Greeters Needed



Isn't it nice to see smiling faces as you enter the church. They say "Hello, how are you today?" while they hand you a bulletin for the service. Now imagine that YOU have a chance to be the one who lets people know how glad you are to see them in church, to offer a warm welcome, and friendly smile. That is exactly what you have, an opportunity to be the first face people see when they come to church each week. If you would like to join the team of Greeters, contact Judy Leonard at 706-273-9114 or call the church office. You can also write a note on the Attendance Registration and drop it in the offering plate.

Trunk or Treat

We need 15 more trunks for our Trunk or Treat this Wednesday, 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.

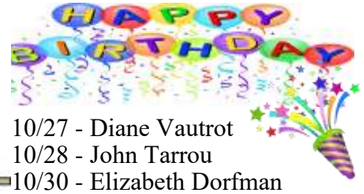
The Youth Chess Club meets every **Thursday** from **3:30-5:30 pm** at the **Student Center**. If you are interested in attending or would like to volunteer to help, contact Joseph Lowery, Youth Ministry Director, at 706-669-0172.



Church Lock-up Schedule:

10/25 - 10/31 Hank Chapman
11/01 - 11/07 Charlie Cobb
11/08 - 11/14 Barry Griffin
11/15 - 11/21 Bill





10/27 - Diane Vautrot
10/28 - John Tarrou
10/30 - Elizabeth Dorfman

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.

Pastor Mike started a class today on *The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way*. The class is taking 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. **The class will be offered again after the Advent season.** Call the Church with any questions or sign up for the next 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"

Hanging of the Greens

Advent season will be here before we know it and the Altar Guild would like your help. Plans are under way for us to decorate the church on Sunday, November 22 following the morning worship service. Pizza lunch will be provided and sign up will be coming soon. If you are interested in helping, please contact Allison Bascas at 404-368-4923.

Standin' In the Need of Prayer

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

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

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 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
Zumba - 4:30pm Scout Hut

This famous John Wesley quote broken down into a series of active, repeating commitments.

The action: Do all the good you can
The method: By all the means you can
The manner: In all the ways you can
The location: In all the places you can
The timing: At all the times you can
The recipients: To all the people you can
The duration: As long as ever you can

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	Music Director	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 25, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
Reformation Sunday

Sunday Worship Service
October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday

The Prelude: arr by Cindy Berry
"Amazing Grace"

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**
Come to us, O God.
Breathe through our worship with your Holy Spirit.
Fill us with your faithful love.
Guide us with your ancient teachings.
Come to us, O God.
Be in our prayer and praise.

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 203
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

† 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 170
"Oh How I Love Jesus"

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Cindy Berry
"My Lord, What a Morning"

†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 John Purifoy
"Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven"

† The Scripture Reading **Romans 3:20-26**

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon
"Salvation is a Gift, Not Earned by Works"

†The Closing Hymn UMH 181
"Ye Servants of God"

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

†Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude arr by Cindy Berry
"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

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

Romans 3:20-26

20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's
sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we
become conscious of our sin.
21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God
has been made known, to which the Law and the
Prophets testify.
22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ
to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and
Gentile,
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the
redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,
through the shedding of his blood—to be received by
faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness,
because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed
beforehand unpunished—
26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the
present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies
those who have faith in Jesus.

Pastor Mike's Sermon Focus:

Today's sermon will have three voices with one message.
Paul proclaims
Forgiveness as God's gracious declaration.
Martin Luther proclaims
Forgiveness as freedom from condemnation.
John Wesley proclaims
Forgiveness as the beginning of transformation.
Although they were centuries apart, together they remind us that forgiveness of sins from God is ***a gift received by faith alone***, not a reward for religious effort. Forgiveness is not just a side note in the Gospel--it *IS* the Gospel!

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.