

Holiday Closings:

The Office will be closed December 25th—28th and also from December 31st through January 2nd.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, 12/23: 9-12: Team Tabitha
Tuesday, 12/24: Candlelight & Carols @ 5:30pm
Kids Sermon by Pastor Mike
Wednesday: Merry Christmas!



Sunday, 12/29: Guest Minister Dr. Wallace Wheelers
Singles Mingles Game Day, EFUMC @ 1pm

Also on Sunday, 12/29, we will have a basket in the Fellowship Hall to put cards in for Susan Gooch. As she departs for travel, we honor her service to our church and celebrate her retirement.

Thursday, January 2: Vespers at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Sunday, January 5: Epiphany Communion Worship Service @10am
IMPACT Youth Group, Ben Barrett Room, TBD



The Church Staff thanks everyone for their generous donations to the Staff Bonus. Also, we thank you for the cards, gifts of time and other gifts given to us over 2024, especially during the holiday season. Merry Christmas to you all!

Church Records - Housekeeping Request

If you have had a change of address, email address or telephone number, please make these changes on your attendance registration form.

Also, we now have a "Donate" button on our Church Website for one-time or recurring tithes, offerings and other monetary giving. Thank you!

Grief Support Group to begin in January 2025

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. We meet on Tuesdays from 11:30 to 1+. We will meet here at EFUMC beginning January 7th 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 or for more information.

Firestarters Prayer: Lord Jesus, your birth in lowly estate brought the world a new and glorious morn! With joyous hearts *this* morning, we remember and relive A New and Glorious Morn!



LIJ Kids News

There will be no Ellijay Kids on December 25th or January 1st.

The Spark of God in You!

Our next Vespers Service will take place on Thursday, January 2nd at 6 pm.



12/22: Gene Evans
12/22: Ruth Hix
12/22: Carol Ward
12/28: Micki Steif
12/29: Holly Shearon
12/30: Janet Allen
12/31: Jacqueline Poole

Prayers for the Week

Pray without ceasing for family/friends, teachers, doctors., pastors, World Leaders/Military, The Weak, Sick & Hungry, Ourselves.

General

Our Missionaries
Roger & Dorothy
Rainwater

Health

Doug Bater
Ed Boyd
Kevin Brett
Kyle Bullington
Joan Compton
Paul Compton
Allen Fanelli
Sharon Fletcher
Jessica Good
Nancy Griffin
Betty Jo Hanes
J.D. Hearn
Joe Knight
Gail Laws
Rylan Leeper
Shannon Leeper
Jackie Leva
Karen Vitelli
Mike Vitelli
Clyde White

Hospital/Rehab

Kenny Warren

Surgery /Upcoming

Earline Croke
Barbara Fogle
Nancy Smith

Surgery/Recuperating

John Marshall

Shut-In

Peter Adams
Marlene Brown
Ernette Calhoun
Jim Hagopian
Mack Hipp
Rudi Lanehardt
Caryl Putnan
Margie Pyren
Myron Seagraves
Paul Stanhope
Mary Uthlaut
Valerie Weiss
Robert Westmoreland

Hospice

Bob Hix
Tom Lowery Sr
Richard Manning
Bill Patton

Caregiver

Joy Fanelli
Carolyn Hipp
Ruth Hix
Mary Jo Lowery
Lorraine Seagraves
Joan Stanhope

Death in Family

Family of Bob Thorne
Family of Charlie Woehr
Family of Judy Hodge
Family of Skylar
Wornbough
Family of Terry Lowe
Family of Craig Baum
Family of Peggy Puckett

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am- 4 pm

Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor, Mike.Shearon@NGUMC.net
Lay Leader Rick Thaxton 770-241-1852 rlthaxton@etcmail.com
Church phone: 706-635-2555; Fax: 706-273-2555
Web site: fumcellijay.org

Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist

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

Susan Gooch.....Director of Music.....choir@fumcellijay.org
Susan Marino.. Admin Asst/Financial Secretary...
ellijayfirstoffice@gmail.com

Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator
Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician



Ellijay First United Methodist

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Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon
Sunday, December 22, 2024



Fourth Sunday of Advent

*The Liturgical Color is Purple
The Worship of God*

The Prelude: "Joy to the World"

arr by Lloyd Larson

The Chiming of the Hour

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Poole Family

† Choral Call to Worship - "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

by Stephen Schwartz

† The Greeting - Luke 1, Micah 5

Leader: Rejoice in the presence and love of Christ.

People: We rejoice in the one who lives in our hearts.

Leader: Rejoice, for Christ brings justice and peace to our world.

People: We rejoice in the one who calls us to justice and peace.

Leader: Rejoice with faith and hope.

People: We rejoice in the one whose promises are true.

† The Hymn of Praise - "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

vs. 1,2,3

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† 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.

Pastoral Prayer & Congregational Prayer

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 Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Mike

The Offertory Music: "How Far Is It To Bethlehem?"

by Lloyd Larson

†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

Cantata: "A New and Glorious Morn!"

by Lloyd Larson

†The Benediction

†The Choral Benediction

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (refrain)

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The Postlude

"The Babe, the Son of Mary"

arr by Mary McDonald

Invitation to Church Membership

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

Welcome New Leaders!

We are blessed to welcome two new leaders to our church, Debbi Westcott and Sarah Thorne.



Debbi Westcott is our new Youth Director. She is a dedicated homeschool mom with 15 years of experience. She has spent over 30 years nurturing and empowering children, teens and young adults in various roles, including as a BRUMC youth pastor, director at Sunny D Children's Theater, and as an advocate for

crime victims. Debbi values the voices of youth, committed to meeting them where they are and guiding them in the discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Her personal interests include paddleboarding, Formula One racing, and crafting. Recently remarried, Debbi resides in Blue Ridge with her husband and their three lively dogs. Together, they navigate the joys and challenges of supporting three college students and one high school student.

Sarah Thorne is not a new face to us, just changing roles from choir member to choir director. She teaches English Learners at Mountain View Elementary for Gilmer County Schools. Sarah spent her first 18 years teaching elementary music. She and husband Bob have lived in Ellijay for 21 years and members of EFUMC for 20 years. She enjoys playing the flute, singing



in the Community Chorus and the EFUMC Choir. She is also a member of Singers of North Georgia.



Our Newest Member to EFUMC!

Pastor Mike gladly receives another new member to our Congregation, Judy Wray. Welcome Judy!