



ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Joining Together on a Christian Journey of Love and Service

August 2025

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,

How wonderful it has been to get to know so many of you through worship, Salkehatchie, and the recent small groups!

Thanks to those who hosted the groups and to the 91 people who participated!

Communication is really important to me, so I wanted to use this space this month to share the ministry goals I have been working on since I arrived through the end of August, along with what I am doing to work toward those goals.

1. Meet as many people as possible and learn as much as I can about Ashland from those I meet.

- What I have been doing to accomplish this goal:
 - Led 9 small group gatherings from July 6-27
 - Visited (or at least made contact with) every homebound member from the congregational care team's homebound list
 - Began making calls and sending emails and cards to the long list of members who have become inactive over the past years

2. Develop 2-3 ministry priorities for our first year of ministry together, along with a plan for achieving those priorities with the help of SPRC and Church Council.

- What I have been doing to accomplish this goal:
 - Led 9 small group gatherings from July 6-27
 - Met with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee on July 28 to share and begin clarifying the themes I have heard in the small groups
 - Scheduled a called Church Council meeting for August 11 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of further clarifying those themes and beginning to develop concrete next steps for working towards these ministry priorities as a church (All are invited to this meeting, whether you are a member of Church Council or not!)

3. Re-introduce live music to the Path service

- What I have been doing to accomplish this goal:
 - Andra Keith and I began leading music in the Path service on July 13 as a temporary "fix" for music in that service.
 - I am in communication with Craig Hatch and the SPRC, as well as contacts I have in the local community, to clarify the instrumentation, pay, and other details Ashland desires for hiring college musicians to help lead music. My goal is to have this information squared away in time for the students' return to campus in mid-August.

Thank you for the many things you are doing to serve God, both within the church and beyond it in the surrounding community!

In Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

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Robert Neese
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A New Year Coming...

With the fall workshop on August 23, the new year for the choir will begin. We will meet at 9:30 am for doughnuts and coffee. Then we will read anthems, have a mini-recital and lunch. After lunch, we will read through Christmas music and one more session of Anthem reading. Then we will adjourn at 2:30 pm.

The mini-recital will be presented by Winifred Goodwin. "Winkie" plays at Virginia Wingard UMC, is the resident pianist for the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra and I do not know what all else. She is the wife of Dick Goodwin, who recently brought his jazz quintet to Ashland. The program is scheduled to begin at 11:10 am, in the church. Non-choir members and guests are all welcome.

I would like to find new members for the choir. Any member of the church is welcome as well as people from the community. "All God's creatures got a place in the choir." Whether you have or do not have choir experience, there is place for you. We just need you to come and occupy it.

Also, I would like to resume playing handbells. So even if you don't think your voice is up to par, you can still make music for your church. Handbell practices resume after Labor Day.

The only cost is a little of your time. We have music, robes, folders and all the fun you can handle. Please let me know that you will attend the workshop. I need a head count for lunch. ~Robert Neese

How Does One Become a Member of Ashland

By Profession of Faith – for those who desire to profess their Christian faith for the first time, or after a long absence from any church involvement.

By Profession of Faith with baptism – same as above with the sacrament of baptism for those who have never been baptized.

By Transfer from another denomination – for those who have a current church membership in a denomination other than the United Methodist Church.

By Transfer from another United Methodist Church – for those who currently have their membership in another United Methodist congregation.

Contact Pastor Jonathan (803) 798-5350, x 15 if you desire to unite with Ashland

Family Ministries

Thoughts? Questions? Ideas? Want to join our email list?
803.798.5350 x 12 youth@ashlandumc.org

Sunday, August 3rd	No MYF
Saturday, August 10th	5:00 PM Family Pizza and Game Night
Sunday, August 17th	No MYF
Sunday, August 24th	5:00 PM Family Movie Night
Sunday, August 31st	No MYF

We will have our Fall Kickoff meeting in Ashland Hall at 5:30 PM on Sunday, September 7th. We hope that all families are able to join us to hear about what we've got coming up this fall!

Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, August 17, 2025, at 3:00 PM in room 111. We will discuss The Island of Sea Women, by Lisa See.

Below are the upcoming books:

September 21, 2025:

The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride, by Joe Siple

October 19, 2025:

The Exiles, by Christina Baker Kline

Thank You

Thank you Ashland Family for the love and care shown to Ann and myself over the past months. Cards, calls, visits, food and so many expressions of caring. So much Christian love expressed in so many ways. Thank you all and God bless. ~Tim and Ann Leeming

Methodist Student Network (MSN) at USC

Family Weekend 2025

September 12-14, 2025

Saturday, 7-10 am, Food Insecure Breakfast

@ Washington Street UMC

Saturday, 1-3 pm, Pre-Game Drop-in

(with food and games) @ MSN

Sunday, 6-8 pm, Worship and Free Dinner

@ MSN

More information contact Jad Taylor @ (803) 463-6655
MSN is located at 728 Pickens St.

Committee reimbursements checks may be picked up in the box outside Karen's office.

Snack Packs for the New School Year

Ashland's Snack Pack team is preparing for the new school year. We will again provide snack packs for children at Seven Oaks Elementary School. Children in food-insecure homes receive a snack pack of non-perishable food items on Friday to take home for the weekend. Breakfast and lunch are provided to these children at school during the week, but they often go hungry on weekends.

Ashland UMC supports the snack pack program through our Missions Committee and from donated funds. 100% of the funding goes to purchase food. Volunteers purchase, pack, and deliver food so that eligible children receive a weekly snack pack. During the last school year, Ashland sent 1,492 snack packs.

You can help our snack pack mission by purchasing food items to place in the snack pack bin near room 102. The most needed items are 15 oz. cans of pasta (spaghetti, ravioli) and juice boxes. Also, you can contribute to Ashland's Missions Snack Pack Designated Fund or join Ashland's Snack Pack team.

Contact Val Songer for additional information. (val.songer@gmail.com)

Thank you to Ashland for supporting snack packs!

School Supply Drive

Ashland is once again supporting Seven Oaks Elementary in its back-to-school supply drive. If you are not actively involved in a Sunday School class but still wish to participate, we ask that you purchase boxes of tissue and/or quart or gallon zip lock bags. These items may be placed in room 113 on or before August 18. Thank you for your continued support.

Columbia Salkehatchie Camp

2025 camp was 40 campers strong ranging in ages of 14 to over 80. In each of those campers there was a desire to help someone. Though the camp was much smaller, we were mightier than each year prior. We had returning campers, campers that almost did not return, and others that just could not make it. Whatever the path our prior year and current year campers took, we were happy to welcome those that could.

Prep for camp is year-round. Families to help, committee meetings, volunteer lists, supplies, donations, schedules, it takes a lot to ensure the camp is meaningful for all involved. Our theme this year was "Made for More". *Micah 6:8: He has told you, human one, what is good and what the LORD requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.* We started the weekend with a trip to the houses and to meet the families. The campers kayaked and enjoyed dinner at the river on Sunday. We did sprinkle in fun, during the week. Site night out on Tuesday was movies, Frankie's Fun Park or AMF Bowling. Wednesday the sites enjoyed a pot-luck and presentations, and Thursday was trivia night. Let's just say we had some questions challenged, but Flipps Shipps won the night. If you find any baby Jesus in the pews, our apologies, there were about 600 hid on Sunday and Thursday. Friday night after all the work was done; Ryan Keith treated youth and adults alike to a fun game of Clue.

We worked on 4 homes, helped another family with the expense of electrical repairs, and will be helping a family with a hot water tank replacement in the next couple of weeks. Within a week two roofs replaced, holes in roofs repaired, kitchen gutted and rebuilt, including floor joists, fence built, hot water tank replaced, boarded up doorways replaced with doors, porch rebuilt, deck removed/rebuilt, flooring replaced, boxing replaced, extensive yardwork, two stoves and refrigerator replaced, multiple holes repaired in ceilings, and well over 25 tons of trash, shingles and homeowners belongings hauled away. And all done in Famously Hot Columbia and only had a couple of rain showers that did not slow us down.

We ended the week Friday with the symbol ceremony. Many brought an object and spoke of what it meant to them. Symbols bring joy, remind us to help others, spur a memory, or bring understanding of the challenges families face. It is a private moment shared by many. Ryan Keith closed out camp on Saturday morning reminding us all that camp doesn't end Saturday when you travel back home.

Thank you to Ashland, Meg & John Cook, Colleen & Denny Daniels, Ryan Keith, Ed Spratt, Cliff Jeffcoat, Mary & Herman Lightsey, Sandra & John Calore, Jim Newcomb, Kim Gordon, Robin Davidson, Sally Lowery, Mylla & Bob Markland, Ann Smoak, Winyah Bay Salkehatchie, Erin Harrelson, the many folks that helped with popsicle delivery, Cornerstone SS Class, Francis Burns, Va Wingard UMC, Grace UMC, St John UMC, Heyward St UMC, John Reed Catering, Cayce UMC, Shiloh UMC, Windsor UMC, Chapin Christian Community Church, Saint George Methodist, Camp of Hope, the campers and runners. ~Heather Ginn

**Ashland United Methodist Church
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Margaret Combs

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**Rev. Jonathan Harris
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