

Ashland City United Methodist Church
2226 Oak Street, Ashland City, TN 37015



PASTOR: Allison Gilliam

Pastor's Cell: 615-945-8974

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30-11:30

acgishggsmom2004@gmail.com

Church Office: 615-792-4631

churchoffice@ashlandcityumc.com

Office Hours: Mon 8:00-12:00 Tues-Thurs 8:00-10:30

July 1, 2026



Dear Friends,

On July 4, 2026, we celebrate our nation's semi quincentennial birthday (250 years). We live in a great nation. Many of you have proudly served our nation through the military and its communities through civilian leadership, operating businesses, and teaching its children. We are always grateful for those who serve and protect. While we celebrate together, we must also acknowledge the disunity that has saturated our culture. The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church released a Pastoral letter to the

United Methodist Churches on September 18, 2024. I am sharing again now with you because I think that this celebration is a good time to hear a call to action with a vision of a different way of life with unity in the "beloved community".

Beloved Community - An Antidote to Extremism

A Pastoral Letter to All United Methodists

Christ is our peace. . . With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. Eph. 2:14 CEB

September 19, 2024

Dear United Methodists:

Polarization and hatred are dividing nations, communities, and even families. We are losing our ability to speak with humility and treat others kindly. We know this is not how God intends us to live. All are beloved children of God, who beckons us to care for not only those we love, but those God loves, even those we may not know or whose lives are different from our own. Climate change, global migration, growing economic disparity, and other factors are causing us to feel more vulnerable and alienated. This can increase the appeal of authoritarian leaders who rely on rhetoric and policies that divide, creating a fearful environment that dampens participation in civic life and gives rise to political violence. We strongly denounce political violence, which severs community bonds and supplants the rule of law. We

equally denounce authoritarianism and secular and Christian nationalism, which foster centralization and abuse of power, accompanied by racism, xenophobia, tribalism, and misogyny. Nationalism is a political ideology that defies God's love by pitting the interests of one group of people against others.

Christian nationalism demands laws, culture, and public policies be based on a distorted interpretation of the Gospel that elevates power and control over love. These ideologies are in direct contradiction to our Christian faith because our "love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice and the renewal of life in the world." ("Our Doctrinal Heritage" BOD p 53). No one person or political party should ever hold complete power. As people of the Wesleyan tradition, we know that God alone holds power and dominion over all of creation. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we depend on Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience to ground our social conscience and compel us to seek justice and global relationships as followers of Jesus Christ. With his body, Christ breaks down the barriers of hatred that divides and invites us to build a worldwide community of love. He calls us to see strangers and even enemies as neighbors. Let's join conversations in our pulpits, pews, and the public square that advance justice and build up our communities in love.

In our baptismal vows, we promise to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sins. We promise to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. We confess that Jesus Christ is our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and vow to serve him as Lord in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races. The Council of Bishops walks with you as we faithfully live out these vows in a period of unique peril around the world.

Let us love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

Council of Bishops, President

The United Methodist Church

Blessings,

Allison

2026 TWK ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Women in Ministry Celebrated, Death Penalty Denounced, Districts Restructured, Congressional Redistricting by Legislature Condemned

That headline only graces the surface of actions taken by the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church at its 2026 gathering in Murfreesboro on June 7-10.

A spirit of goodwill and cooperation infused the meeting with glorious music, inspired preaching, and swift dispatching of business. The theme for the gathering was Rekindling Our Call and opening worship included two choirs, a pipe organ, and multiple musical instruments.

Featured preachers on different days included our bishop, David Graves; Janice McAllen, conference lay leader; Harry L. Seawright, bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and Rev. Deborah Smith, Metro District superintendent.

Highlights of delegate action taken:

- Budget of about \$8 million adopted; a bit lower than current spending plan and more than half of it funded by investments, not apportionments
- Districts reduced from nine to three at an annual savings of \$495,000.

Justice matters approved:

- A call to cancel death penalty statutes in Tennessee and Kentucky. (The resolution not only theological condemnation of capital punishment, but its financial impact. Several studies show that life sentences are less expensive to carry out than putting a convicted person to death.)
- Denouncement of the congressional redistricting of Tennessee by the state legislature. This was seen as a blatant attempt to reduce the voice of Black citizens in government.

Celebration of 70 years of women in pastoral leadership in the United Methodist Church.

Passage of a plan to better financially support Black churches in our conference, with an eye to recognizing and celebrating differences in worship forms.

Thanks given for Memphis Theological Seminary, which the Cumberland Presbyterian Church will close at the end of July. Many UMC pastors have been educated there.

In a marked departure from previous conference meetings, there were no speeches against any of the resolutions – almost all of which passed with more than 90 percent approval.

It was announced that the 2027 conference meeting will be at Brentwood United Methodist Church.

UMYF NEWS





April and Jaxson attended Cedar Crest Summer Camp. Thank you to all who contributed to the UMYF. They had a great time. Note pictures above.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Trip

Special thanks to Roger Marriot for hosting the Ashland City United Methodist Church Senior Adult JOY luncheon at the Braxton on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. It was catered by Monell's, which is owned by beloved Ashland City resident Michael King. What an inspiring and uplifting gathering that ended with Michael speaking about his work history, faith, and vision for our community. Pastor Allison Gilliam also spoke about the church and some of their exciting future community initiatives. The Ashland City UMC is a "church with open hearts, minds, and doors welcoming all people into a loving, caring fellowship where everyone can find a home." Thank you, Holly Spann, for joining the gathering and for the pictures and kind comments on Facebook.





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



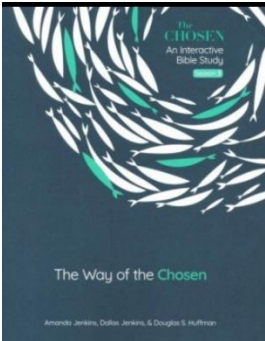
The UWF met on Friday, June 3, 2026.

Representatives from Safe Haven, Callie Meadows (director of Safe Haven) and Brenda Montgomery (board member) spoke to us about their work with women and their families, who are survivors of domestic violence. The Ashland City UWF sent a van load of supplies to help them give these families opportunities to heal and rebuild their lives.

The UWF has installed a 'Little Library' for the community to share. Everyone is encouraged to spread the word that these are available.

Please remember the UWF will meet Friday...July 3rd at 10:00. The program will be about Mission U which has been a long-standing curriculum for UWF. There will be snacks and 2 door prizes. Hope to see you soon.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY



The Pastor's Bible Study meets each Wednesday, at 9:30am, in the fellowship hall. We are currently using *The Chosen* TV series Season 3 as a discussion starter as we study the life and ministry of Jesus and his followers. Everyone is welcome to join

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



ACUMC was at the OneGenAway Food Distribution at CCCHS on Saturday, June 27, 2026. Kim and Tom Arnold and Pastor Allison joined members of our community to provide a trunk load of food for 300 families from our community. No questions are asked. We are blessed to be a blessing. Kim said it well, "It's a humbling and rewarding experience. Glad we could help out." We met new friends as we worked together. Thank you for serving joyfully!

TRUSTEES NEWS

Please put these dates on your calendar for upcoming meetings:

August 23, 2026 at 5:00 pm

October 25, 2026 at 5:00 pm

ROCKETTOWN NEWS

Rocket Town has new summer hours.

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 2:30 - 6:30 PM (Family Dinner)

Wednesday: 2:30 - 6:30 PM

Thursday: 2:30 - 6:30 PM

Friday: Closed

THE WESLEYS' (plural) MINISTRY

In the June newsletter, we asked what great debt Methodism owes to the Moravian Church. The answer is, well, heartwarming.

This is from John Wesley's journal:

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was

given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

That service was by the Moravians and Wesley found himself drawn back to other Moravian worship and study meetings and then spent about three months among the Moravians in Germany.

John’s mission trip to America had been disastrous. He had fallen for a young woman named Sofie Hopkey, but declined to ask for her hand in marriage. When she married another man, John was heartbroken and refused Sophie communion at a church service. He returned to England a dispirited man, unsure of God’s love for him. That changed the evening he went to the Aldersgate meeting and John changed too.

_ Paul Randall Dickerson

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Bob Batson, Earl Batson, Carin Casey, Helga Childers, Patsy DeLemos, Lucille Downs, Peggy Eades, Jim English, Laura Guthrie, Cecelia Hudelson, Clint Johnson, Adrian Johnson, Martha Brook Martin, Cheryl Maxson, Linda McMahan, Myrna Morris, Lanny Morrison, Robert Newton, Joe Nicholson, Roy Salas, Katherine Wisdom

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Monte & Janie Binkley, Tony Brian, Susan Callahan, Scott Cobb, Vivian Cook, James Gupton, Denise Jackson, Pam Poole Jenkins, Kevin & Michelle Jones, Evan Land, Josephina Hernandez-Ordonez, Dian Lynch, Bobby Mansfield, Anna Shaver, Eleanor Smith, Sandra Smith, Tina Stout, Brenda Weathers, Jason White, Dana
Our World, Country, State, County, & City

SHUT IN LIST

Helga Childers, 400 Warioto Way #412, Ashland City, TN 37015
Ann Binkley, 1201 Hunters Lane, Ashland City, TN 37015

If you would like to add/remove someone from the Prayer List, call the church office or send us an email.

MILITARY FAMILY

Seth B Biggs PSC 3 Box 4796
APO AP 96266

ON THE CALENDAR

UWF will meet July 3rd 10:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 9:30 am

Ladies Circle on a summer break

Choir Practice Sundays after service

Al-Anon Mondays 6:00 pm

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Giving</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
06/07/26	\$4,425	45
06/14/26	\$2,595	42
06/21/26	\$2,640	42
06/28/26	\$1,970	36

Weekly budget needs: \$3,931

Ways To Give

In person on Sunday during worship

By mail: 2226 Oak Street, Ashland City, Tennessee 37015

Text the word 'give' to 833-967-1168, wait a few seconds, it will reply with a link.

Click on the link and follow the instructions. You can use this for a one-time gift or set it up for regular giving. You can use a bank card or credit card There is a small fee. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Allison at 615-945-8974.

Click on the link below or type it into your search bar.

<https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=433abe7a-95a9-4af1-afa5-7616d78da9de>

You can also give online using our website www.ashlandcityumc.com. You can use your credit card, bank card, or checking account by clicking on the "give online now" button on the page labeled "give".

July Anniversaries

Steve & Penny Stratton	7/10
Randy & Judy Bell	7/16

July Birthdays

Bryan Jacoway	7/01
Hooper Johnson	7/07
Allison Gilliam	7/09
Joe Nicholson	7/20
John Osborne	7/22
Penny Stratton	7/27
Rick Johnson	7/29
Lola Mae Johnson	7/29

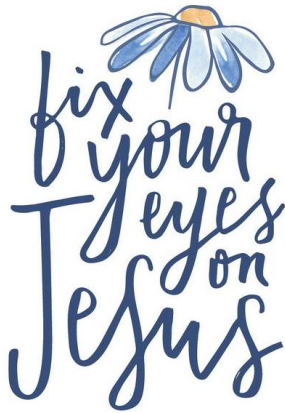
August Anniversaries

Darwin & Martha Lynn Newton	8/23
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August Birthdays

Adrian Johnson	8/02
Tommy Jacoway	8/05
Marilyn Biggs	8/07
Peggy Eades	8/10
Aubrey Albright	8/19
Steven Brown	8/22

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FACEBOOK LIVE – Ashland City UMC MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

MORNING PRAYER

“New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.”

Page #877 UMH

Bible Verse for the Month

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off. *Proverbs 23:18*

But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and “Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness.” *2 Timothy 2:19*

Quote for the Month

“Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable.” *Mary Oliver*

“Hope is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark.”

Rabindranath Tagore