



# ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

**November 2025**

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

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,

As I have been doing for the past few months, I want to give updates here of the progress being made on the first-year ministry initiatives that grew out of the small groups in July. I won't share anything this time about the children's messages and children's artwork, as those have been up and running for several months now!

**Serving at Seven Oaks Elementary** – Fourteen disciples from Ashland will begin serving as Learning Buddies at Seven Oaks the week of November 3! In total, these disciples will assist around 30-40 students each week! Additionally, Ashland's blood drive on October 19 collected 34 blood donations. Not only could these donations save around 100 lives, but they also qualified Ashland to receive a \$500 grant for Seven Oaks, allowing the school to purchase candy for its Trunk or Treat.

**Communion delivery to homebound members** – The congregational care team did its first Communion delivery on October 5. In the words of one of the disciples who delivered Communion, "What a very special time for my care partner and me celebrating Communion today! She is SO appreciative of this 'new' way to offer her Communion. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of such a special service."

**Creating a support group for those who have lost children or grandchildren** – We will have our first group on Sunday, November 2 at 3 p.m. in Room 138. I extend a HUGE thank you to Jane Foster and Kim Gordon for their thoughtful, dedicated work organizing this.

**Creating a Shepherding system** – Now that these other initiatives are making progress, I will soon be reaching out to those who have expressed an interest in planning this initiative.

I also want to share a few other exciting updates. Two grant applications were submitted earlier in October to the Columbia District and SC Conference boards of Congregational Development toward the purchase and installation of a new electronic sign. Additionally, you might have noticed new faces leading music in our worship services. Hao Wu has begun playing piano in the traditional worship service. Musicians Sutton Jenkins, TJ Johnson, and Alena Crowley have shared their musical gifts at the Path in recent weeks.

While Advent is drawing near, all of these signs of hope and new life remind me that we are ultimately an Easter people. Thank you for the roles you each play in this unique expression of the Body of Christ, as we participate in God's life-giving, healing work together!

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan

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**\*\*Friendly Reminder: Eastern Standard Time returns this weekend. Turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night.**



Saturday, November 8th  
12:00 Noon-2:00 PM  
Saluda Shoals Park, 5606 Bush River Rd.  
Red Bud Pavilion

Church will provide the hot dogs. Bring a side or dessert to share. Sunday School classes will be asked to provide picnic items. No admission charge. Tell the person at the entrance you are with Ashland United Methodist Church.

#### **Grief Small Group Sunday, November 2 at 3 PM**

While there are a lot of grief support groups around, the loss of a child or grandchild is particularly painful. If you have experienced the loss of a child or grandchild, you are invited to a grief small group on Sunday, November 2 at 3 p.m. in Room 138. This will be a time of sharing about your loved one(s) and discussing possibilities for what an ongoing support group at Ashland could look like for your particular experience of grief.

#### **Ashland United Women in Faith**

We hope that all of the women of Ashland can join us for a complimentary lunch on Sunday, November 9 at 12:30 PM in Ashland Hall, following the traditional service. Our featured speaker is Dr. Donna Jones, "Seeking Good Mental Health".

Women in Faith will hold a Clip & Tie event on Monday, Nov.17 from 1:00-3:00 PM in Ashland Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and to help make these precious blankets for children in need. No special skills needed.

## **Family Ministries**

Thoughts? Questions? Ideas? Want to join our email list?  
803.798.5350 x 12 [youth@ashlandumc.org](mailto:youth@ashlandumc.org)

|                                          |                                         |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup></b>   | MYF and ACME<br>4:30-6:00 PM            |
| <b>Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup></b> | Church Picnic                           |
| <b>Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup></b>   | MYF<br>4:30-6:00 PM                     |
| <b>Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup></b>  | No Family Ministries                    |
| <b>Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup></b>  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Quarter<br>6:30-8:30 PM |
| <b>Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup></b>  | No Family Ministries                    |
| <b>Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup></b>  | No Family Ministries                    |

**Homeless Care Packages** – Thank you for all of the donations for our compassion bags. This week, the children and youth will begin packing them. After they are packed, they will be available in the Narthex and Ashland Hall for anyone who would like to keep them in their cars to pass out.

**Family 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter** – Families and friends are invited to join us for a devotional, followed by an evening of games! A Chick-fil-A dinner will be provided.

**Trunk or Treat** – Thank you for putting on such a great trunk or treat, again! We had twenty trunks, hot dog dinner, awesome crafts, and more candy than you can shake a stick at! We estimate that about 150-175 people visited Ashland last Sunday.

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#### **Chair Yoga at Ashland**

Help your mind and body with holiday stress by participating in Chair Yoga classes in Ashland Hall on November 11, 18, 25, and December 2, 9, 16. Cindy Smith, certified YogaFit instructor, conducts the classes on Tuesdays from 11:15 am to 12 noon. Cindy teaches chair yoga at Shepherd's Center, but offers these special classes between terms. No Shepherd's Center registration is required. \$25 total for all six classes; you can sign up and pay on the first day of class.

### **Snack Packs for Seven Oaks Elementary**

Ashland has provided weekly snack packs for children at Seven Oaks Elementary School since the beginning of the school year. Our volunteers pack non-perishable food and deliver the packs in time for students to take them home for the weekend.

Seven Oaks has identified over 70 children who need the weekend food. Ashland's generosity means that all these children receive a snack pack every Friday. For the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we will provide extra items inside snack packs to help feed children when they are not receiving meals at school.

**You can help the snack pack mission** by contributing to Ashland's snack pack mission fund or by purchasing food items to place in the snack pack bin near room 102. Our most needed food items are 15 oz cans of pasta (spaghetti, ravioli) and juice boxes.

Contact Val Songer for more information about snack packs. ([val.songer@gmail.com](mailto:val.songer@gmail.com))

### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

Ashland has done it again! We hosted our annual ESL trick or treat with great success. Eleven trick or treat "stations" throughout our building handed out candy, crackers, popcorn, and cotton candy to more than 20 students from around the world as they practiced their English skills and learned how warm and loving our members, staff, and friends are. Afterwards they gathered in Ashland Hall for coffee, lemonade, or hot chocolate with cookies and cake and to take group pictures. The students also had great fun playing Zinga, Connect Four and other games provided by the ESL teachers.

Go to Ashland's Facebook page to see pictures of this event. We also thank Shepherd's Center for not only participating but also for providing cake for the evening ESL classes. Many of these students returned with their children for our Trunk or Treat held the following Sunday.

The next event is on December 10 when we gather to sing Christmas carols, have conversation groups, and partake of refreshments. Hopefully, Ms. Claus will once again join us. Stay tuned.

### **Ashland Readers**

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 3:00 in room #111.

The book we will discuss this month is Theo of Golden, by Allen Levi.

December, 2025: No meeting – Happy Holidays!!!

### **Upcoming Events**

Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM

Covered Dish Supper followed by a Concert by the Blue Iguanas (Blue Grass Band)  
Ashland Hall

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 PM

S. C. Brass Band  
Sanctuary

### **Information About Poinsettias or Making a Monetary Donation For the Season of Advent**

Poinsettia costs - 6.5" pot - \$13.00; 8" pot - \$20.00. All poinsettias will be red, and payment must accompany order. They may be placed in the Path or Traditional service. Deadline: Sunday, November 9.

Monetary donations "in memory of" or "in honor of" may be made in any amount in lieu of purchasing a plant. Funds received will be placed in the Worship Committee flower fund to pay for altar flowers when none are given or special services. Order forms may be found in the weekly bulletins.

**Ashland United Methodist Church  
2600 Ashland Rd  
Columbia, SC 29210**

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Barbara Polk   Pat Towery  
The family of Sally Lowery

**For Pastoral Care:**

**Rev. Jonathan Harris  
(864) 952-9043**