

We are so glad that you are with us today! Our service will be to praise and worship God and to encourage and uplift us to face another week. We will sing (Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16), pray (James 5:15-18), and partake of the Lord's Supper to remember our Savior's sacrifice on the cross (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:23-26). We will also give back a portion of the monetary blessings that God has granted us so that we can carry out His work in our community (1 Cor. 16:2, 2 Cor. 9:7). We will also study a lesson from His Word that will hopefully be applicable to our daily lives, so that we can be equipped to handle the pressures of this world and reach those outside of Christ (2 Tim. 2:15).

**How to Become a Christian**  
Hear the Gospel (Rom. 10:17)

Believe in Jesus (Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 8:38; 1 Pet. 3:21)  
Then, Live Faithfully (Rev. 2:10)



**Order of Worship**

*Welcome - Tim Hall*

Song - Bind Us Together

Song - Faith Is The Victory

**Scripture Reading - Mark 12:28-30 - Mark Pettit**

Song - Sweet Hour of Prayer

**Prayer - Curtis Kingsley**

Song - My Eyes Are Dry

Song - I Love The Lord

**Partake of the Lords Supper - John Painter**

**Contribution - John Painter**

Song - A Common Love

Song - I Love You Lord

**Scripture Reading - Deuteronomy 10:12-13**

Song - We're Marching To Zion

**Message- "I Love the Lord" - Spencer Hall**

**Announcements - Barry Kingsley**

Song - Your Are The Song That I Sing

**Closing Prayer - Barry Kingsley**

**Worship Assignments**

**April 26th**

**May 3rd**

Scripture Reading  
Open Prayer  
Song Leading  
Head Table  
Elder Closing

Online Service

Online Service

Assist

Usher

Greeters

Sound Room

Nursery

**Evening**

**Evening**

Open Prayer  
Song Leading  
Close Prayer  
Communion

Online Service

Online Service


**April 29th**

**May 6th**

Song Leading  
Prayer  
Devo

Online Service

Online Service



351 North Main Street  
Ellijay, GA 30540  
Office 706-635-2950  
Newsline 706-276-7283  
Office Hours 9 AM - 3 PM  
office@ellijaychurchofchrist.com

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM

**Elders**

Tim Hall - 706-669-0915  
Barry Kingsley - 706-273-6153  
Curtis Kingsley - 706-515-5146  
John Painter - 706-889-7822  
Mark Pettit - 706-276-6610

**Deacons**


James Barr - 470-201-8040  
Bob Burkewitz - 706-276-2456  
Josh Chancey - 706-669-6848  
Nathan Collier - 706-972-4789  
Carl Hall - 912-253-9822  
Junior Jenkins - 706-273-6972  
John Johnson - 706-669-0422  
Brandon Jones - 706-273-8762  
Jason Ledford - 706-669-4504  
Tate McCoy - 706-669-0667  
Will Parker - 706-889-1021  
Barry Pritchett - 706-276-3799  
Garry Rittenberry - 706-276-4846  
Daniel Sisson - 770-595-8141

**Minister**

Jeremy Green  
jeremy@ellijaychurchofchrist.org  
334-614-1503

**Missionary**

Michael Dunbar  
Highgate, Jamaica



Ellijay Church of Christ  
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**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Jessica Cochran - 26th  
Ann Johnson - 26th  
Tommie Stephens - 28th  
Sarah Mulkey - 2nd

Richard & Sandra Bohannon - 27th  
Michael & Melia Stanley - 2nd

Phoebe Dunn, the family counselor, is available the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to schedule an appointment with her, please feel free to call, text, or leave a message with her directly at 334-398-1310.

Free Bible Correspondence is available by contacting the church office or Cleah Boaz at 706-636-4516.

**Week of April 19th**

Bible Study..... Online Service  
AM Worship..... Online Service  
PM Worship..... Online Service  
Wednesday Evening..... Online Service

**CONTRIBUTION STATISTICS**

	CHECKS	CASH	E-GMING	TOTAL
April 5th	6,110.00		4,984.00	11,094.00
April 12th	2,600.00	427.00	3,380.00	6,407.00
April 19th	2,600.00	250.00	3,190.00	6,100.00
April 26th				
Total \$:	11,370.00	677.00	11,554.00	23,601.00

**WEEKLY AVERAGES**

BUDGET	Y-T-D	APRIL
\$8,100.00	\$7,762.01	\$7,867.00

Let Us Rise Up and Build  
Donations and transfers to the Building and Growth Fund for the Fellowship Hall Expansion through 01/31/2020 total \$463,340.95. Please continue to donate. Thanks for your continued donations.

**ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTION**

1. Stress-free, Safe and Automatic
2. Weekly or every 2 weeks, monthly or 2 times a month
3. E-mail notification for each transaction
4. Enroll via church website or Realm "CONNECT" app
5. Need a password? Just give your name and email address to the church office and we will help.



**Ellijay Church of Christ**  
**April 26, 2020**

*Welcome*

### Prayer Requests

**Dale and Angie Hunter** have both tested positive for Covid19. Dale is in Emory Hospital and Angie is quarantined at home.  
**Jennifer Oleksa's grandfather, Roger Gatlin**, has been on hospice but is now in the hospital and in very poor condition. Family is not allowed to visit due to the corona virus.  
**Sandra Bohannon** will be having a heart cath this Friday at Kennestone Hospital.  
**Karla Green** continues to recover from surgery.  
Clyde Cody's aunt, **Barbara Mabry**, remains in the hospital. Also his father-in-law, **Jim Dean**, is having health problems as well.  
**Roger Winslett** from Piedmont Road, is recovering from a stroke.

### NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING

Ralph Chancey Polly Cochran Geneva Holloway Jaque Holloway  
Pauline Mullinax Gladys Shultz Perlle Mae Sluder

### Cancer Patients

Tim Jones, Carolyn Howard, Tom Hall, Billy Stells, Joann Lucas, Cathy Thurman, Ricky Patterson, Linda Vercher, Abby Collins, Charles Derrick, Cindy Setlock

### FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY

Reid Cochran, Andrew Edmondson, Michael Gregory, Corey Henry, Jonathan Hensley, Zach Hill, Wayne Jones, Dillan Ledford, Jacob Mahaffey, Wilson Pettit, CJ Reid, Frankie Silva, Eric Spisak, David Taylor, Cameron Trammell, Matthew Upshaw

### Others to Remember

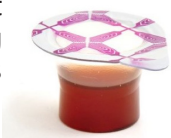
David Green, Julius Jones, Genell Cantrell, Lori Morrow, Abel Robinson, Betty Hall, Lisa Huffman, Joyce Butler, Zach Pritchett, George & Ernestine Hall, Lynn Coleman, Doris Davis, Brenda Price, Dianna Burnette, Jody Sales, Cathy Johnson, Blanch Raines

### Devotional and Memory Verse April 26th

*"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 13:35 NKJ

Portable communion is available to pick up outside the front door of the church building on Fridays and Saturdays from 10AM to 5PM.



Today, Spencer Hall will be preaching the morning lesson and Tim Hall will be preaching the evening lesson.

Thank you to Tucker Hall and Walker Gregory for conducting the devotionals this past Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

### REACH 2021

The REACH Campaign has been rescheduled for April 26, 27 and 28, 2021 with the same speakers and topics.

Please join us this week on April 27th, 28th and 29th, at 7 PM each evening for special lessons from Cody Bearden, Terry Burrell, Jeremy Green and James Pasley.

### Message from the Elders...

Please remember to make your contribution even though we are not meeting together. This can be done by either: 1) Electronic Giving; 2) Mailing your check to the building; 3) Dropping your contribution by the building Thank you to those that have been able to continue. We hope to be able to worship together soon in the near future!!

Also, for anyone who made a donation to help with food cards for Lads to Leaders and would like your donation back, please see one of the elders. All donations will be used for next year's convention if you do not receive the donation back.

## TRUSTING GOD IN THE HARD TIMES Focus On The Family

How can I hold on to my faith in God when things go wrong? As a Christian, I know that I'm supposed to "give thanks in all things" and look to the Lord for my daily needs. Yet I've been through some devastating experiences over the past year. How can I be thankful and trust God at a time like this?

God hasn't promised us a rose garden. Not in this present world, anyhow. That misguided idea has no place in the message of the Christian gospel. When life seems full of pain, we need to remember what Paul said to Timothy about "enduring hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 2:3). We should also bear in mind a couple of very broad principles that are fundamental to the biblical worldview.

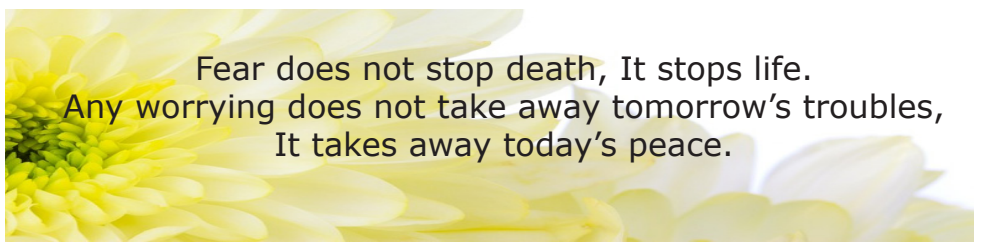
First, we must never forget that we live in a fallen world. If things go wrong and trials beset us, this isn't a reflection on the power and genuineness of God's love. Nor does it necessarily imply that we have sinned against Him or displeased Him. It simply means that the world isn't what it's supposed to be.

Genesis 3 tells the story of mankind's fall from grace. This fall marred the original design of God's creation in many ways. It separated us from our Creator and our true nature. It caused us to rebel against Him and engage in denial and self-deception. It affected our physical bodies, bringing sickness and death into the world. It threw a wrench into our relationships with one another. It introduced pain and suffering into our lives. Because of this the world in which we live today is not the world as God intended it to be. It is, in a very real sense, a defective and abnormal world.

The Good News is that the Lord is not content to leave us there. This is the second thing we need to bear in mind. Our Father in Heaven has a plan to fix the brokenness of the world and heal the pain in our personal lives. He loved us enough to send Jesus Christ, His only Son (John 3:16), to reverse the effects of the fall. Christ has come to reconcile us to God, to each other, and to our true human nature.

Of course, the Bible never gives us any reason to suppose that these changes are going to take place overnight. On the contrary, it states very clearly that while we live in the flesh, we can expect to experience "groanings" within ourselves as we look forward to the final "redemption of our body" (Romans 8:23). Ultimately, a day is coming when there will be no more sickness, pain, or death, and when He will wipe away every tear from our eyes (Revelation 21:4). Meanwhile, there's nothing wrong with being honest about our pain and frustration.

The men and women of the Bible understood this. David poured out his heart to God in the Psalms. Job expressed deep anguish in the midst of incredible grief and suffering. Hannah complained loudly about her childlessness. If you're hurting, the Lord doesn't expect you to cover it up with a plastic smile. Tell Him what you're really thinking and feeling. He has promised never to leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). He hears your prayers even in the dark times when He seems absent and silent.



### Pointless

Caelie Wilkes recently shared her story on Facebook about a plant she had been nurturing for two years: "I've had this beautiful succulent for about two years now. I was so proud of this plant. It was full: beautiful coloring, just an overall perfect plant. I had it up in my kitchen window. I had a watering plan for it. If someone else tried to water my succulent, I would get so defensive because I just wanted to keep good care of it. I absolutely loved my succulent."

If this plant was so beautiful, why is she speaking of this plant in the past tense?

When she decided to transplant the plant to a new pot, she made a shocking discovery: the plant was made of plastic!

"I put so much love into this plant!" Wilkes wrote in frustration. "I washed its leaves. [I] tried my hardest to keep it looking its best, and it's completely plastic! How did I not know this? I pull it from the container [to find that] it's sitting on Styrofoam with sand glued to the top!"

"I feel like these last two years have been a lie," Wilkes concluded.\*

Wilkes' experience reminds us that we can often give ourselves to pursuits that often prove to be pointless and unfulfilling.

Consider a case study. Read the book of Ecclesiastes about a "preacher's" search for meaning and fulfillment in the things that this world has to offer. He tried relationships with many different women. He tried purchasing the best things that money could buy and he, King Solomon, had LOTS of money. He tried "living it up" with lots of wine, women, and song. What did he discover in each of these pursuits? "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Preacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless" (Ecclesiastes 1:2). Solomon discovered that trying to find meaning and fulfillment in the things of the world is like spending two years watering and nurturing a plastic plant!

At the end of his search, Solomon came to this conclusion: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all" (12:13).

Solomon's conclusion points to the truly meaningful, fulfilling, and eternal life that is found in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). This "abundant life" does not refer to the abundance of things that this world has to offer (cf. Luke 12:15), but to the greater, spiritual, and eternal blessings that only Christ can give – things like peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:6-7), forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 1:7), and eternal life in heaven (John 14:1-3). Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we could enjoy these greater and eternal blessings.

God will save from sin and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

Trying to find meaning and fulfillment in worldly pursuits is like watering a plastic plant; it's pointless, meaningless. Focus your life on that which is life indeed: the abundant, eternal life that is found in Jesus.

-- David A. Sargen  
Church of Christ at Creekwood