



2023 SPIRITUAL  
GROWTH PLAN

# THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

PHILIPPIANS 3:10



CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Elders**

Tim Hall  
Junior Jenkins  
Mike Linkous  
Mark Pettit

**Deacons**

Josh Chancey  
Nathan Collier  
John Johnson  
Brandon Jones  
Barry Kingsley  
Jason Ledford  
Tate McCoy  
Will Parker  
Barry Pritchett  
Garry Rittenberry  
Daniel Sisson  
Mark Wilson

**Ministers**

Jeremy Green

January 8, 2023

Dear Church Family,

As we begin a new year of work together, we want to remind you how much we love and appreciate every one of you. 2022 was another tremendous year of spiritual growth for the Ellijay family, and we hope that we continue to "grow in God's promises" as we keep our eyes focused on the great promise of eternal life (2 Peter 1:10-11).

Our theme for this year's growth plan is taken from the text of Philippians 3:10 where Paul says, "I want to know Christ." In the verses that build up to this statement, he says that everything he gave up for Jesus was "garbage" or "rubbish," and he was willing to forsake it all. Paul further adds that he wants to know the power of the resurrection and participation in his sufferings so that he can be like Jesus in both his death and a resurrection to eternal life.

We believe this message is powerful and practical, and we pray that it will resonate with our church family as we spend the year studying the life, teachings, and attributes of Jesus. The goal of each page of this 2023 Spiritual Growth Plan is to bring us closer to our Lord both individually and collectively as we strive to bring our Heavenly Father glory.

Thank you for everything you do and for helping us to focus on knowing Jesus in this new year. We love you!

In Christian Love,

The Elders

  
Tim Hall

  
Junior Jenkins

  
Mike Linkous

  
Mark Pettit

## 2023 Congregational Goals

### **Grow in the Knowledge and Application of God's Word**

- Ellijay family will grow together in love by focusing on growing closer to Jesus through studying his life and ministry (Philippians 3:10)
- Ellijay family will emphasize the importance of Bible class attendance
- Ellijay family will be encouraged to be active participants in all worship services
- Ellijay family will be encouraged to participate in daily, personal Bible study

### **Prioritize Outreach as a Main Focus of the Ellijay Church Family**

- As a church, evangelism will be a top priority for every member
- Choose one Sunday night a month to have a devotional and then break up into four AGAPE Groups to focus on evangelism
- Place evangelistic thrust on every church event to fulfill the Great Commission
- Continue to support domestic mission work – Hiawasee, Murphy, Toccoa, Camp Wetoga
- Continue to support foreign mission work – Jamaica, Africa, India
- Participate in a domestic mission project in Hiawasee in 2023
- Explore a mission trip with Partners 4 Africa in the summer of 2024
- Investigate ways to support the work of Project Unify in both disaster relief and evangelism

### **Promote Spiritual Growth within the Youth and C-Squad**

- Prioritize teaching the plan of salvation to each member of the youth group
- Focus on parental involvement in youth activities
- Increased focus on biblical teaching and spiritual growth
- Understand the value of spending time together as Christians
- Spend the first 10 minutes of Sunday evening service working with kids on Bible basics

### **Emphasize Outreach to Hispanic Families in the Ellijay Community**

- Continue to utilize Homework Club as a method of reaching young people and their parents
- Increase cooperation with Marco Diaz as Homework Club director and leading outreach to Spanish-speaking families in Ellijay
- Schedule regular bilingual services and events to further interact with the Hispanic population
- Explore the possibility of adding a weekly, separate Spanish-speaking worship service
- Begin the long-term process of establishing a self-supporting, Spanish-speaking congregation in Ellijay

### **Focus on Leadership within the Ellijay Congregation**

- As elders, emphasize the role of shepherding and devotion to prayer and ministry of the Word
- Continue to increase communication and delegation to deacons
- Establish a mentoring program to identify and develop future elders and deacons
- Further utilize the Lads to Leaders Program to develop leadership among young people

### **Encourage and Expand Communication throughout the Church Family**

- Challenge each member to utilize the realm app on smart devices to access directory information and receive important messages and updates instantly
- Continue to emphasize communication using social media, the church website, realm, and the telephone callout system
- Increase focus on reciprocal communication between the elders and members as we strive to grow together
- Maintain focus on the seriousness and significance of worship by planning services in greater detail and communicating with the deacons in charge if you are not able to serve when assigned

### **Highlight and Attend Special Events throughout 2023**

- Ladies Day (March 11) and Men's Christian Leadership Conference (March 25)
- Spring Revival and Friends and Family Day (April 21-23 w/ Guest Speaker Bruce McLarty)
- Back to School Youth Retreat at Camp Wetoga (July 28-29 w/ Guest Speaker Robert Tipps)
- Fall Revival (October 27-29 w/ Guest Speaker Jeff Jenkins)

## Work Area Contacts

### Elders

**Tim Hall**- Edification, Finance

**Junior Jenkins** – Youth, Building and Grounds, Security and Transportation

**Mike Linkous** – Evangelism, Finance

**Mark Pettit** – Adult Education, Benevolence, Worship, Technology

### Work Area Contacts

**Evangelism**- Mike Linkous (478-955-5836) Barry Kingsley (706-273-6153) Jeremy Green (334-614-1503)

**Benevolence**- Curtis Kingsley (706-515-5146) Church Office (706-635-2950)

**Edification**- Daniel Sisson (770-595-8141) Damien Baker (770-597-6235)

**Adult Education**- Barry Pritchett (706-889-8409) Jeremy Green (334-614-1503)

**Youth Education & Youth** – Mark Wilson (770-596-6742) Brandon Jones (706-273-8762) Josh Chancey (706-669-6848)

**Lads to Leaders**- Brandon Jones (706-273-8762)

**C-Squad**- Will Parker (706-889-1021)

**Hispanic Ministry**- John Johnson (706-669-0422)

**Worship Support**- Garry Rittenberry (706-889-1777) Jason Ledford (706-669-4504) Clyde Cody (404-863-1818) Alan Hall (706-972-5592)

**Finance**- Nathan Collier (706-972-4789) Bob Burkewitz (706-889-4455)

**Technology/Advertising**- Will Parker (706-889-1021) Nathan Collier (706-972-4789) Nathan Bagwell (770-366-1550)

**Security**- Will Parker (706-889-1021) Tate McCoy (706-669-0667)

**Transportation**- John Johnson (706-669-0422)

**Building and Grounds**- Brandon Jones (706-273-8762) Robert Wood (706-633-0092)

## *Tentative Congregational Calendar of Events/Activities 2023*

### **JANUARY**

8th..... Present Growth Plan to Congregation  
22nd..... Early Afternoon Service

### **FEBRUARY**

10th ..... Valentine's Dinner  
26th..... Early Afternoon Service

### **MARCH**

6th..... GSOP Class begins Spring Quarter  
11th ..... Ladies Day  
25th..... Men's Christian Leadership Conference  
26th..... Early Afternoon Service

### **APRIL**

7th-9th..... Lads to Leaders Convention  
21st-22nd... Spring Revival with Bruce McLarty  
23rd..... Friends and Family Day/Early Afternoon Service

### **MAY**

14th..... Raintree Children's Home Appeal  
28th..... Graduation Luncheon/Early Afternoon Service

### **JUNE**

4th..... Summer Series Begins  
4th-9th..... Backwoods Christian Camp  
11th-16th.. Week 1 Camp Wetoga  
18th-23rd... Week 2 Camp Wetoga

### **JULY**

1st ..... Independence Day Picnic  
4th ..... Fireworks in back parking lot  
16th -19th... VBS  
28th-29th .....Back to School Retreat at Camp Wetoga

### **AUGUST**

16th-24th.... Polishing the Pulpit/Sevierville

### **SEPTEMBER**

11th..... GSOP Class begins Fall Quarter  
24th..... Early Afternoon Service

### **OCTOBER**

7th..... Cookout, Devotional & Hayride, Pritchett Farm  
27th-29th... Fall Revival - Jeff Jenkins  
29th..... Early Afternoon Service  
29th..... Trunk or Treat

### **NOVEMBER**

12th..... Veteran's Day Luncheon/Early Afternoon Service  
21st..... Area-Wide Thanksgiving Service

### **DECEMBER**

1st..... Congregational Holiday Party  
8th..... Prepare Fruit Baskets  
27th..... Special Prayer/Singing Service

## 2023 ECOC Youth Calendar

Community Service/Devo in homes/Can combine C-Squad & Youth

### **January**

8th – L2L Workday/Youth Service Project  
22nd – Youth Devo After PM Service

### **February**

5th - Lads to Leaders Work Day  
10th – Senior Saints Valentine’s Dinner  
24th – 26th – YES Weekend in Valdosta

### **March**

5th - L2L Work Day  
12th – Youth Devo After PM Service  
TBD – Service Project in Cartersville

### **April**

2nd - L2L Workday  
6th – 9th – Lads to Leaders Convention  
22nd – Workday at Church Cemetery

### **May**

6th – Cookout and Devo at River Property  
28th – Graduation Luncheon

### **June**

Bible Camps

### **July**

16th – 19th – VBS  
28th – 29th – Back to School Retreat

### **August**

5th – Rafting Trip (5th Grade and Up)  
13th – Youth Devo After PM Service  
26th – Gilmer Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner

### **September**

10th – Singing/Games at the Oaks Assisted Living Center  
15th – 17th – Camping Trip in Chatsworth  
24th - L2L Workday

### **October**

7th – Pritchett Hayride  
8th – Youth Devo After PM Service

### **November**

5th – Progressive Dinner  
11th – Yard Work for Elderly and Shut-Ins  
12th - L2L Workday

### **December**

3rd - L2L Workday  
15th – Youth Holiday Party  
27th – 30th – Exposure Youth Camp

# 2023 Brotherhood Events Calendar

## JANUARY

14th-18th..... PTP Spark in Valdosta, Georgia

## FEBRUARY

6th-10th ..... Freed-Hardeman University Lectureship

24th-26th..... YES Weekend in Valdosta, GA

## MARCH

17th-19th..... SOAR Youth Rally

## APRIL

23rd-26th..... Revival at Jasper

30th..... Area-Wide Singing at Camp Wetoga

## MAY

## JUNE

17th-24th..... American Missions Campaign in Cary, NC

## JULY

2nd-7th..... Revival at Boardtown

8th-15th..... American Missions Campaign in Cleburne, TX

## AUGUST

16th-24th.... Polishing the Pulpit/Sevierville

20th..... Revival at Macedonia

27th..... Stanley Homecoming

## SEPTEMBER

24th..... Pisgah Homecoming

24th-27th..... Revival at Jasper

25th-28th..... Harding University Lectureship

## OCTOBER

## NOVEMBER

## DECEMBER

27th-30th..... Exposure Youth Camp



2023  
Summer Series

**JUNE 4** - IF YOU LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOU, WHAT REWARD WILL YOU GET? MATT. 5:46

*DENNY HOWELL, OOLTEWAH, TN*

**JUNE 11** - WHY DO YOU CALL ME LORD, LORD AND DO NOT DO WHAT I SAY? LUKE 6:46

*JORDAN ALKER, TUSCALOOSA, AL*

**JUNE 18** - WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID? DO YOU STILL HAVE NO FAITH? MARK 4:40

*BARRY GRIDER, DALTON, GA*

**JUNE 25** - DO YOU THINK I CANNOT CALL ON MY FATHER, AND HE WILL AT ONCE PUT AT MY DISPOSAL

MORE THAN TWELVE LEGIONS OF ANGELS? MATTHEW 26:53

*MIKE MOSS, NASHVILLE, TN*

**JULY 2** - WILL YOU GIVE ME A DRINK? JOHN 4:7

*ELLIOT GLASGOW, COLUMBUS, GA*

**JULY 9** - JOHN'S BAPTISM - WHERE DID IT COME FROM? MATTHEW 21:25

*ANDREW KINGSLEY, MONTGOMERY, AL*

**JULY 16** - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JULY 23** - MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? MATTHEW 27:46

*JEREMY PATE, MONTGOMERY, AL*

**JULY 30** - CAN ANY ONE OF YOU BY WORRYING ADD A SINGLE HOUR TO YOUR LIFE MATT 6:27

*HAROLD SAVAGE, SNELLVILLE, GA*

**AUGUST 6** - DO YOU STILL NOT UNDERSTAND? MARK 8:21

*MIKE UNDERWOOD, BLUE RIDGE, GA*

**AUGUST 13** - WHERE ARE THEY? HAS NO ONE CONDEMNED YOU? JOHN 8:10

*KYLE RYE, BUFORD, GA*

**AUGUST 20** - DO YOU LOVE ME? JOHN 21:17

*CARY OGLESBY, MADISON, GA*

**AUGUST 27** - WHAT CAN ANYONE GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SOUL? MATTHEW 16:26

*AARON GALLAGHER, SOUTHAVEN, MS*



**Questions Jesus Asked**





**Winter Quarter December - February**

**Sunday Morning**

Auditorium  
Lobby Classroom

Jeremy Green  
College/Young Adults Nathan Collier

Wisdom Literature  
Selected Topics

**Wednesday Evening**

Auditorium  
Lobby Classroom

Mark Pettit  
C. Kingsley/M. Linkous

1 and 2 Timothy  
How to Study the Bible

**Spring Quarter March - May**

**Sunday Morning**

Auditorium  
Lobby Classroom

Barry Pritchett  
Young Pros - Jeremy Green

Proverbs  
Selected Topics

**Wednesday Evening**

Auditorium  
Lobby Classroom

Barry Kingsley  
Mike Linkous

Traits of Christian Living  
Difficult Passages of the Bible

**Monday Evening**

G.S.O.P. Mike Underwood

Denominational Doctrines

**Summer Quarter June - August**

**Sunday Morning**

Auditorium  
Lobby Classroom

Various  
College/Young Adults - Jeremy Green

What "Christian" Means to Me  
Selected Topics

**Wednesday Evening**

Auditorium  
Fellowship Hall

Elders  
Barry Kingsley/Jeremy Green

Habits of a Loving Heart  
Singing Class

**Fall Quarter September - November**

**Sunday Morning**

Auditorium  
Fellowship Hall

Jeremy Green  
Young Pros - Junior Jenkins

TBD  
Selected Topics

**Wednesday Evening**

Auditorium  
Fellowship Hall

Nathan Collier/Jeremy Green  
Janine Lock

Angels  
Ladies Class

**Monday Evening**

G.S.O.P. Jeremy Green

Christian Ethics