



ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Joining Together on a Christian Journey of Love and Service

October 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,

I wanted to use this space this month to share the progress that is being made on the first-year ministry initiatives that grew out of the small groups in July. Thank you for your prayers and involvement as we participate in the work that God has set before us!

Initiative 1: Reintroduce a brief children's message in each worship service – This has been done, and we've had as many as 12 children participate during worship!

Initiative 2: Invite children to share artwork with homebound members – We've started this, and homebound members have appreciated these gifts from the children!

Initiative 3: Serving at Seven Oaks Elementary – Marilyn Gramling introduced "Learning Buddies" at the 5th Sunday brunch in August. So far, thirteen members have signed up!

Initiative 4: Communion delivery to homebound members – The congregational care team will try the first Communion deliveries in October and November.

Initiative 5: 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 (more info in this newsletter).

Initiative 6: Creating a Shepherding system – Once we get Learning Buddies and Communion delivery up and running, I will begin working with others at Ashland to build a shepherding system. More to come!

In addition to these initiatives that grew out of the small groups, I also wanted to share updates on a few other happenings behind the scenes. The trustees have been seeking bids to move forward on the process of getting a new electronic sign, which would help the church communicate the many wonderful things that are already happening with the broader community. We are also in the process of applying for grants that could offset some of this cost.

Additionally, I have been reaching out to contacts in the community and our United Methodist connection to hire musicians for the Path service. Finally, through our growing connection with Seven Oaks Elementary, we will have a blood drive on October 19 that will raise money for the school, in addition to saving many lives!

Thank you for all you are doing to make God's love known in this church, our community, and beyond!

In Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

Ryan Keith
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Ext. 12

Karen Zobel
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Ext. 13

Maria Anderson
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Ext. 10

Robert Neese
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Ext. 11



Sunday, October 12th
4:30-6:30 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.

Blood Drive Fundraiser at Ashland UMC

Sunday, October 19th – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Each donation saves 3 lives and every 30 donations = \$500 for Seven Oaks Elementary.

To schedule an appointment use QR code below:

Sponsor code: 13877
Signup sheets are available throughout the building.



Ashland Charge Conference

Tuesday, October 21st, 6:00 PM, Ashland Hall
Submit reports to Maria by **Monday, October 13th**.
(office@ashlandumc.com)

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. Again, this gathering is specifically for those who have experienced the death of a child or grandchild.

Ashland United Women in Faith

Please mark your calendars: All women of Ashland are invited to a complimentary lunch on Sunday, November 9th at 12:30 PM in Ashland Hall, following the traditional service. Donna Jones will be presenting, "Seeking Good Mental Health."

Family Ministries

Thoughts? Questions? Ideas? Want to join our email list?

803.798.5350 x 12 youth@ashlandumc.org

Friday, September 26th	Family 5 th Quarter 6:30-9:00 PM
Sunday, September 28th	MYF 4:30 PM
Saturday, October 4th	Homeworks 7:00 AM
Sunday, October 5th	MYF and ACME 4:30 PM
Sunday, October 12th	Church Picnic 4:30-6:30 PM
Sunday, October 19th	MYF and ACME 4:30 PM
Friday, October 24th	5 th Quarter 6:30-9:00 PM
Sunday, October 26th	Trunk or Treat 4:30-6:30 PM

Homeless Care Packages – The youth and children of Ashland are collecting materials to put together Care Packages to be handed out. You can find a list of supplies in your Sunday School class or on ashlandumc.org. Supplies can be dropped off at Ryan's office throughout October. Once the packages are packed up, they will be available for everyone to keep in their cars.

Family 5th 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.

Homeworks – Open to anyone 12+. Join us as we re-roof a home in the Columbia area. No experience is necessary, just a can-do attitude! Bring safety glasses and work gloves. Everything else is provided! The registration link will be available soon.

Trunk or Treat – It's time to start dusting off your decorations and stocking up on candy! Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 26th from 4:30-6:30 PM! Come out and enjoy our community event with a hot dog dinner, costumes, and lots of candy! We ask that all cars be in place by 4:00 PM.



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 an increased number of children needing snack packs this year. Thanks to Ashland's support, we provide the amount needed so each hungry child receives a snack pack on Fridays.

To support the snack pack mission, place food items in the snack pack bin. We need 15 oz. cans of pasta plus boxes of macaroni & cheese mix. Also, funds donated to the snack pack mission fund are used to purchase food. Thank you, Ashland!

Val Songer, Snack Pack Coordinator

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Once again, Ashland will be hosting a Fall Festival Party (with trick or treat) on October 22nd and a Christmas Party on December 10th (with Mrs. Claus). We are also exploring other ways to further support these students. Contact Ann Smoak at 803-331-7598 for more information.

Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 3:00 in room #111. Below are the upcoming books:

October 19, 2025: The Exiles, by Christina Baker Kline

November 16, 2025: Theo of Golden, by Allen Levi

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

Children's Blanket Mission Project

It is time to make blankets again for Children's Garden! 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.

Welcome New Member

Ashland welcomes Claudia Moore! Claudia comes from certificate of transfer from Union UMC, Irmo. Claudia enjoys following Gamecock sports, collecting, reading and piddling!

Save the Dates

Sunday, October 19th @ 3:00 PM
Ladies Tea Party, Room 138

Friday, November 7th @ 6:00 PM
Covered Dish Supper followed by a Concert by the Blue Iguanas (Blue Grass Band)
Ashland Hall

Sunday, December 7th @ 4:00 PM
S. C. Brass Band
Sanctuary

Music Opportunities

Openings are available in the traditional worship choir and handbell choir. Worship choir meets Tuesday at 5:00 PM. Contact Robert Neese for more information. (803-798-5350, x 11 or music@ashlandumc.org)

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 will be in the worship bulletins mid-October.

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

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For Pastoral Care:

**Rev. Jonathan Harris
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