellijay First UMC...Let's get to know Pastor Mike a little bit more this week. Pastor Mike, a third-generation silversmith, worked for his family's business, Buckhead Plating, before answering the call to preach. He also worked as a radio operator and news director at 96-Rock when he was 16 years old. When he heard God's call to go into ministry, he began his Theology studies at Emory obtaining a Master's of Divinity degree. He was then appointed to two churches in Elberton. While there, he began his doctoral studies at Erskine Theological Seminary. He was then appointed to Tunnel Hill UMC where he helped lead 30 people to Christ, earning the Denman Award for the Northwest District of the UMC, the highest honor given to a pastor. From Tunnel Hill he went to the Augusta district for a period of time until returning to North Georgia in the Kennesaw area. He became pastor of Ellijay First UMC in 2024. "While there are things that I would have done differently at all of my appointments, I believe that God has used my willingness to go where I was sent to bless each church. God continues to refine me as silver, removing the dross to advance the Kingdom of God in new ways that I could never imagine. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Ellijay First UMC and share new experiences like the Red Bird Mission with such a loving, caring congregation." We love Pastor Mike, and pray for God's continued blessings in his life.

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, October 11, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
20th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Worship Service
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The Prelude: “Gather Us In” arr by Mark Hayes

Welcome, Announcements, Invocation Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon

Passing of the Peace Congregation

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship by Geron Davis
“Holy Ground”

† The Greeting Liturgist & Congregation
Rejoice in God always!
Rejoice in God’s steadfast love.
Rejoice in Christ’s enduring grace.
Rejoice in God’s saving Word.
Rejoice in the Spirit’s gentle guidance.
Rejoice in God’s healing presence.
Again, I say, rejoice!

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 327
“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

† 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 175
“Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Mark Hayes
“Great is Thy Faithfulness with Bach’s Prelude in C”

†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 Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.
“Cornerstone”

† The Scripture Reading Mark 12:1-12

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon
“This Is About Us!”

†The Closing Hymn TFWS 2173
“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

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

†Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude arr by John Purifoy
“Wade In the Water”

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 Songbook

Mark 12:1-12

12 Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. 2 At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. 3 But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 4 Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. 5 He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed. 6 “He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 7 “But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ 8 So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. 9 “What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture:

“‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; 11 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’”

12 Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

Pastor Mike’s Sermon Focus:

After the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders came to challenge the authority of Jesus, Jesus proceeds to tell them a story...a story that was allegorical, that they would be able to understand. His purpose was not to cloud the issue, but to clarify the issue. So Pastor Mike would like for us to look at the PARABLE, consider then the PUNCH LINES, and then make note of the POSTSCRIPT.

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.