



ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Joining Together on a Christian Journey of Love and Service
February 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,

There are so many exciting updates to share this month as we move forward together in ministry! On January 5, I met again with a team to continue planning an intentional shepherding system for the congregation. This is not quick work! Progress continues behind the scenes, and I look forward to sharing more information in the months to come. A huge thank you goes out to Bob Borom, Herman Lightsey, Sally Lowery, Rosemary Sanders, and Cindy Ward for their participation and input!

We continue to make progress toward the installation of a new digital sign. Late last year, we were approved for a \$10,000 grant from the Columbia District Board of Congregational Development. We are waiting to learn how large a grant we will receive from the South Carolina Conference Committee of Congregational Development. A huge thank you to Kim Gordon for her hard work on this!

I would also like to update you about children's and youth ministry and technology. At its January 5 meeting, Ashland's Staff-Parish Relations Committee agreed to split the full-time Director of Programs role into two part-time positions: Director of Children and Youth Ministry and Director of Technology and Communications. These positions have been advertised on school and conference job boards and shared directly with individuals who have the gifts for these positions. We have heard back from several interested candidates.

In the meantime, volunteers have been leading all tasks related to technology and children's and youth ministry. The children are learning ways to practice prayer on Sunday evenings, and the youth have several upcoming events including Revolution (Jan. 30-Feb. 1), Home Works (Feb. 28), and a summer mission trip that is in the works! Marissa Harris has also begun teaching the kids music on Sunday afternoons!

I would also like to share good news about the Path service. As many of you know, I have been coordinating music and musicians for that service for the past 6-7 months. One of the musicians who has consistently shared her time and gifts in recent months, Alena Crowley, will be stepping into the role of Path Music Director beginning February 1!

Finally, Ashland was founded on the belief that at least 10% of what the church spends should be spent on missions. Some of this mission work is through the budget, while much of it occurs through special offerings and collections from Sunday School classes and other groups. In order to track our progress toward this goal and to affirm and celebrate the numerous ways Ashland is in mission, please make sure to report any missional giving by your Sunday school class, circle, or other group to Karen Zobel, Ashland's financial secretary. We will report monthly how we are making progress towards this mission's goal!

In Christ, Pastor Jonathan

Karen Zobel
finance@ashlandumc.org
Ext. 13

Maria Anderson
office@ashlandumc.org
Ext. 10

Robert Neese
music@ashlandumc.org
Ext. 11

Missions

Thank You very much to the folks from Ashland Methodist as well as all the others who made Love Revolution a success on January 4th. I counted between 28 & 30 guests today. Thank You to everyone. It wouldn't happen without your solid support. I did a bit of rough math and during 2025 we fed about 1500 sit-down meals and between 4000-4500 total meals when including the take away meals. Additionally, a large number of folks have been fed by the food distributed to the Rapid Shelter and various local neighborhood groups by our volunteers. Y'all should take a Proud Bow. Love Revolution is truly working!!

Thank You everyone.

~Robert Miller, Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church

A New Adult Class is Forming in 2026!

The class meets in the Prayer Room, the room with the comfortable green chairs! The class is developing around the interests and needs of the participants. Come for coffee, introductions, conversation and a discussion lesson. Over the next few weeks the class will build a framework for the group and celebrate a new year and a new beginning! If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Gramling, Lay Leader at marilynggramling@gmail.com

MenMinistry Retreat

February 20-21, 2026

Journey UMC, Columbia

“Building Bridges Across Generations”

A weekend inspired by Psalm 145:4 and Luke 22:31-32. This retreat focuses on passing faith and wisdom between generations. Contact Herman Lightsey for more information.



ASAP Valentine's Party

Saturday, February 14th, 11:30 AM, Ashland Hall

Good food. Happy times. Barbershop group to sing. Donation: \$5 (Additional contributions appreciated.)

Bring canned food item for Blessing Box.

Use this tear-out and drop in offering plate to register or call church office. (803) 798-5350, x 10

Name(s) _____

Family Ministries

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

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday, February 1st | No ACME & MYF |
| Sunday, February 8th | ACME & MYF |
| | 4:30-6:00 PM |
| Sunday, February 15 th | No ACME & MYF |
| Friday, February 20th | 5 th Quarter |
| | 6:30-8:30 PM |
| Sunday, February 22 nd | ACME & MYF |
| | 4:30-6:00 PM |
| Sunday, March 1st | ACME & MYF |
| | 4:30-6:00 PM |

Thank You

Many thanks to Stacey Ellett Ward and the 1980's MYF group for honoring me in November. This meant more to me than you will ever know.

~Jim Bradley

Thank You

We have been charter members of Ashland United Methodist Church since the very beginning. We have enjoyed participating in many areas such as the choir and financial committee. As we get older and cannot attend in person, we can watch our services online, which is a blessing. We also have received minister visits.

So many members have brought us different meals, soups and goodies. For instance, during the Christmas season, we received many cards from individuals, Sunday School classes, circles and Ashland family. We greatly appreciate everything!

Sincerely,
Adair Long
Chris Long

Making a Gift Tax-Free With an IRA

If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to donate to Ashland and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to \$111,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Ashland without having to pay income taxes on the money. This is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). A QCD counts toward satisfying your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year.

Talk to your financial advisor for additional information.

Maria will be out of the office January 22-30. Volunteers will be in the office during the morning hours.

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Study, "An Introduction to the Bible: Tools for Reading and Understanding Scripture" will begin Sunday, February 15th from 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM and continue weekly until Sunday, March 29th. Should the Sunday evening class fill to capacity, a second class will be offered on Tuesday evenings. This study includes two sessions each on the overall Bible, the Old Testament, and the New Testament plus a closing session. Registration forms are located in the Narthex and at the rear of Ashland Hall. If you have questions, you can email Hal Clarkson at hal.irmo@gmail.com.

Thank You to Ashland UMC

Seven Oaks Elementary School is grateful to Ashland UMC for providing snack packs for hungry students. We appreciate our volunteers who prepare and deliver 52 snack packs for children to take home each weekend.

Thank you to Noontime Seekers Circle for packing snack packs during January. Thank you to **Richard Brown** and **Bill & Jane Bryan** for serving on our delivery team. Richard and the Bryans load their cars at Ashland and deliver snack packs to Seven Oaks.

Thank you to many Ashland members for donating funds and food items and for providing grocery bags. If you want to add snack pack items to your grocery list, our most needed food is 15 oz. cans of pasta meals. The orange crate near room 102 is ready for your donations.

Thank you to Ashland for your continued support of our Snack Pack mission!
Val Songer, Snack Pack Coordinator

Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 3:00 in room #111.

Below are the upcoming books:

February 15, 2026: The Names, by Florence Knapp

March 15, 2026: The Clinic, by Cate Quinn

April 19, 2026: A Painted House: A Novel, by John Grisham

Upcoming Events

Revolution (United Methodist conference for youth in SC)

Friday, January 30 - Sunday, February 1, DoubleTree Hotel and Convention Center

Shrove Tuesday Dinner, February 17, 5:30-7:00 PM

Join with others for a time of breakfast food, fellowship, and New Orleans-style music by the Irmo High School Jazz Band as we prepare for the fasting of the Lenten season with a Shrove Tuesday Dinner.

Ash Wednesday Service, February 18, 6:00 PM

Home Works, February 28, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

All youth (6th grade-up) are invited to spend Saturday, February 28 serving a local neighbor by providing free home repairs. Any interested youth or adults should let Pastor Jonathan know at pastor@ashlandumc.org. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice new skills in preparation for summer missions!

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

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

Maundy Thursday Service, April 2nd at 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service, April 3rd at 7:00 PM

Vacation Bible School, June 15-19

**Ashland United Methodist Church
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Barbara Polk The family of Ron Wilder

For Pastoral Care:

**Rev. Jonathan Harris
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