

### Grief Support Groups to begin in January 2024

Are you experiencing the pain of loss? Loss of a loved one, friend, a spouse? There is a healing place for you!

Please consider joining a grief support group. Choose between Tuesdays or Thursdays from 11:30 to 1:00+. We will meet at EFUMC beginning January 9th and 11th for 8 weeks. There is no charge for the support group, but there is limited availability. Please call Paula Acree @ 770-570-9958 to ensure your spot in a group and/or for more information.

### Single/Mingles

Dec. 10: Atlanta Pops  
7:00-9:00 \$40.00  
TBD : Christmas Party  
1:00-3:00  
Dec. 17: Paint Rocks,  
Birthdays  
EFUMC 2:00 - 4:00



Dec. 11: John Davis  
Dec. 12: Julian Gendreau  
Dec. 12: Janet Lynch  
Dec. 14: Kate Schiesser  
Dec. 17: Diana Little  
Dec. 17: Lica Simons  
Dec. 17: Abby Summers



### Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rev. Dr. John Brantley, Pastor 404-323-5646 john@brantley.net

Church phone: 706-635-2555; Fax: 706-273-2555

Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist

Marianne Evans ....

Children's Ministries and Preschool....children@fumcellijay.org

Susan Gooch.....Director of Music .....choir@fumcellijay.org

Ann Hanline.....Admin Assist/Financial Sec.....office@fumcellijay.org

Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator

Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician

Claudia McKeon.....Organist

### LIJ Kids / Youth Impact News

This Wednesday is our last LIJ Kids regular Wednesday of the month. We will celebrate the season with the Christmas Story and a Party that will end at 5:30.

See other upcoming events below.



### Month of December Sunday Worship will be held at 10:00

Dec. 10: 10:00 Worship  
Dec. 17: 9:00 Christmas Pot Luck Breakfast  
Dec. 17: 10:00 Cantata  
Dec. 20: 4:00 Church Wide Mission - Caroling  
Come shine and sing!  
Dec. 24: 10:00 Worship  
Dec. 24: 5:00 Candlelight Worship  
Dec. 25 thru Jan.2: Church Office Closed for Staff Holiday

### FUMC Firestarter's Prayer for the Week



Loving Lord, our candles aflame with hope and peace, we pray for peace in your world; and as we keep vigil for your incarnation in it, we eagerly await the day of your return.

### 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.



## Ellijay First

United Methodist Church  
75 McCutchen Street, P.O. Box 472  
Ellijay, GA 30540

Dr. John Brantley

December 10, 2023 - Second Sunday in Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship - The Color is Purple

### The Worship of God

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### The Chiming of the Hour

- \* Prelude "I Wonder As I Wander"  
*arr. by Douglas Wagner*
- \* Call To Worship "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

#### † Advent Lighting

Leader: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1). We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

**Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

Leader: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together and glorify God. Amen.

† **The Invocation**

† **The Hymn of Praise**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH 211  
vs. 1,2,6,7

† **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.**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

† **The Hymn of Preparation**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” UMH 216

**Invitation to Church Membership**

Anyone wishing to join this church by profession of faith or by transfer of your membership, please come forward during the closing hymn or speak to the pastor following worship. Know that you are always welcome.

**The Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**The Offertory Music**

“Every Valley Shall be Exalted”  
*arr. by Emily Lund*

† **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**

**The Anthem**

“As Joseph Was a-Walking”  
*Appalachian Spiritual, arr. by Michael Scott*

**The Scripture**

Mark 1:1-8

NRSV

**Sermon**

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” Pastor

**The Closing Hymn** ”Angels from the Realms of Glory”

UMH 220

† **The Benediction**

† **The Choral Benediction**

“And a Little Child Shall Lead Them”  
*by Daniel Burton*

**The Postlude**

“Festive March”  
*by G.F. Handel*

**Mark 1:1-8**

**The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

**1** The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

† *Congregation Standing (as able)*

\*11:00 am Service Only

# 8:45 am Service Only

*UMH-United Methodist Hymnal*

*TFWS-The Faith We Sing*