



# ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

**September 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

## Small Group and Church Council Next Steps

*Pastor Jonathan met with a total of 91 people in 9 small groups from July 6-27. After sharing responses from small group participants with Ashland's Staff-Parish Relations Committee on July 28 and Ashland's Church Council on August 11, the following are the primary values, concerns, and assets that were named among small group participants:*

### Ashland **values**:

- Being a warm, loving spiritual "family" or "home" in which people deepen their relationships with each other as they grow together, serve together, and care for one another through thick and thin.
- Serving others in the name of Christ, both locally and beyond, especially through Seven Oaks Elementary School, the Snack Pack Ministry, and Salkehatchie.

Ashland is **concerned** about a lack, or even a perceived absence, of children, youth, and young adults.

### Ashland's **assets** include:

- A large, well-maintained facility that has space to welcome additional people and groups.
- Financial health and a history of generosity, so money does not limit the church's ministry potential.
- A number of retired members who have the time and experience to devote to younger generations, including children, youth, and young adults.
- A location near neighbors, including an elementary school, an increasingly diverse neighborhood, other churches, and two interstates that provides opportunities to engage with and partner with a wide range of people.

*After presenting possibilities to the forty people in attendance at the August 11 meeting regarding how Ashland can use its assets for further the church's values and address its concern, the church council supported the following efforts for our first year in ministry together. Those willing to take initial steps for each action are listed in parentheses.*

### **Value #1: Caring for one another as a church family**

- **Next step:** Create shepherding groups to include new people, formerly connected people, or long-time people who are not already connected to a small group (Rev. Bob Borom, Sally Lowery, Rosemary Sanders, Cindy Ward)
- **Next step:** Invite those who already visit homebound members to deliver communion elements during one of their monthly visits (Sally Lowery)

### **Value #2: Missions and Outreach**

- **Next Step:** Serving at Seven Oaks with Reading Buddies (Marilyn Gramling), the PTO, or School Improvement Council
- **Next Step:** Creating a suicide support group (Pastor Jonathan, Jane Foster)

### **Concern: Increasing involvement of younger generations**

- **Next Step:** Reintroduce a brief children's message in each worship service (Pastor Jonathan)
- **Next Step:** Invite children in worship to share artwork they've drawn during the service in the offering plate to share with homebound members (Pastor Jonathan)

Ryan Keith  
[youth@ashlandumc.org](mailto:youth@ashlandumc.org)  
Ext. 12

Karen Zobel  
[finance@ashlandumc.org](mailto:finance@ashlandumc.org)  
Ext. 13

Maria Anderson  
[office@ashlandumc.org](mailto:office@ashlandumc.org)  
Ext. 10

Robert Neese  
[music@ashlandumc.org](mailto:music@ashlandumc.org)  
Ext. 11

## United Women in Faith

If you are looking for a circle to join, Noontime Seekers Circle will be meeting soon and invite you to be a part of this wonderful group of women. Our meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12 Noon. We bring a lunch/snack and have a time of fellowship. Our meeting starts at 12:30 and consists of brief discussion of business, then a program/devotion lead by a member. Other times we have a mission activity. Generally, we are through before 2:00.

Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 9 @ noon in room 138. We will have a business meeting to plan our activities and missions for the year followed by a program from Women of the Bible.

Any questions, please contact Rosemary Sanders (803-429-1702) or Kaye Easterling (803-429-1661).

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CHURCH COUNCIL

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

**At 6:30 PM**

**ZOOM MEETING ONLY!!!!**

Zoom link will be sent out closer to the meeting.

## Ashland Charge Conference

Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM

Ashland Hall

Submit reports to Maria by **Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**.  
([office@ashlandumc.com](mailto:office@ashlandumc.com))

## Thank You

Dear Ashland Methodist,  
Thank you so much for your very generous donation of bus passes! I am blown away by your support. These bus passes will be deeply appreciated by so many within our community. We are grateful for you!  
Sincerely, Allison with Lutheran Services Carolinas

### ASAP Octoberfest Party

Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

12:00 Noon

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

12:30 PM, Meal

1:00 PM, Entertainment by German Brass Band

Bring a canned food item for the Blessing Box.

Sign up form may be found in the Sunday worship bulletin beginning August 31st, Sunday School classrooms or contact the church office at [office@ashlandumc.org](mailto:office@ashlandumc.org) or 803-798-5350, x 10

## Family Ministries

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

**Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

No Family Ministries

**Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

Kickoff/Parent Meeting

5:30 PM

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

Youth and Children

4:30 PM

**Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

Youth

4:30 PM

**Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Family 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter

7:00-9:00 PM

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

Youth and Children

4:30 PM

**Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Homeworks

7:00 AM

*Fall Kickoff* – Join us in Ashland Hall for our annual parent meeting and kickoff! We'll talk about all of the activities we have coming up and talk about how you can get involved!

*Family 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter* – Families and friends are invited to join us for a devotional, followed by an evening of games! Light refreshments 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.



I hope that got your attention! Do you have a heart for kids and youth? We're looking for caring adults to help teach Sunday School, serve in the nursery, and support our youth group. Whether it's rocking babies, leading a Bible story, or simply being a positive role model, your presence makes a lasting impact. Join us in helping the next generation grow in faith, love, and community! If this describes you come check out our Fall Kickoff or contact Ryan at [youth@ashlandumc.org](mailto:youth@ashlandumc.org).

## Missions

The Missions Committee would like you to clean out your closets to assist our neighbors in need. On Sundays September 21 and 28 please place in the boxes located in Ashland Hall and the Narthex the following items as we round the corner into fall and winter: Slacks and Jeans, (men and women sizes), Tennis shoes, Hoodies/Sweatshirts, Winter Coats, Rain gear, Long Sleeve Shirts, Socks, Underwear (Male and Female), Gloves, Belts, Blankets, sleeping bags, etc. These items will become critical soon. New and used items accepted. Thank you for your generosity.

## English as a Second Language (ESL)

Ashland is excited to welcome back our ESL students again this year. The morning classes are on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and are taught by Carolyn (level 1), Leigh (level 2) and Merry (level 3). The night classes are on Tuesday and Thursday and are taught by Karla and Aymer.

Once again, Ashland will be hosting a Fall Festival Party (with trick or treat) on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and a Christmas Party on December 10<sup>th</sup> (with Mrs. Claus). We are also exploring other ways to further support these students. If you have any suggestions, please contact Ann Smoak at 803-331-7598.

## Ashland Readers

The next meeting of Ashland Readers will be Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 3:00 PM in room 111. We will discuss The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride, by Joe Siple

Below are the upcoming books:

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

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

## Music Opportunities

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

## Membership

A membership questionnaire was mailed on July 30, 2025 to the out-of-state members. Responses are in the process of being received. The following list of Ashland members who addresses are unknown.

David Carroll	Leslie Mathia	Erin Glenn	Loretta Sharpe
Denver Strickland	Jeff Ellison	Jeff Smith	Travis Weed
Kerri Dilworth	Jerry Mathia	Darryl Woodruff	Mike Bedenbaugh
Billie Strickland	Bucky Smith	Pierce Cook	Jeanne Cothran
Brandon Barbee	Gail Fox	Keri Weed	Devin Strickland
Suzette Reeder	Adam Polasek	Julia McLeod	Shawncee Sapp
Stacey Smith	Kara Purcell		

If you have correct information on any of the above Ashland Members, please advise the church office (803-798-5350, x 10, [office@ashlandumc.org](mailto:office@ashlandumc.org)) or Ashland's Membership Secretary, Jane Foster ([jane foster74@gmail.com](mailto:jane foster74@gmail.com)). Thank you!

## 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.

**Ashland United Methodist Church  
2600 Ashland Rd  
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Barbara Higgins	Michael Higgins	Jake Moore
Monetta Pitts	Barbara Polk	Pat Towery

**For Pastoral Care:**

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