

*The Altar Flowers
are in loving memory of
Margie Merritt
10/ 13/ 1935 - 9/ 15/ 2026
by her sister, Mary Jo Lowery*

Thank You, Church!
The Choir would like to thank everyone who came out for the Wednesday night dinner! It was a great time with food and fellowship. We raised almost \$500 that will help cover the cost of our musicians for our Christmas Cantata that will be held on Sunday, December 6.

Operation Christmas Child
More boxes are on the way, HOWEVER, you can 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.

AARP Smart Drivers' Course For Seniors
The Singles/Mingles group is sponsoring an AARP Smart Driver course at Ellijay First UMC this 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:
10/18 - 10/24 Bill Munson
10/25 - 10/31 Hank Chapman
11/01 - 11/07 Charlie Cobb
11/08 - 11/14 Barry Griffin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
10/21 - Gordon Eanes
10/22 - Robert Bassett

Quarterly Contributions
The Finance Committee has emailed quarterly contribution statements. If you have not received yours, please contact the finance office of the church.

Pastor Mike will begin a class on Sunday, the 25th of October at 8:45am using the book, *The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way*. The class will take a closer look at John Wesley's life, his core theological message, and the legacy of his leadership on the people of the Methodist denomination. There is room for more if you are interested. Call the Church with any questions.

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!
Today is the last day to sign up in person for your picture in our new directory. You can still schedule online by going to ucdir.com You will use the Church Code: **ga259** The online family password is **ga259member** Pictures will be taken on October 30th & 31st at the church. Only 15 time slots remain.

Standin' In the Need of Prayer
Everyone is in need of prayer. Sometimes some need an extra dose.
When you pray this week, remember
Hayes Stewart-the 2 year-old grandson of Barry & Anjannett Griffin,
Frank Richardson, and many unspoken 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
(1st and 3rd Monday)
Zumba - 4:30pm Scout Hut

Wednesday
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

LIJ Kids Campfire Stories
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 THIS 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!

Trunk or Treat
We need **15 more trunks** for our Trunk or Treat on **10/28**. Please sign up on the insert in the bulletin and place in the offering plate if you can help. See Leah with questions.

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
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*For I
know
the plans
I have
for you*
JEREMIAH 29:11

Sunday, October 18, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
21st Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Worship Service
October 18, 2026
21st Sunday after Pentecost

The Prelude: arr by Lloyd Larson
“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Welcome, Announcements, Invocation
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon

Passing of the Peace Congregation

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship by Michael W. Smith
“How Majestic is Your Name”

† The Greeting Liturgist & Congregation
May the nations quake and the peoples tremble.
God sits enthroned in the heavens, bringing justice and righteousness.
May the mountains tremble and the seas roar.
God’s glory is stronger than the foundation of the earth.
May the humble seek the living God.
God’s goodness and mercy sustain the faithful in times of trial.
Come, let us worship the Lord.

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 369
“Blessed Assurance”

† 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 415
“Take Up Thy Cross”

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Larry Shackley
“Draw Me Nearer”

†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 Heather Sorenson
“Surrender”

† The Scripture Reading **Jeremiah 43:1-7**

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon
“Kicking and Screaming All the Way to Egypt”

†The Closing Hymn TFWS 2130
“The Summons”

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

†Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude arr by John Carter
“Psalm 19”

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

Jeremiah 43:1-7

43 When Jeremiah had finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God—everything the LORD had sent him to tell them—

² Azariah son of Hoshaiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, “You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, ‘You must not go to Egypt to settle there.’

³ But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians, so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon.”

⁴ So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the LORD’s command to stay in the land of Judah.

⁵ Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away all the remnant of Judah who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered.

⁶ They also led away all those whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan—the men, the women, the children and the king’s daughters. And they took Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah along with them.

⁷ So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes.

Pastor Mike’s Sermon Focus:

Imagine a doctor giving you a clear diagnosis and a prescription that will save your life. You know the treatment will work, but it requires you to change your habits, give up certain comforts, and trust in the doctor’s expertise. Instead, you decide you know better--you ignore the advice, and the illness worsens. This is exactly what happened in today’s scripture. God’s people received His Word, through the prophet Jeremiah, a word meant to protect them and lead them to safety. But instead of obeying, they accused Jeremiah of lying, rejected God’s counsel, and chose their own path. Their decision led them away from God’s protection and into the very danger they feared most. Today Pastor Mike’s sermon will lead us through the danger of **Rejecting** God’s Word, the illusion of human **Reasoning** that there is safety outside of God’s will, and the **Results** of disobedience to God’s commands.

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.