



# ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Joining Together on a Christian Journey of Love and Service*

**July 2026**

2600 Ashland Rd  
Columbia, SC 29210  
[ashlandumc.org](http://ashlandumc.org)

**The Rev. Jonathan Harris, Pastor**

[pastor@ashlandumc.org](mailto: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,

As I shared earlier this month, Ashland UMC's Church Council approved the following working mission statement at their May 26 meeting:

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

This statement has now been added to the church's website and Facebook pages and will begin appearing regularly in the bulletin and newsletter. What is more important than writing it or posting it, however, is actually using it as a tool for organizing the work of the church.

I shared with Ashland's Staff-Parish Relations Committee at their meeting on June 15 that I would like to convene a short-term task force for the purpose of identifying the needs, in both staff and lay leadership, for organizing, equipping, and deploying the congregation to accomplish each component of our mission:

- Developing disciples of Jesus Christ (both existing and new)
- Caring for one another
- Serving our communities

Because these ministry teams already play a role in fulfilling at least one component of Ashland's mission, I will include a member of SPRC, Faith Development, Congregational Care, and Missions in this task force. This group will not make decisions for Ashland; rather, they will provide recommendations to Church Council, SPRC, and Nominations/Lay Leadership Development for how Ashland might organize itself strategically to further the mission God has called us to accomplish together in this part of God's kingdom.

I thank each of you again for your role in developing Ashland's working mission statement and for the many ways you are living out that mission—through Vacation Bible School, Salkehatchie, caring for those who are homebound or experiencing grief, and so much more! I am grateful and proud to be your pastor!

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan

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VBS 2026 is in the books! It has been a fun week with bible study, crafts, music and recreation. Check out Ashland's Facebook page for pictures. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped and for those donating craft items and snacks.



- The church office will be closed the week of June 29.
- Pastor Jonathan will be at Hinton Rural Life Summer Mission Trip the week of June 29 and on vacation the week of July 6.
- Rev. Ken Prill will be on-call while Pastor Jonathan is away. (803) 873-7742
- Ashland has expenses while you are away. Offering may be mailed to the church office or given on the church's website. (ashlandumc.org)

## Thank You

Dear Ashland,

We thank everyone for the care, comfort, visits, texts, calls and cards over the last three years for Barbara Higgins. Thank you for showing us the love of Jesus! We find comfort in know she is with Jesus and family and friends who have gone on before her.

The Family of Barbara Higgins

**Roger and Marilyn Gramling** wish to thank the members of Ashland for their many expressions of concern and sympathy during the illness and death of their son, Mark.

### **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.



### **Columbia Salkehatchie Camp**

Giving ladders are placed in the Narthex and Ashland Hall with cards for you to purchase gift cards for the Columbia Salkehatchie Camp. Cards need to be turned in to the church office or placed in the offering baskets/plates by July 12.

### **Salkehatchie Potluck & Youth Presentations – July 15th**

We're excited to welcome you all to our upcoming Potluck on **Wednesday, July 15th!**

- **Potluck begins at 6:30 PM**
- **Youth presentations start at 7:00 PM**

Please bring your favorite dish to share and come ready to enjoy an evening of great food, fellowship, and presentations from our youth about the families and sites they are working with. We look forward to seeing everyone there and spending time together as a community!

### **Ashland Readers**

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

July, 2026: No meeting

August 16, 2026: The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny, by Kiran Desai

September 20, 2026: The River is Waiting, by Wally Lamb

### **Ashland's Website**

The website is in the process of being updated. Send edits/suggestions to [technology@ashlandumc.org](mailto:technology@ashlandumc.org)

**Ashland United Methodist Church  
2600 Ashland Rd  
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Michael Higgins  
Barbara Polk  
The family of Barbara Higgins  
The family of Monetta Pitts

**For Pastoral Care:**

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