



ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"Ashland United Methodist Church develops disciples of Jesus Christ
who care for one another and serve our communities."*

August 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,

I am proud of how you live out your mission to "develop disciples of Jesus Christ who care for one another and serve our communities" in so many ways! In June, I watched with joy as so many of you decorated, planned, and led activities with children at Ashland's Vacation Bible School. While the group of children was small, each child had fun, experienced the love of caring adults, and grew in their knowledge of the Bible and faith.

At the end of June, three adults and five youth attended Hinton Rural Life Center's summer mission, where we repaired fencing and built hay feeders on a goat farm. You should be proud of how the youth represented Ashland!

In July, many of you cooked, donated money and gift cards, and volunteered during the Columbia Salkehatchie camp. Your dedication and generosity allowed three homeowners in our local community to receive much needed home repairs, not to mention the lives of the youth volunteers that were shaped through their week of service and worship together.

On August 4, we will have another opportunity to fulfill our mission as we welcome teachers from Seven Oaks Elementary school and serve them brunch as they begin a new school year.

An additional way we are working to fulfill our shared mission together is to begin aligning our systems and structures to more intentionally and strategically fulfill our mission. As I write, I am preparing for my first meeting tonight with the short-term task force I described in last month's newsletter. In addition to myself, I am excited to share that Clare Allen (Staff-Parish and Congregational Care), Marilyn Gramling (Staff-Parish and Faith Development), Jim Newcomb (Missions), and Sara Warren (Faith Development) have agreed to serve on this team that will make recommendations to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Nominations and Lay Leadership Development, and Church Council for aligning our systems and structures with our mission.

In addition to being in prayer for our work, I invite you to give thought to the following prompt that I shared with them in preparation for our first gathering: "Imagine someone in our community who is not already a disciple of Jesus Christ or part of any church. What has to happen to help them become a disciple, continue growing as a disciple, and be equipped and deployed in caring for others and serving in their communities?"

I am grateful and proud to be your pastor!

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan

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ACME and MYF

August 9 – 4:30 PM, ACME and MYF Parent Meeting, Ashland Hall

August 16 – 4:30 PM, ACME and MYF Program BACK TO SCHOOL BASH gathering at Ashland House

Piano Recital

August 16 – 4:00 PM, featuring Hao Wu, Ashland Hall – Reception to follow

Columbia Salkehatchie Camp 2026 Is in the Books!

There was a total of 35 campers, 3 sites and many volunteers. Camp ended with an early morning devotion on Saturday. *Won't You Be My Neighbor* was the theme of the week. From Pastor Meg, *who was your neighbor this week? The homeowner, your crew leader, the person sleeping in the bunk next to you, the volunteer preparing your meal.* Remember to love your neighbor as yourself.

The weekend kicked off with registration and settling in. There were constant eyes on the weather. Of course, on the first day, site visits were interrupted with a downpour. Sunday, we tried something new with camp, well new to the camp since COVID. Campers enjoyed a lazy afternoon at Pine Island State Park. Floating in the lake, tossing the football, energetic games of spike ball, or enjoying the scenery from the vantage point of the picnic shelter. Camp rounded out the day with BBQ for dinner.

The families who were helped this week was a family of 4 in Irmo, a mother and daughter in Columbia, and a family of two cousins and a friend in Columbia. Families come in all shapes and sizes, and we enjoy getting to know our families and help them make their homes safe.

Campers ranged in ages from 14 to 76. This year's camp was missing a few critical campers/volunteers. One camper who grew up attending camp as a youth, stepped into a site lead role. Site lead is one of the hardest roles at camp. You have youth and adults looking to you for guidance and on the job training. Patience is not a suggestion, but a requirement to lead. Several volunteers stepped in to help with breakfasts and dinners. People see when a meal is served, but the work behind it takes many hours and heavy lifting throughout the week. Another camper who also grew up attending camp as a youth, helped to tag team with the assistant director role, since they could not be at camp during the day. Love your neighbor as yourself was truly on display this week with everyone that stepped up where camp needed it.

Throughout the week there were surprises on sites to creep up. Site 2 re-plumbed their house, when plumbing wasn't even on the original to do list. Site 3 faced many challenges reroofing the home. A lot of holes that needed attention. Then rain on Monday caused a 2-hour delay for site 3. Campers powered through rain delays, the heat and unexpected projects.

When they say it takes a village, it truly takes a village to have a successful camp. Thank you to Ashland UMC, Pastor Jonathan Harris, Grace UMC, Pastor Meg Cook, Chapin Christian Community Church, St. John UMC, Heyward Street UMC, Shiloh UMC, Burgin Roofing, Friendship Sunday School class, Cornerstone Sunday School class, Cliff Jeffcoat, Colleen Daniels, Kim Gordon, Mary Lightsey, Sandra Calore, the Breakfast Club (volunteers to help with breakfast), the popsicle delivery team (some days sites got TWO deliveries), Site Leads Hunter Kennedy, John Nesbitt, & Steven Ginn, Runners Allen Amar, John Cook, John Calore & Denny Daniels, all 35 campers, and the many folks that donated gift cards and money to help families live a bit more comfortable.

Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, August 16, at 3:00 in Room 111. Below are the upcoming books:

August 16, 2026: [The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny](#), by Kiran Desai

September 20, 2026: [The River is Waiting](#), by Wally Lamb

Prayer Shawl and Prayer Square Blessing and Dedication

Prayer shawl and prayer square blessing and dedication will be August 9th. We thank all those who made the beautiful prayer shawls and prayer squares and hope they can attend the dedication. The prayer squares are in baskets in Ashland Hall and the Narthex for the congregation to give out to family and friends, who are in need of comfort and prayers due to illness or loss. The prayer shawls will still be given to any church family, who is in need of comfort and prayers because of illness or loss.

School District Five Thanks Ashland for Snack Packs

School District Five sent the following note:

Dear Ashland United Methodist Church, Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the District 5 Snack Pack Program. Your ongoing partnership is truly making a lasting impact. We value the relationship we have built and look forward to our continued partnership. Thank you again for your dedication and heart to ensure no child goes home hungry.

Ashland's Snack Pack team is preparing for the new school year to provide snack packs for children at Seven Oaks Elementary School. You can help by purchasing food items to place in the snack pack bin near room 102. The most needed items are 15 oz. cans of pasta (spaghetti, ravioli) and juice boxes. Also, you can contribute to Ashland's Missions Snack Pack Designated Fund or join Ashland's Snack Pack team.

Contact Val Songer for information. (val.songer@gmail.com)

United Women in Faith

Women's circles have been a part of the Methodist church since 1910. The name has changed over the years: 1910 Woman's Home Missionary Society, 1921 Wesleyan Service Guild, 1946 Women's Society of World Service, 1968 Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS), 1972 United Methodist Women (UMW), and lastly 2022 United Women in Faith (UWF). Through these many name changes one thing has remained constant - their purpose. The women always formed a community to serve and know God, develop supportive relationships, and support missions that serve women and children.

Ashland's unit of United Women in Faith (UWF) consists of 4 circles: Friendship, Harmon, Noontime Seekers, and Susanna Wesley. We have fun, fellowship – that turns into friendship and purpose. During the month of August, a circle will be highlighted in the bulletin. At 5th Sunday brunch, a table will be set up with information about all circles. You are encouraged to read the bulletin each week to learn more about each group. There is one waiting for you to become a member. Our meetings begin again in September.

MEETING TIMES AND PLACE

Friendship Circle - 4th Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM @ members homes; chair: Jane Foster

Harmon Circle - 2nd Monday of the month, 10:30 AM @ Ashland, chair: Libby Laird

Noontime Seekers - 2nd Tuesday of the month, 12 noon @ Ashland, chair: Rosemary Sanders

Susanna Wesley - 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30 PM @ members homes, chair: Joan Houser

Welcome

Ashland welcomes Nancy Rowden! Nancy comes by certificate of transfer from First UMC of Boca Raton, Florida. She enjoys birds, cats, music and walking.

Statements of Giving

The Statements of Giving were mailed this week. Questions may be directed to Ken Corbett at (803) 798-5350, x 13 or via email at finance@ashlandumc.org.

**Ashland United Methodist Church
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