



ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Joining Together on a Christian Journey of Love and Service

April 2026

2600 Ashland Rd
Columbia, SC 29210
ashlandumc.org

The Rev. Jonathan Harris, Pastor

pastor@ashlandumc.org

Phone Ext. 15

The Path: 8:45 AM Traditional: 11:00 AM Sunday School: 10:00 AM

Office Hours: M-Th: 8 am-3:30 pm

Telephone: (803) 798-5350

Ashland family,

Since the start of 2026, volunteers have been working hard to coordinate and sustain Ashland's ministries with children, youth, and technology. With their help, we continue to have twelve children consistently participating in Sunday afternoon activities, and the church's online ministries have continued. Thanks to all who have contributed their time and talents!

We are excited to share plans for ongoing staff support of these ongoing ministries that will take effect on April 1, 2026. **Brittany Staples** will be taking on a part-time, interim role as the **Director of Children and Youth Ministries** through the end of 2026. Brittany is a third grade teacher at Riverbanks Elementary School. In her role with Ashland, she will coordinate children and youth activities, organize volunteers, and communicate about children and youth ministry with parents and the congregation. This interim position will last through the end of 2026.

Kyle Staples will serve as Ashland's part-time, interim **Director of Technology and Communications**. Kyle does IT work at several elementary schools in Lexington-Richland District 5. At Ashland, Kyle will prepare slides for worship services, run—and equip others to run—the live stream of worship services, and keep information on the church website, social media pages, and sign up-to-date. This interim position will also last through the end of 2026.

You might wonder why these are interim positions. What is the long-term plan, not just for children, youth, and technology, but also ministries with adults?

Pastor Jonathan has now been at Ashland for about nine months. During this time, we have made great strides together! Several initiatives, including Communion delivery to homebound members, children sharing artwork with homebound members, Learning Buddies at Seven Oaks Elementary School, a grief support group, the return of children's messages during worship, and the purchase and installation of a new electronic sign, are up and running! We now have an opportunity to begin looking ahead toward long-term goals.

Pastor Jonathan recently met with Kim Crutchfield (chair, Church Council), Marilyn Gramling (Lay Leader), and Craig Hatch (chair, Staff-Parish Relations Committee) to begin the process of crafting a mission statement that clarifies and reflects what Ashland understands its ultimate mission to be. This draft of a mission statement will be shared at Ashland's upcoming Church Council meeting on March 31 for further refinement and then shared with each church committee for more feedback and input. The Church Council will then have an opportunity to approve a refined mission statement that reflects the heart of this congregation.

Once a mission statement is adopted, this statement will be a guidepost, not only for how Ashland meets its long-term staffing needs, but also how the church structures lay leadership and committees for the furthering of this mission. By taking on these interim staff roles, Brittany and Kyle will help Ashland sustain ministries with children, youth, and

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Karen Zobel
finance@ashlandumc.org
Ext. 13

Maria Anderson
office@ashlandumc.org
Ext. 10

Robert Neese
music@ashlandumc.org
Ext. 11

Short-term grief support for those who have lost a child or grandchild

Erin Koeske from Live Oak Counseling Center will be leading a short-term grief support group for those who have experienced the loss of a child or grandchild. These sessions will take place in Room 138 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the following Sundays: April 19 and May 3, 17, and 31. Participants are asked to commit to attend all four sessions. To help with planning, please let Maria know if you plan to attend at office@ashlandumc.org by Sunday, April 5.

Snack Packs

Ashland UMC has provided snack packs to children at Seven Oaks Elementary School for TEN YEARS. Our volunteers pack food into snack packs along with shopping, preparing double grocery bags, delivering to the school, and donating funds for this mission.

Susannah Wesley Circle conducted a packing session during March. Thanks to this Circle we have snack packs ready to deliver during the coming month. For the week that students are on spring break, we include extra items such as a jar of peanut butter in each snack pack.

Ashland now provides 52 snack packs each week to bring weekend food to hungry children. Thank you, Ashland!

Val Songer, Snack Pack Coordinator

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technology in the immediate future, while allowing Pastor Jonathan to devote more time to leading the church in clarifying its unique, God-given mission at this particular time in this particular place.

Please take a moment to thank Brittany and Kyle for their investment of time and energy in these important ministries, and be in prayer for Ashland as we do the exciting work of dreaming of the big picture that God calls us to be part of together!

In Christ,
Rev. Jonathan Harris, Pastor
Mr. Craig Hatch, Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Chairperson

Family Ministries

Thoughts? Questions? Ideas? Want to join our email list?
803.798.5350 x 10 (office@ashlandumc.org)

Sunday, April 5	No youth activities (Easter/Spring Break)
Sunday, April 12	4:30- 6 PM ACME & MYF
Sunday, April 19	4:30-6:00 PM Children 5 th grade & younger - Church 5-7:30 PM – Worship and serving dinner at Methodist Student Network (youth 6 th grade and up)
Friday, April 24	6:30-8:30 PM 5 th Quarter
Sunday, April 26	4:30-6:00 PM, ACME & Youth

Thank You

Dear Ashland United Methodist folks,
Thank you every so much for your incredibly generous gift to the New Americans Program! We are so very grateful for your partnership in the Work of Welcome!
Sincerely, Sarah Lewis from the New Americans Team

United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Retreat

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Washington Street UMC, 1401 Washington St.

Registration – 9:15-9:45 AM

Program - 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

Registration Fee: \$25.00 Deadline: April 4

Send to: Janice Eaddy, 101 Winners Circle,
Lake City, SC 29560

Pick up form on bulletin board.

Social Media

Facebook – Follow the Facebook posts for Ashland United Methodist Church. Be sure to share the posts when they appear so more people can know what is going on at Ashland UMC.

Website – Our weekly worship bulletins and monthly newsletter are posted on the website. The homepage is a good resource for upcoming events. Review the calendar on the website to ensure your meeting/event is listed.

Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 3:00 PM in room 111. Below are the upcoming books:

April 19, 2026: [A Painted House: A Novel](#), by John Grisham

May 17, 2026: [Broken Country](#), by Clare Leslie Hall

June 21, 2026: [Isola](#), by Allegra Goodman

Ashland Children/Youth Activities

Ashland has a lot of loving, caring adults who are willing to care for your children. Many of them like to know when kids' games, concerts, plays, and other performances are so they can try to support them when possible. If you would like the church to share your child's sports/concert/performance schedule with the church family, please send the schedule to Maria Anderson at office@ashlandumc.org so she can share that in the church's weekly calendar. What a great opportunity for kids to see friendly, caring people supporting them!

April 19: Celebrating Maria Anderson's 20 Years at Ashland!

April 3, 2026 marks 20 years that Maria Anderson has worked at Ashland United Methodist Church! Maria's dedicated service, organization and communication skills, and friendly, welcoming manner continue to be such gifts to this church! Maria will be present during the 11:00 service on Sunday, April 19 so that we may formally recognize her and celebrate her 20 years of service at Ashland UMC! Please plan to be present and to take time when you can to thank her for all she continues to contribute to the ministries of Ashland UMC!

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt for Children, March 28th at 10:00 AM

5th Sunday Brunch, March 29th, 10:00 AM – Bring your favorite brunch item to share and non-perishable food items for the Blessing Box.

Traditional Choir Lessons and Hymns, March 29th at 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Service, April 2nd at 6:00 PM

Good Friday Service, April 3rd at 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5th

8:45 AM – The Path Worship Service

10:00 AM – Sunday School for All Ages

11:00 AM – Traditional Worship

Covered Dish Dinner followed by

Pantasia Steel Band Ensemble

Friday, May 1st, 6:00 PM

Vacation Bible School, June 15-19

Columbia Salkehatchie Camp, July 11-18

**Ashland United Methodist Church
2600 Ashland Rd
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For Pastoral Care:

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