

SET APART



2026 SPIRITUAL GROWTH PLAN

*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify
you completely*

1 Thessalonians 5:23



ELLIJAY
CHURCH OF CHRIST



Elders

Barry Kingsley
Mark Pettit

Deacons

James Barr
Josh Chancey
Tim Hensley
John Johnson
Brandon Jones
Jason Ledford
Tate McCoy
Will Parker
Barry Pritchett
Daniel Sisson
Mark Wilson

Minister

Jeremy Green

January 4, 2026

Dear Church Family,

We experienced a great year in 2025, and we are looking forward to an even better year in 2026. We pray that our hearts were strengthened by our emphasis last year on guarding our hearts. We can be confident that we are stronger Christians from our study of God's Word concerning putting God first in our lives.

Our theme for 2026 is taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:23, "**Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of Lord Jesus Christ.**" We pray that our lives can be "**SET APART**" as we strive to help each other get to heaven.

In 2026, we will continue to emphasize the importance of attending and participating in worship, Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Bible classes. We become a unified and stronger congregation of God's children when we worship together. We need to continue to nurture our love for one another in the opportunities that we have to assemble together.

We are including weekly family devotionals in our spiritual growth plan again this year. We encourage you to study at home with your family. Daily and weekly Bible study will assist us in becoming more mature Christians.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year as we continue to grow together as a body of Christians in Ellijay, Georgia. We love each one of you and want you to know that we anticipate a great year in the service of the Lord.

In Christian Love,
The Elders


Mark Pettit


Barry Kingsley

2026 Goals Page

Grow in the Knowledge and Application of God's Word

- Challenge members to be actively involved in all worship services
- Renew passion and excitement throughout the Bible school program by emphasizing the significance of studying the Bible together
- Encourage HOME Bible studies by utilizing the devotionals in the 2026 Spiritual Growth Plan

Prioritize Outreach as a Primary Focus of the Ellijay Church

- Ensure that every major church event has an evangelistic focus
- Continue to focus on local outreach and North Georgia as a central mission field
- Further utilize the Homework Club as a tool for Spanish-speaking outreach
- Expand the use of H.I.S. Groups as a primary method of establishing contacts and setting up Bible studies
- Equip members with the tools to be more comfortable conducting group and individual Bible studies
- Support domestic mission efforts – Hiawassee, Murphy, Camp Wetoga, GST, and Project Unify
- Support foreign mission efforts – Jamaica, Africa, India, and Pacific Islands

Emphasize the Importance of Worship in the Life of the Church

- Understand that we are in God's presence and treat the worship assembly as the most important event in the life of the Christian
- Plan meaningful services each week to praise God, teach, and challenge the church family
- Invest in worship by eliminating distractions and opening hearts to receive the truth
- Continue to learn new songs and incorporate them into the song services

Promote Spiritual Growth within the Youth Program

- Challenge all families to be involved in a Bible class
- Focus on parental involvement in planning and executing youth activities
- Provide opportunities for relationship building through camps, events, and trips
- Encourage participation in Lads to Leaders to develop skills and leadership ability in young people
- Explore a summer mission trip to South Alabama

Grow and Develop Leaders within the Ellijay Congregation

- Work in conjunction with the elders to allow them to devote themselves to shepherding and spiritual guidance
- Assist the deacons in accomplishing the work of the church
- Identify and mentor future elders and deacons to lead and work in the Ellijay church
- Train more men and women to be Bible school teachers
- Encourage each other to serve in more leadership roles

Encourage Efficient Communication throughout the Church Family

- Utilize communication tools including the Realm app, church website, church social media pages, church newslines, and church call-out system
- Share information and biblical content on personal social media pages
- Increase communication between elders and members as we grow together

Highlight and Attend Special Events in 2026

- Men's Leadership Conference (March 21 with Eric Garner)
- Ladies Day (March 28 with Celine Sparks)
- Family Retreat (May 1-2)
- Friends and Family Day (April 26)
- Ellijay Week – Camp Wetoga (June 21-26)
- VBS (July 12-15)
- Area-Wide Singing (September 12)
- Fall Revival (September 13-16 with Guest Speaker Neal Pollard)

Measurable Goals (Attendance and Contribution)

Sunday AM – 200	Sunday PM - 150	Contribution - \$8,000/weekly
Sunday Bible Class – 150	Wednesday PM – 150	

Tentative Congregational Calendar of Events/Activities 2026

JANUARY

4th..... Present Growth Plan to Congregation
12th..... GSOP Course Begins
25th..... Potluck and Early PM Service

FEBRUARY

13th Valentine's Dinner
22nd..... Potluck and Early PM Service

MARCH

21st..... Men's Leadership Conference (w/ Eric Garner)
22nd..... Potluck Following AM Service
22nd..... Small Groups PM Service
28th..... Ladies Day (w/ Celine Sparks)
29th..... Easter Egg Hunt and PM Service (Red Apple Barn)

APRIL

2nd - 5th.... Lads to Leaders Convention
26th..... Friends and Family Day (Potluck/Early PM Service)

MAY

1st - 2nd.... Family Retreat
10th..... Raintree Children's Home Appeal
17th..... Graduation Luncheon/Early PM Service
30th..... Small Groups PM Service

JUNE

7th..... Summer Series Begins
7th-12th..... Backwoods Christian Camp
14th-19th..... South Alabama Mission Trip
21st-26th.... Camp Wetoga (PM Service at Camp)

JULY

4th Fireworks in back parking lot
12th - 15th.... VBS

AUGUST

2nd..... Back to School Youth Night
14th-20th.... Polishing the Pulpit - Sevierville, Tennessee
30th - Summer Series Ends?

SEPTEMBER

5th Labor Day Picnic at the Big Rock
12th..... Area-Wide Singing
13th..... Potluck and Early PM Service
13th - 16th Revival with Neal Pollard
27th..... PM Service at Red Apple Barn

OCTOBER

11th..... Apple Festival Devo
18th Apple Festival Devo
24th Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat
25th..... Potluck and Early PM Service

NOVEMBER

14th..... Congregational Thanksgiving Meal
22nd Early PM Service (No Meal)
24th..... Area-Wide Thanksgiving Service
29th Small Groups PM Service

DECEMBER

11th..... Congregational Holiday Party/Fruit Baskets
23rd..... Special Prayer/Singing Service
30th..... Special Prayer/Singing Service

YOUTH ACTIVITIES 2026

January

2nd - Youth Lock-In
10th - L2L Providers Event
11th - L2L Workday
19th - L2L Workday
25th L2L Area-Wide Practice

February

8th - L2L Workday
13th Valentines Dinner
15th - L2L Workday/PEARLS Test
20th-22nd CYC in Gatlinburg

March

1st - L2L Workday/Bible Bowl Test
15th - L2L Workday/Bible Bowl vs. Elders
29th - L2L Final Workday
29th - Easter Egg Hunt

April

2nd - 5th L2L Convention
26th - L2L Celebration Party

May

1-2 - Family Retreat
17th - Graduation Luncheon

June

7th-12th - Backwoods Camp
14th - 19th - Youth Mission Trip
21st - 26th Camp Wetoga

July

12th - 15th VBS
17th - Youth Lock-In
18th - Toccoa River Tubing Company
26th - Dorm Room Table Showers

August

2nd - Back to School Youth Night
23rd - L2L Kickoff Party

September

5th - Labor Day Picnic at the Big Rock
20th - L2L Workday
27th - PM Service at Red Apple Barn

October

4th - L2L Workday
24th - Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat
25th Reverse Trick or Treating/L2L Workday

November

14th - Church Thanksgiving Meal
15th - L2L Workday

December

13th - L2L Workday
27th-30th - Exposure Youth Camp in Huntsville
31st - New Years Eve Party

*We will have a Teen Night Tuesday once each month based on the monthly schedule

*Other events will be added throughout the year!

SET APART



STUDIES IN 1 PETER

2026 SUMMER SERIES

SUNDAY NIGHTS
AT 6:00 PM

June 7 - August 30



June 7

"Our Inheritance" (1:3-5)

Walker Gregory, Athens, GA



June 14

"Genuine Faith" (1:6-7)

Andrew Kingsley,
Montgomery, AL



June 21

"The Glory of Salvation" (1:8-12)

Rick Lawson,
Adairsville, GA



June 28

"The Perfect Lamb" (1:17-21)

Ryan Ary, Cleveland, TN



July 5

"A Spiritual House" (2:4-8)

Nathan Diller, Columbus, GA



July 12

"Chosen" (2:9)

Spencer Hall, Copper Hill, TN



July 19

"This World is Not My Home" (2:11-12)

Jordan Alker, Northport, AL



July 26

"Obey Authority" (2:13-17)

Josh Cantrell, Decatur, GA



August 2 - Back to School Night

"Walking in His Steps" (2:21-25)

Dale Jenkins, Jenkins Institute



August 9

"Husbands and Wives" (3:1-7)

Harold Savage, Snellville, GA



August 16

"Made Alive" (3:18-22)

Chris Parker, Peachtree City, GA



August 23

"God Loves the Humble" (5:1-7)

Kyle Rye, Buford, GA



August 30

"Resist the Devil" (5:8-11)

Paul Spurlin, Marietta, GA

Work Area Contacts

Evangelism

Jeremy Green (334-614-1503)
Barry Pritchett (706-889-8409)
Matt Watkins (470-270-4581)

Benevolence

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

Edification

Daniel Sisson (770-595-8141)
Gerald Chancey (706-669-3363)

Adult Education

James Barr (470-201-8040)
Jeremy Green (334-614-1503)

Youth Education & Youth

Brandon Jones (706-273-8762)
Ben Kingsley (706-669-0784)
Caelan Scarbrough (706-834-8903)

Lads to Leaders

Mark Wilson (770-596-6742)

Hispanic Ministry

John Johnson (706-669-0422)

Worship Support

Jason Ledford (706-669-4504)
Tim Hensley (706-669-3874)
Clyde Cody (404-863-1818)
Mark Wilson (770-596-6742)

Finance

Josh Chancey (706-669-6848)
Phil Hinton (706-217-8495)

Technology/Advertising

Will Parker (706-889-1021)
Matt Watkins (470-270-4581)

Security

Jackie Cochran (706-889-4736)
Tate McCoy (706-669-0667)

Transportation

John Johnson (706-669-0422)
Caelan Scarbrough (706-834-8903)

Building and Grounds

Brandon Jones (706-273-8762)
Jason Ledford (706-669-4504)
Mark Wilson (770-596-6742)
Keith Brown (706-889-0505)