ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

November 2026

2600 Ashland Rd
Columbia, SC 29210
ashlandumc.org

The Rev. Jonathan Harris, Pastor
pastor@ashlandumc.org
Phone Ext. 15

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

Telephone: (803) 798-5350

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

Ashland family,

I write with joy and excitement to celebrate and share ways Ashland continues to develop disciples of Jesus Christ who care for one another and serve our communities! On October 5, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee approved a full-time Coordinator of Discipleship staff position at Ashland to begin in the new year. This position has already been posted to several universities, surrounding United Methodist annual conferences, and The Advocate. Word of mouth is also powerful, so please share this position with others!

On October 16, Ashland hosted an outdoor movie night that included 55-60 people, most of whom are not connected with Ashland. To quote one member who was in attendance, "Older Ashland members without children and youth in their family showed up to help. Our 'front lawn' reflected the neighborhood - Black, White, Asian, and Middle Eastern people came together…." What a beautiful example of reaching new people and serving our community!

At Charge Conference on October 18, we approved lay leadership positions for 2027. Based on our new mission statement, the approved leadership structure included "rebranding" the Faith Development committee as the Disciple Development committee and beginning to build up a team within this committee to give focus and attention to reaching new people and developing new disciples.

Looking ahead to the upcoming season of Advent, I'll give a "teaser" and then follow up with more information later in November and in the December newsletter. One Sunday school class has already pledged $10,000 toward a medical debt forgiveness campaign in Lexington and Richland counties–enough to forgive roughly $1 million in medical bills in our local community through a partnership with the non-profit Undue Medical Debt. More details are to come, but what a way to serve our communities!

I feel like the writer of Hebrews 11 when I say, "For time would fail me to tell of" the women's lunch and collection of 444 items for Epworth, those who spent time with English as a Second Language students at their Trick or Treating on October 22, those who gave candy and decorated vehicles for Ashland's Trunk or Treat on October 25, and the generous response of so many who have made financial pledges toward Ashland's ministries in 2027.

I continue to be amazed by this church family. Thank you for your time, energy, and selfless service and generosity as we develop disciples of Jesus Christ, care for each other, and serve our communities together in the name of Jesus!

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan

Maria Anderson
office@ashlandumc.org
ext. 10
Alena Marie Crowley
alenamariec@gmail.com

Ken Corbett
finance@ashlandumc.org
ext. 13
Brittany Staples
youthministries@ashlandumc.org

Robert Neese
music@ashlandumc.org
ext. 11
Kyle Staples
technology@ashlandumc.org

Ashland Children Music & Education (ACME)
United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)
Schedule for November

November 1 – 4:30 PM, ACME and UMYF
November 8 – 4:30 PM, ACME and UMYF
November 15 – 4:30 PM, ACME & UMYF
November 20-22 – Immerse Retreat 2026 at Asbury Hills
November 29 – 4:30 PM, ACME & UMYF

Advent Study starts November 29!

We all know something about Jesus, but who did the gospel writers hope we would understand him to be? Pastor Jonathan will lead a study he wrote, called "What Child Is This?" each Sunday during Advent from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Participants will learn what the gospel writer Matthew intended for us to know about Jesus and explore what that means for how we live as his disciples!

Advent Study – All Are Welcome

4 Sundays in December 10:00 in the Cornerstone Classroom

During the month of December, the Cornerstone class will be exploring " Who Needs Christmas?" by Andy Stanley. These lessons will consist of a video and class discussion. If you do not regularly attend a class or if you do have a class but want to participate in this Advent study, you are invited!
Please let Sally Lowery know if you plan to attend so a spot can be reserved for you.

Daylight Savings Time Ends – Sunday, November 1

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday Night.

Welcome New Member

Erik Sickinger joined Ashland UMC on October 18. Erik comes from Leptondale Bible Church, Newburgh, New York. Erik sings in the choir and loves dogs.

Thank You

Ashland family, thank you for the many generous, kind expressions of gratitude during Pastor Appreciation month. You are so very kind. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve with you, and we look forward to the many opportunities God will place before us in the days ahead as we serve God together. Thank you!

Pastor Jonathan, Marissa, Nevaeh, Isaac, and Micah

Peanut Butter for Snack Packs

More children at Seven Oaks Elementary need snack packs. Ashland is increasing the number of snack packs we provide each week so 88 students can take home food for the weekend.

For the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, we include extra food for the days children do not eat meals at school. We add jars of peanut butter to these holiday snack packs. Help provide a 16 oz. jar of peanut butter in each snack pack by placing jars (any brand) in the snack pack bin outside room 102. Or, donate "peanut butter funds" by marking your monetary donation for Snack Pack Mission Fund.

In addition to peanut butter for the holidays, our most needed weekly item is 15 oz. cans of pasta (spaghetti, ravioli).

Thank you to Ashland for helping feed children in our community!
Val Songer, Snack Pack Coordinator

Ashland United Women in Faith

You have been donating fleece and now is the time for all good women and men to come to the aid of Jean Smith as we make the blankets for children! Please join the Noontime Seekers Circle as we cut and tie blankets. We will be in Ashland Hall from 1:00-3:00 PM on Wednesday, November 11. Bring sharp scissors! Let's continue to fulfill our mission to serve our community.

Thank you to the people of Ashland for supporting the United Women in Faith (UMiF) with your donations to Epworth. We sent approximately 444 items for their "closet" to help families, residents, and the Independent Living Center.

Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 PM in Room 111.

The Correspondent, by Virginia Evans

December: No meeting

Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews

Chair Yoga classes will be held again this year during the Shepherd's Center break. Classes will be in Ashland Hall on November 17, 24, December 1, December 8 and December 15. Cindy Smith, certified YogaFit instructor, conducts the classes. No Shepherd's Center registration is required. The cost is $25 for the classes; you can sign up and pay on the first day of class.

The Upper Room Booklets

The Upper Room Booklets for November-December are on the communications rack across from the Cornerstone Classroom. Large and regular print editions are available.

Save the Date

5th Sunday Brunch
November 29th
10:00 AM
Ashland Hall

Ashland United Methodist Church
2600 Ashland Rd
Columbia, SC 29210

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Time to Place Your Order for Poinsettias or Give a Monetary Donation

Poinsettias – 6.5" pot - $13.00; 8" pot - $22.00. All poinsettias will be red, and payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to Ashland UMC.
Deadline: November 16.
6.5" pot - #____ @ $13.00 = Total $_____
8" pot - #____ @ $22.00 = Total $_____
Designate for The Path____or Traditional Service_____
Monetary donation $____
Poinsettias or donation:
In honor of:_____
In memory of:_____
Given by:_____

For Pastoral Care:

Rev. Jonathan Harris
(864) 952-9043