Hanging of the Greens



Next Sunday, November 22, following the morning worship service, we will decorate the church and sanctuary for the Advent season. Pizza lunch will be provided for all who help. Please sign up on the Attendance Registration for a lunch count. If you have questions, please contact Allison Bascas, Altar Guild Chair, at 404-368-4923.

LIJ Kids



Leah is doing a 5 week Advent Countdown with the LIJKids. They will learn about the advent season through a 5 week study. Find out more about our LIJKids program that meets each Wednesday from 3:30pm-5:00pm, by contacting Leah Easley, our Children's Ministry Director at 706-264-5031

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 help, contact Joseph Lowery, Youth Ministry Director, at 706-669-0172.



New Church Directory

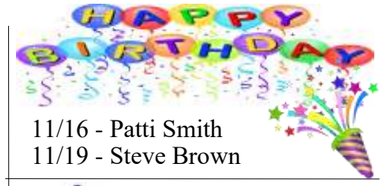
If you were unable to have your picture taken by the United Church Directory photographers, please consider submitting a picture, preferably with a plain back-ground, to be included in our new pictorial directory. You can contact Jennetta in the church office to learn how to do so. Pictures should be in by 11/19/26.



The ALTARS CLASS, that meets at 11:00am each Sunday, will begin a new study for Advent on Sunday, November 29. We will be using the book "Names for the Messiah" by Walter Brueggeman. The book can be ordered online. Please join us - we have plenty of room for you to join our conversations! Contact Jan Day at 706/276-1492 for more information.

Church Lock-up Schedule:

11/15 - 11/21 Bill Munson
11/22 - 11/28 Hank Chapman
11/29 - 12/05 Joe Poole
12/06 - 12/12 Charlie Cobb



11/16 - Patti Smith
11/19 - Steve Brown



Happy Veteran's Day
Thank you for your service to our country!

United Methodist Women's Group - United Women of Faith

Thank you for the amazing support at the Soup & Sale last Sunday. Everyone enjoyed the meal and browsing the craft sale. The group raised around $1,000 to help support missions of our church and community. The UMF will meet this Tuesday, 11/17, in the Student Center at noon. Please feel free to join, bring your lunch if you wish, and enjoy time of devotion, discussion, and sisterhood.

New Lay Leader



Robert Bassett was elected by the Church Council at the November meeting to fill the position of Lay Leader effective immediately. We are excited to have him on the church leadership team. He brings a wealth of experience in United Methodist Church leadership having served in several previous churches throughout the years and growing up with a father who was a United Methodist Minister. We appreciate Robert and his willingness to serve Ellijay First UMC!

Church Office Holiday Hours

Please note that the church office will be closed the week of 11/23 for the staff to have time with family for Thanksgiving. If you need something in the 11/29th bulletin, please have it in to Jennetta by Wed, 11/18. Thanks!



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 if you would like to purchase a gift card today or go to the link below to place your order. This is great for gift giving or you can purchase a card and use it to order your own holiday ham or turkey and help out our preschool!

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

Standin' In the Need of Prayer

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

Our neighbors in McCaysville and Copper Hill,
Raymond & Gina Higginbotham-son of Lynn Higginbotham
John Baughman - father of Cathy Hubbard,
the family of Adren Mathna-friend of Jennetta Lowery
& 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

Sunday School 8:45am
Worship Service 10:00am
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

Who's Who in Ellijay First UMC... Say hello to David Patton this week. He hails from Hoover, Alabama. He graduated from Auburn University and spent his career working as a Family Nurse Practitioner. His hobbies include working in the yard, going to the gym, and reading. David is the proud dad of two adult children, Garrett and Rachel. David and his wife, Karen, share seven grandchildren ranging from age 8 to 15. Something interesting that he has done in his life is to have gone night diving in the Philippines. He has called Ellijay home for 9 years and joined our church family officially in 2019. David is one of the bass voices in our Chancel Choir. He has also been a member of our Red Bird mission team. Thank you for all you do to contribute to our worship and our mission at Ellijay First UMC, David! We are so glad you are 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 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, November 15, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
25th Sunday after Pentecost

If you have a photo you would like to submit for the bulletin, please feel free to do so. If we can use it, we will! Vertical orientation works best.

Sunday Worship Service
November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost

The Prelude: arr by Mary McDonald
"The Master Hath Come"

Welcome, Announcements, Invocation
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon

Passing of the Peace Congregation

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship by Andre' Crouch
"Soon and Very Soon"

† The Greeting Liturgist & **Congregation**
Raise your eyes to the God of heaven and earth.
We raise our hearts and voices with songs of praise.
Awaken your mind to the mysteries of God.
We open ourselves to listen and learn in new ways.
Notice your blessings and gifts, miraculously given by God.
We offer our lives and gifts to bless and grow God's love in the world.

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 185
"When Morning Guilds the Skies"

† 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 196
"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by John Carter
"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use 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 Patrick M. Liebergen
"Sing and Rejoice"

† The Scripture Reading **Micah 5:1-5a**

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon
"The Majesty from the Manger"

†The Closing Hymn UMH176
"Majesty, Worship His Majesty"

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

†Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude arr by John Carter
"Marching in the Light of God"

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

†-Please stand, as you are able. UMH - United Methodist Hymnal

Micah 5:1-5a

5 Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is
laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek
with a rod.
2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small
among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from
of old, from ancient times."
3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when
she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his broth-
ers return to join the Israelites.
4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of
the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness will
reach to the ends of the earth.
5 And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our
land and march through our fortresses. We will raise
against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders,

Pastor Mike's Sermon Focus:

1. **The Place of God's Choosing** *(Bethlehem's Significance)*
   Never underestimate what God can do through what seems insignificant.
2. **The Person of God's Calling** *(Their Ruler's Identity)*
   The One who rules over all entered our world to serve, suffer, and save.
3. **The Peace of God's Coming** *(The Promise Fulfilled)*
   When Christ reigns in our hearts, His peace rules our lives.

Bethlehem teaches us that God's plan often begins in unexpected places. The Ruler foretold is the eternal Christ (Messiah), and His coming brings peace that the world cannot give.

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.