

## Upcoming Events:

Singles Mingles—Game Day is at the Church today 1-3  
 IMPACT Sunday School: Meeting today @ 8:45am in  
 the Ben Barrett Room  
 Tuesday, January 7th: UMM meet at 8am @ Burger  
 King  
 January 8th: IMPACT Youth Group (to follow LIJ Kids)  
 Saturday, January 11th: Committee Vision-Casting 9-12  
 in the Fellowship Hall for  
 Children, Youth and Missions  
 January 13th: Finance Committee meeting @ 5pm  
 Administrative Council @ 6pm  
 Tuesday, January 14th—Joyful Noon Circle

## LIJ Kids News

Is Back on Wednesday, 1/8!

Our normal time will be 3:30-5:00 pm.

We will continue our normal pick-up at EES after school.

We are excited to get back to digging into God's Word and  
 having fun in the name of Jesus!

## Church Lock-up Schedule

1/5-1/11: Lloyd Vautrot  
 1/12-1/18: Charlie Leonard  
 1/19-1/25: Bill Munson



1/5: Marcia Bassett  
 1/10: Mike Thompson  
 1/11: Lynn McKibbin  
 1/12: Jackie Boyd  
 1/13: Barbara Simmons

## Prayers for the Week

Pray without ceasing for family/friends, teachers, doctors., pastors, World  
 Leaders/Military, The Weak, Sick & Hungry, Ourselves.  
 Prayer Request Forms are in the Pew Racks

### General

Emma Ford Missionary  
 Art Brown, Samaritan's  
 Purse Missionary

Mike Vitelli  
 Kenny Warren  
 Clyde White

### Robert Westmoreland

**Hospice**  
**Andrew Griglak**  
 Bob Hix  
 Tom Lowery Sr  
 Richard Manning  
 Bill Patton

### Health

Doug Bater  
 Ed Boyd

### Surgery /Upcoming

Earline Crooke  
 Barbara Fogle

### Jerry Boyne

Kevin Brett  
 Kyle Bullington  
 Joan Compton  
 Paul Compton  
 Allen Fanelli

### Surgery/Recuperating

John Marshall  
**Brad Opit**  
**Fred Partin**  
 Nancy Smith

### Joy Fanelli

Sharon Fletcher  
 Jessica Good  
 Nancy Griffin  
 Betty Jo Hanes  
 Joe Knight  
**Missy Kepley**  
 Rylan Leeper  
 Shannon Leeper  
 Jackie Leva  
**Ann Shearon**  
 Karen Vitelli

### 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

### Caregiver

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

### Death in Family

Family of Bob Thorne  
**Family of Bryan**  
**McFarland**  
**Family of Peggy Puckett**  
 The Family of Craig  
 Baum

## FUMC Firestarter's Prayer for the Week

**Gracious God, you have sealed us with the Holy Spirit  
 to inherit redemption as your own people. Let us  
 resolve in 2025 to live our lives reflecting the gift of  
 saving grace in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Financial Report

Thank you for the generosity from our Congregation for your  
 tithes and offerings.

Last week, \$7009.75 was received in operating funds.  
 This includes the Christmas Eve offering.

Up to date financial reports are always posted in the Fellowship Hall.

## The Spark of God in You!

Our next Vespers Service will take place  
 on Thursday, February 6th at 6 pm.



**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**

**Sarah Thorne .....Director of Music.....choir@fumcellijay.org**

**Debbi Westcott ....Youth Director.....djchamm@gmail.com**

**Susan Marino...Admin Asst/Financial Secretary**

**...ellijayfirstoffice@gmail.com**

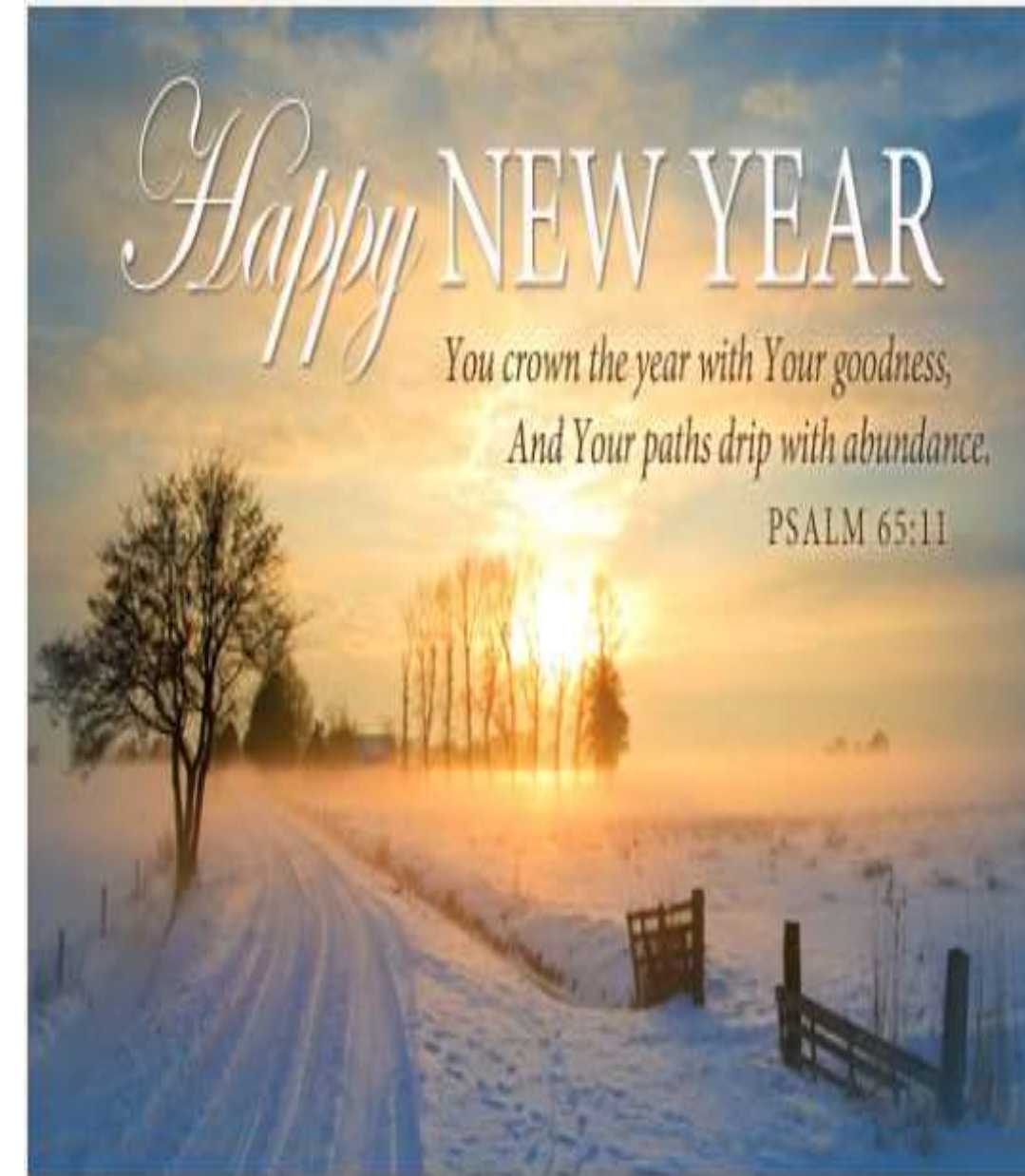
**Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator**

**Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician**



**Ellijay First  
 United Methodist Church**

75 McCutchen Street  
 PO Box 472  
 Ellijay, GA 30540  
 706-635-2555



**Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor**

**January 5, 2025**

# Epiphany Communion Worship Service

*The Liturgical Color is White  
The Worship of God*

**The Prelude** - "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
arr by Mary McDonald

**The Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome, Announcements and Invocation**

† **Choral Call to Worship** - "Once in Royal David's City"  
arr by Cecil Alexander/Henry Gauntlett

† **The Greeting** - *Isaiah 60, Matthew 2*

Leader: Bring your gifts and bring your love  
To honor the King of love.

People: **Bring your worship and bring your praise  
To pay homage to Christ Jesus, our King.**

† **The Hymn of Praise** - "We Three Kings" UMH 254

† **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**                      Rev. Dr. Shearon

**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** "What Child Is This"  
vs. 1&3 UMH 219

**The Worship with Tithes and Offerings**                      Rev. Dr. Shearon

**The Offertory Music:** "Mary Had a Baby"  
arr by Craig Curry

†**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:** "Rise Up Shepherd, Go Tell it!"  
from Cantata "New and Glorious Morn"  
arr by Lloyd Larson

**The Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Matthew 2:1-12 The Magi Visits the Messiah**

<sup>2</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all of Jerusalem with him.

<sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

<sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

<sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**The Sermon:** "Missing Christmas"

Rev. Dr. Shearon

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

UMH 12

†**The Closing Hymn**

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

TFWS 2173

*During this time, the Pastor and Prayer Team are available at the altar for anyone desiring to join the Church, personal or corporate prayer.*

†**The Benediction**

†**The Choral Benediction**

"Go Now in Peace"

by Natalie Sleeth

**The Postlude**

"Joy to the World"

arr by Jeff Bennett

## ***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.