



ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

October 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 continue to be amazed at the many ways Ashland develops disciples of Jesus Christ who care for one another and serve our communities! As you will see in our upcoming stewardship brochure, Ashland has accomplished the following this year through the end of August:

- Made 318 visits to sick or homebound members and made 44 Communion deliveries to homebound members
- Gave more than \$50,000 to missions, including rental and utility assistance, Epworth, the blessing box, Snack Packs, and apportioned missions like Africa University and college scholarships
- Provided 1,683 Snack Packs (11,781 meals) to children at Seven Oaks Elementary School in the 2025-26 school year
- Hosted 35 missionaries at the Columbia Salkehatchie camp and sent another eleven missionaries to do similar service through Salkehatchie and Hinton Rural Life Center

These accomplishments in ministry do not include the many dollars and hours of service disciples at Ashland have generously shared on their own in response to God's call.

As we continue to live out our working mission statement together (to develop disciples of Jesus Christ who care for one another and serve our communities), I want to give the following updates for prayer and celebration:

- Following up on the work of the mission statement task force over the summer, I have worked with the Nominations/Lay Leadership Development Committee to begin forming a team of laity to lead us in reaching and developing new disciples. This work includes coordinating events that bring us into relationship with our neighbors, follow-up with these new people and visitors, and shepherding new people as they become integrated into this community of disciples.
- I am following up with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) to finalize a long-term staff position to support and coordinate Ashland's development of new and existing disciples. I am excited to share more information following SPRC's next meeting on October 5!

I thank God for the gifts, graces, experiences, and perspectives you each contribute to God's work in and through Ashland United Methodist Church. We are the body of Christ, and I am grateful for the ways you serve as his hands and feet in this church, this community, and beyond!

In Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

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

October 4 – 4:30 PM, ACME and UMYF
October 11 – 4:30 PM, ACME and UMYF
October 16 – 6:30 PM, Neighborhood Outdoor Movie – “Zoopocalypse”
October 18 – 4:30 PM, ACME & UMYF
October 25 – 4:00-6:00 PM, Trunk or Treat

Big Start for Snack Packs

Ashland's snack pack ministry is off to a great start for this school year. Our volunteers packed and delivered snack packs starting the first week in September. Several folks at Ashland regularly place food items in the snack pack bin near room 102. This food has already been used in snack packs.

Seven Oaks Elementary has identified 85 children who need snack packs. Thanks to Ashland's support, we provide the number needed so each hungry child receives a snack pack on Fridays.

To support the snack pack mission, place food in the snack pack bin. Our most needed item is 15 oz. cans of pasta (Chef Boyardee or store brand with pop-top). Funds donated to the snack pack mission fund are used to purchase food.

District Five recently told us, "You are the hands and feet" of this program.
Thank you, Ashland!

Val Songer, Snack Pack Coordinator

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Once again, Ashland is hosting Rich/Lex District 5 students in English as a Second Language classes (ESL). As of the beginning of the year, approximately 30 students had enrolled and were actively engaging with their teachers and their classmates as they learned.

As usual, Ashland will support these students by hosting events at Halloween with Trick or Treat, Christmas with singing carols, and Easter with an egg hunt. At each of these events, students will have opportunities to directly engage in conversations with our members. More details will follow as the year progresses.

Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, October 18 at **4:15 PM** in Room 111. Below are the upcoming books:

October 18, 2026: When Crickets Cry, by Charles Martin
November 22, 2026: The Correspondent, by Virginia Evans
December: No meeting

Charge Conference

Sunday, October 18, 3:00 PM
Ashland Hall
Deadline to submit reports to Maria
Sunday, October 4
(office@ashlandumc.org)

Children's Blanket Mission Project

We are collecting fleece through the end of October for our blanket mission project. It takes two, 1 ½ yard pieces of fleece to make one blanket. *Please wash and dry the fleece prior to dropping it off.* We ask that you avoid purchasing the extra luxurious 'minky' fleece as it tends to shed terribly once cut.

Ashland is looking for new Learning Buddies to work with students K4 - 5th grade at Seven Oaks Elementary School during the 2026-2027 school year.

Learning Buddy Volunteers commit to one or two 30 minutes sessions with one or two students each week, Classroom teachers will provide "just right" learning materials for volunteers to use with their student(s).

Upon approval from the school district, new Ashland volunteers will be guided through an orientation and will be provided with support throughout the school year.

Applications are in the church office.

Ashland UMC Coordinator: Marilyn Gramling
MarilynGramling@gmail.com
(803) 318-4768

ASAP Octoberfest – Friday, October 2nd, 11:30 AM

Good Food. Happy times.

Entertainment by German Brass Band (back by popular demand)

Cost: \$10.00

Bring a non-perishable food item for the Blessing Box.

Ashland United Women in Faith

Please mark your calendars: All women of Ashland are invited to a complimentary lunch on Sunday, October 18 at 12:15 PM in Ashland Hall, following the traditional service. "Opportunities to make a Difference" will be presented by Sheryl Singletary, Volunteer Coordinator for Epworth Children's Home and the Center for Independent Living at the Trenholm Road campus, along with Rev. Cathy Joens, Epworth Director of Church Relations. Bring a friend! Childcare will be provided—sign up with Maria by THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15. (office@ashlandumc.org or 803-798-5350, x 13)

Donations of paper goods—toilet paper, paper towels, hygiene products—and cleaning supplies for the Trenholm Road campus are welcome!

Congratulations to the Ashland UWIF Unit for being recognized at the Columbia District UMiF Annual Meeting for their participation in the "Supporters of Campaign for Children" and as a "Five Star and Gold Seal Unit 2026."

Lay Readers for The Path and Traditional Service

Contact Maria (office@ashlandumc.org) or 803-798-5350, x 10 if you would like to be added to the list of lay readers for The Path and/or Traditional Service.

Staff Office Hours

The staff office hours are posted on the bulletin board across from the church offices.

Thank You

We would like to thank you so much for all of the school supplies, hand sanitizer and wipes that you brought for our students and our staff! They will help more than you know!!! We would also like to thank you for hosting our staff's beginning of the year breakfast. You outdid yourselves again and everyone really appreciated it! Your hospitality means so much to all of us. ~Seven Oaks Elementary Global Magnet

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