Greeters Needed



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.

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

Thank you to all who were able to come have their picture made for our new directory. If you were unable to make it, please consider submitting a picture, preferably with a plain background, to be included. 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:

11/08 - 11/14 Barry Griffin
11/15 - 11/21 Bill Munson
11/22 - 11/28 Hank Chapman
11/29 - 12/05 Joe Poole



11/11 - Jennetta Lowery
11/14 - Joe McCutchen



Operation Christmas Child

We have more boxes available and ready to be filled. All boxes are due back next week on Sunday, November 15. See Pam Chapman for details.



Methodist Women's Group Soup & Sale

The Methodist Women's circle will hold a Soup & Sandwich luncheon TODAY following the morning worship service. In addition to lunch, they will have various crafts for sale. All proceeds from the lunch and craft sale will be used for missions that the group supports in our church and community. Please join us for food and fellowship.



Hanging of the Greens

Plans are under way to decorate the church for the Advent Season on Sunday, November 22 following the morning worship service. 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.





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 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 ….
Denise Griggs, Tim McClannahan & his family,
& 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... Let's get to know Maryse Gelder this week. Maryse (Mar-see) grew up in Atlanta, Illinois, a small farming community, where she sang in the choir. She also sang in a sextet from her 7th grade year up until she was a senior in high school. She attended Illinois State University in Norman majoring in vocal performance with a minor in theatre. She worked for the Ohio School Boards Association as Senior Administration of Legislative Services. Maryse and her husband, Jim, started calling Ellijay home two and a half years ago, along with Kali, their dog, & Buddy, their cat. She is mom to two adult sons, Bruce (wife Taylor) & Brent. Her current grands are the furry kind, granddoggy Brutus & grandcat Benny. Maryse and her former sextet members have maintained close friendships through the years, and she says that singing with others has been her life enjoyment and way to meet people no matter where she's lived. We are so happy to have her as a soprano in our Chancel Choir.



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

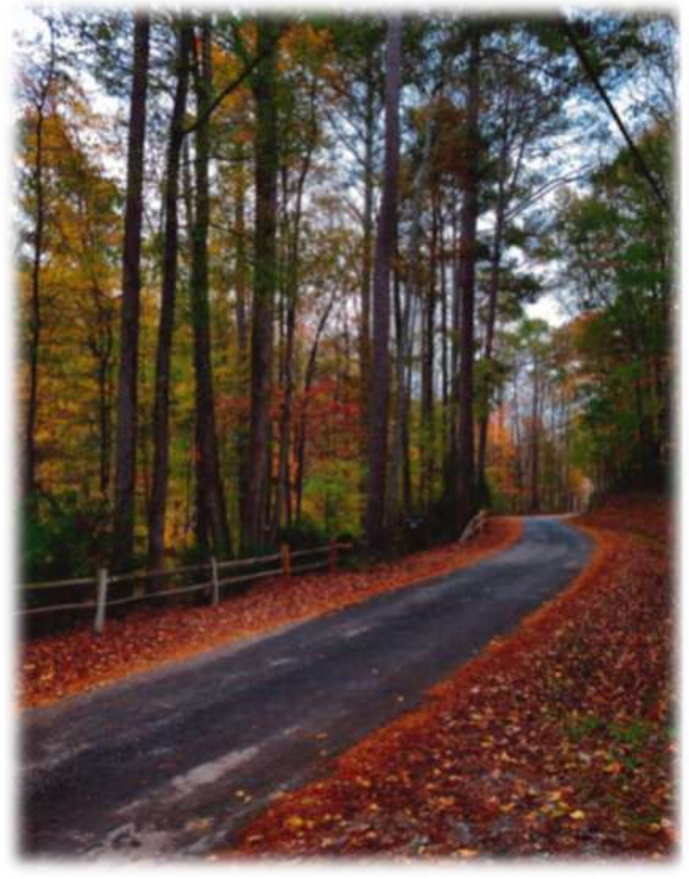


Photo by Lori McCurdy of Cripple Creek Road in Ellijay

Sunday, November 8, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
24th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Worship Service
November 8, 2026
24th Sunday after Pentecost

The Prelude: arr by Lloyd Larson
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Welcome, Announcements, Invocation
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon

Passing of the Peace Congregation

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship by Henry Smith
"Give Thanks"

† The Greeting Liturgist & **Congregation**
The God of our ancestors has called us here.
We are witnesses.
The wisdom of the ages has called us here.
We are witnesses.
The choice to follow God has called us here.
We are witnesses.
The Lord of life has called us here.
We are witnesses.

† The Hymn of Praise UMH 156
"I Love to Tell the Story"

† 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 591
"Rescue the Perishing"

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Mary McDonald
"Near to the Heart of God"

†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 Craig Courtney
"Sing Unto the Lord"

† The Scripture Reading **Ezekiel 3:1-12**

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon
"The Word Made Flesh: From the Scroll to the Savior"

†The Closing Hymn TFWS 2126
"All Who Hunger"

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

†Benediction Rev. Dr. Shearon

†The Postlude arr by Cindy Berry
"America (My Country Tis' of Thee)"

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

Ezekiel 3:1-12

3 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this
scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." [2] So I opened my
mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

[3] Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you
and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as
honey in my mouth.

[4] He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel
and speak my words to them. [5] You are not being sent to a people
of obscure speech and strange language, but to the people of
Israel— [6] not to many peoples of obscure speech and strange
language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent
you to them, they would have listened to you. [7] But the people of
Israel are not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to
listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate. [8] But I
will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. [9] I will make
your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be
afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious
people."

[10] And he said to me, "Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart
all the words I speak to you. [11] Go now to your people in exile and
speak to them. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says,'
whether they listen or fail to listen."
[12] Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a loud
rumbling sound as the glory of the Lord rose from the place where
it was standing.

Pastor Mike's Sermon Focus:

Ezekiel's call to "eat the scroll (the written Word of God)" points forward to Jesus Christ, who is the living Word of God we must internalize and proclaim.
1. The Scroll—Eating symbolizes taking God's Word into the heart and making it part of one's own life. This is a call to deep personal engagement with Scripture. We understand that Jesus is the ultimate scroll and for us to "eat the scroll" is to be united with Christ, to let His Word become our very life.
2. The Mission—Ezekiel is told to go to his own people who were stubborn and rebellious. God gives him a "forehead like flint" meaning a supernatural resolve to faithfully deliver the message despite resistance. Jesus had the same resolve and his "flint" heart was His obedience and steadfastness in fulfilling the Father's will, even when the people refused to listen. Even when this mission meant his enduring rejection and the cross.
3. The Faithful Watchman—Ezekiel is appointed to be a watchman to faithfully warn the wicked and the righteous and to tell the truth in season and out of season, trusting God with the outcome. Jesus is the ultimate Watchman who warns of judgment and offers hope to those who turn from sin and put their faith in Him. The faithful follower of Jesus is called to be watchman who bears witness to the Gospel.
Application: (**Internalize**) Like Ezekiel, we must "eat" the Word of God—meditate, obey, and let it shape us. (**Proclaim**) Like Jesus, we are called to "speak" the truth of God's Word, even when it is costly. (**Trust**) Like the watchman, we are responsible for faithfulness, not the people's response.

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.