



ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

September 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 could not be more proud of this congregation or excited for all that is coming up at Ashland! The Back-to-School Brunch for teachers and staff from Seven Oaks Elementary School on August 4 was a huge success! I want to publicly thank Kim Gordon and Colleen Daniels for their hard work organizing that and to the congregation for preparing food, donating door prizes, and volunteering time on the day of the brunch. It brought me great joy on August 5 (when the children and youth did some painting at Seven Oaks) to have several teachers and staff approach me to thank me for how good Ashland is to that school. Thank you for your service and witness!

It brought me great joy on August 16 to see so many people turn out to support Hao Wu's piano recital that we had to set up extra chairs! As wonderfully as he played, the best part about it for me was seeing the congregation's love and support of him. That same day, I was excited to see not just our "usual" families, but also friends who had attended Vacation Bible School earlier in the summer, participate in the Fall children and youth kick-off.

I continue to be excited and thankful for the work Ashland's special task force has been doing over the past month or so. I appreciate the time, energy, and input that Clare Allen (Staff-Parish and Congregational Care), Marilyn Gramling (Staff-Parish and Faith Development), Jim Newcomb (Missions), and Sara Warren (Faith Development) have given to this work.

At this group's first meeting in late July, we began compiling a list of all the tasks that need to happen in order to fulfill our shared mission: developing disciples of Jesus Christ who care for one another and serve our communities. At our next two meetings, we took all of those tasks, along with the tasks already being done by existing committees, and organized them into groups: Developing Disciples (externally focused), Developing Disciples (internally focused), Caring for One Another, and Serving Our Communities. I have shared this feedback with the Nominations/Lay Leadership Development Committee, and I will begin sharing this with Church Council to consider how we might move forward with aligning our ministry committee structures with our mission.

As I write, I will be meeting with the task force one more time tonight to do a similar exercise with staff job descriptions to ensure that each component of our mission has adequate staff support. I will share feedback from the task force with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee at its next meeting at the end of August.

Thank you for the many ways you are developing as disciples, developing *others* as disciples, and caring and serving in the name of Christ. I continue to be honored to be your pastor!

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan

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

September 6 – 4:30 PM, ACME & UMYF
September 13 – 4:30 PM, ACME & UMYF
September 20 – 4:30 PM, ACME & UMYF
September 26 – Homeworks – Off Premises
September 27 – 4:30 PM, ACME
UMYF at Methodist Student Network (MSN) for dinner and worship (TBD)

Homeworks

September 26, 2026 – Contact Duncan McClive for more information – (803) 413-3066

Epworth Work Day Offering – September 6, 2026

On September 6, you will have the opportunity to invest in the lives of children and families through Epworth's Annual Worship Day Offering.

Our gifts help Epworth provide the care, support, and services that children, youth, and families across South Carolina need to heal, grow, and thrive.

Prayerfully consider how you can help make a difference in the lives of those served by Epworth.

Checks may be made payable to Ashland UMC and noted for Epworth Children's Home or you may give on the Ashland website under the "Give" tab.

Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, September 20, at 3:00 in Room 111. Below are the upcoming books:

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

October 18, 2026: When Crickets Cry, by Charles Martin

November 22, 2026: The Correspondent, by Virginia Evans

December: No meeting

Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews

It is time to register for the Fall Session (September 15-November 5). Check out one of the brochures in the building or register online at shepherdscenterofstandrews.org.

Charge Conference

Sunday, October 18, 3:00 PM

Ashland Hall

Deadline to submit reports to Maria

Monday, October 12

[\(office@ashlandumc.org\)](mailto: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.

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

Good Food. Happy times.

Entertainment by German Brass Band (back by popular demand)

Sign up begins Sept. 4

Ashland United Women in Faith – Save the Date – October 18, 2026

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.

Facility Use

If you are in charge of an event, be sure all doors are locked when you leave the building.

Ashland Members Addresses Unknown – Can You Help?

Bobby Sealy	David Lowery	Claire Carraway	Carolyn Prosser
Sue Wilkes	Stuart Gary	Billy Carson	Maggie Carson
Jeff Henderson	Darlene Henderson	David Carroll	Loretta Sharpe
Jeff Smith	Jerry Mathia	Billie Strickland	Jeanne Cothran
Adam Polasek	Stacey Smith	Leslie Mathia	Denver Strickland
Darryl Woodruff	Bucky Smith	Brandon Barbee	Devin Strickland
Julia McLeod	Kara Purcell	Erin Glenn	Jeff Ellison
Kerri Dilworth	Mike Bedenbaugh	Gail Fox	Suzette Reeder
Shawncee Sapp			

Contact information on the above may be sent to office@ashlandumc.org or Ashland's Membership Secretary, Jane Foster (jane foster74@gmail.com).

The Upper Room for September-October

The devotional guides are on the communication rack across from the Cornerstone Classroom. Large and regular print booklets are available.

Welcome

Janice Wooten joined Ashland UMC on August 9, 2026. Her hobbies include quilting and basket weaving.

Thank You

To our Ashland family,

Karen and I were overwhelmed with the support we received during my recent illness. Your visits, prayers, cards, calls, and food were truly a blessing.

Thank you again for the support now and in the future. ~Ed & Karen Spratt

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