

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

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

August 1, 2026



Dear Friends,

Ashland City UMC supports mission and ministry through the United Methodist Board of Global Ministry and United Methodist Committee on Relief. Many of the ACUMC members support students at the Raise the Roof Academy in Uganda. The United Women in Faith group at ACUMC support both local and international organizations through their gifts and pledges. This year, we had the opportunity to support our own Robert Newton and Derrick and Micah Hayes in their international mission

opportunities.

There is a well-known reality discovered by those who hear and accept the calling to serve in mission and ministry. We begin with the joy of knowing that we will have the opportunity to teach and help others. It is indeed a blessing, but the experience inevitably leads us to a different understanding and a different way of being. We sought to teach and help, but we find that we have been taught and helped by those we sought to serve. The true blessing is that God has used these people in places near and far to remake us into the people that God wants us to be.

We continue to pray for who serve in mission and ministry.

Blessings,

Allison

THE LITTLE LIBRARY



The Little Library has been visited by our neighbors. We watched them from the office window one morning. Ashland City United Women in Faith is delighted to offer the Little Library to our community. Please help us spread the word. Children's books and books for middle school aged students are available for free! Share literacy, imagination, adventure, and JOY!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The United Women in Faith of Ashland City United Methodist Church met Friday, July 3, 2026. The program focused on the history of the Mission U programs and encouraged commitment to lifelong growth reducing our fear of change.

Mission U is a transformative education program of UWF that is grounded in the belief that we cannot separate our Christian identity from engaging in Mission and doing justice in the world. It gives us the opportunity to keep growing, learning, changing, and never giving up on being a part of what the Holy Spirit is teaching us.

The United Women in Faith will meet on August 7, 2026 at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Mary Kate Myers, Director of the Austin Peay Wesley Foundation, will joy us.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY



The Pastor's Bible study meets each Wednesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We are continuing to study the life and ministry of Jesus and his followers using the popular TV series, *The Chosen*. We are presently studying the lessons associated with Season 3. Please let Pastor Allison know if you would like to order a study book.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Trip

The senior adults at Ashland City United Methodist Church enjoyed dining at Cracker Barrel on Charlotte in Nashville for the July JOY trip. The food and service were wonderful. We filled the dining room with smiles and laughter. The next adventure will be Wednesday, August 26, 2026.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



One Gen Away Food Distribution

The next One Gen Away Food Distribution will be at Cheatham County High School on August 22, 2026. Volunteers are needed and are asked to arrive at 7am. The Distribution will begin at 8:30am and continue until 10am or the food is gone. No registration is required. Please share this information.

Please let Pastor Allison know if You would like to volunteer.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES NEWS

Missing/Murdered Indigenous Women Remembrance Walk | August 14

Indigenous women face violence at rates far above the national average, yet most cases receive little attention. A remembrance walk for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls will be held Friday, **August 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Lake Benson** in Bon Aqua. All are welcome to wear red, walk together, and remember.

TRUSTEES NEWS

The Ashland City UMC Trustees have been dutifully caring for the church property. The window in the fellowship hall, which was cracked by the windstorm, was replaced by Springfield Glass. The trees and shrubs at the parsonage and church have been trimmed by Eden Lawncare. Eden Lawncare made some minor repairs to the exterior of the parsonage. Thank you, ACUMC Trustees!

The Trustees wish to thank Jen Shaver for using her amazing skills as an architectural drafter to provide the church architectural drawings of the desired renovation of children's wing to prepare the space for a licensed childcare center. The Trustees are soliciting bids from local contractors as we continue toward the goal of providing affordable childcare to our community. Thanks Jen!

The Trustees next meeting will be August 23, 2026 at 5pm.

UMYF NEWS



Ashland City UMC will host the **BIG YOUTH EVENT** for the Northwestern District of the Tennessee Western Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church. The **BIG YOUTH EVENT** will give youth from all over the District to gather at Rocketown Cheatham on Saturday, October 24, 2026 from 2:00-4:30pm. The event will give the students and adult leaders time to enjoy Rocketown's vintage arcade games, pool table, state-of-the-art e-sports room, and space to hang out, to play cards, board games, etc. Food will be provided. The time will end with music and worship. Mark your calendars. Please let Pastor Allison know of you plan to attend.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH



Ashland City UMC was a part of an incredible day at the Back to School Bash sponsored by the Cheatham Chamber of Commerce.

The event was moved to Ashland City Elementary STEM Academy due to the weather, but it didn't stop us from having an amazing time. We had an absolute blast seeing so many Cheatham County kids and families come out to get the school supplies they need for a successful school year! There were an estimated 400+ students in attendance.

There was so much fun for everyone—from vendors handing out school supplies to prize wheels filled with goodies like stickers and bubbles, plus refreshing

lemonade to help beat the heat.

Thank you to the Cheatham Chamber, businesses, organizations, individuals and volunteers who made this event a success.



BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY



Ashland City United Methodist Church will celebrate BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY on August 9, 2026 at the 10:00am worship service. We will pray for our schools, students, families, teachers, coaches, band directors, counselors, administrative assistants, SRO officers, administrators, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, and all the people who work to nurture, inspire, and educate our students.

ROCKETTOWN NEWS



Rockettown is one of many sponsors of the Back-to-School Block Party on August 11, 2026, from 4-6pm. Oak Street will be closed in front of Ashland City United Methodist Church to make room for food and fun.!

MISSION NEWS



Please keep Robert Newton, grandson of Darwin and Martha Lynn Newton, in your prayers. Robert has been appointed to serve a two-year internship as a missionary with Hope Alive Church right outside of Tokyo, Japan. Robert gave his life to Christ while he was in college at Tennessee Tech, where he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting and a Master of Business Administration (MBA). After five years working as an auditor in various settings, Robert felt the Lord's call to missions in Japan. He is excited to serve Hope Alive Church wherever he is needed and share the Good News of the Gospel with the Japanese people."

REPORT FROM DERRICK AND MICAH



When I was growing up, I remember watching National Geographic and seeing the Maasai people of Kenya. They seemed so distant—almost larger than life. Never could I have imagined that one day I would be standing among them, sharing the gospel, praying with them, and helping deliver food to their community.

After a three-hour drive across rugged terrain, we finally arrived. We laughed together, worshiped together, and shared the love of Jesus. Then something happened that completely caught me off guard. The Maasai held a naming ceremony for our team. They placed traditional clothing and jewelry on us—gifts from people who have very little materially but possess extraordinary generosity. They wanted to honor us for coming.

It was one of those holy moments where you realize you're not just there to give. You're also there to receive.

That experience became a picture of our entire trip! Within each activity or opportunity, there was God, showing us His goodness in that no matter what we believed we were sacrificing, He kept serving us!!

Because of your prayers and generosity, our team had the privilege of serving throughout Nairobi, Kitale, and West Pokot. We ministered alongside local leaders in four orphanages,

three schools for girls, a pastors' conference, communities of widows, Congolese refugees, and the Maasai people.

At each orphanage, we shared the gospel, taught from Scripture, made salvation bracelets, played games, and distributed clothes, food, and school supplies. These ministries are doing far more than meeting immediate needs—they are giving children hope and a future. The girls' schools especially moved us. We learned that education is one of the most effective ways to protect young girls from child marriage, opening doors to opportunities that would otherwise never exist.

In West Pokot, we witnessed God do something remarkable as 11 people placed their faith in Christ! The people in West Pokot are considered among the most difficult people in the area to reach with the gospel. It was a powerful reminder that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace.

We also spent time encouraging more than 60 pastors and ministry leaders. The impact reached far beyond that room. These men and women faithfully serve churches scattered across difficult terrain, carrying the hope of Christ into places many people will never see. Strengthening them strengthens countless others.

One of the most moving parts of our trip was meeting more than 100 widows. In many communities, widowhood often leads to isolation and hardship, yet we had the privilege of reminding these women that they are deeply seen, loved, and valued by God. In fact, one of our own team members, who is also a widow, sensed God calling her to continue partnering with leaders in Kenya to create ongoing opportunities to serve widows there.

On a personal level, one of my greatest joys was watching Micah serve. He played drums publicly for the first time with the worship team (without any rehearsal time!) at the pastors' conference, helped lead activities in the orphanages, and spent hours playing soccer with the children. Watching him grow in confidence and servant-hearted leadership was something I'll never forget. In Micah's own words as he encouraged the team on day 1 of our time in Kenya, "God has a purpose for each of us being here." And he certainly found his reasons!

And somewhere in the middle of all the ministry, God reminded us to simply enjoy His creation. Kenya is breathtaking. Mountains, valleys, waterfalls, bustling markets, incredible food, and people whose hospitality continually humbled us. During a safari, we prayed that God would give us one unforgettable moment in creation. Moments later, a herd of zebras crossed directly in front of our vehicle, giving us a front-row seat to His handiwork. He taught us something about Himself.

Our team returned home refreshed because we encountered the goodness of God in a fresh way. We met people who had very little, yet overflowed with joy. We were served by those who had almost nothing. We watched believers trust God through hardship with a faith that challenged our own. It reminded us that God's goodness isn't dependent on our circumstances. He is good in abundance. He is good in lack. He is good when life makes sense. He is good when it doesn't. He is simply good. Full stop.

Thank you for making this journey possible. Every child we hugged, every pastor we encouraged, every widow we prayed with, every meal we shared, and every person who heard

the good news of Jesus was touched because you chose to be part of this story. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and can't wait to share even more stories with you soon.

With gratitude,

Derrick & Micah Hayes



WHAT IS THAT CHURCH ON THE HILL

“We’ve a story to tell to the nations...” How well are we telling it?

Here is one old parishioner’s take on where the Ashland City United Methodist Church sits today. One of our members, who is a dear friend of ours, told her mate years ago that our congregation was perhaps a half-dozen funerals from closing its doors. That might still be true, though some of the players have changed.

Come Sunday mornings, things are just fine inside our sanctuary. We have a great pastor, we greet each other warmly, the music is incredible for the number of musicians, and there is a “sweet, sweet spirit in this place”, as the hymn runs. It’s outside the doors that our problem lies.

We have become The Ashland City Generic Christian Church.

New people are moving into the area and they could drive right by our campus and logically wonder whether we might be Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran (though no red doors), or any other denomination. The only identification we have is on a defunct electronic sign on the corner and that is now covered by the Rocket Town banner.

We are invisible in our own community.

And to the argument that “everybody knows where the Methodist Church is”, I suggest that everybody once knew. Not so much anymore. Visibility isn’t a full solution, but it’s a dandy start.

— Paul Randall Dickerson

Lay Delegate to Conference

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Bob Batson, Earl Batson, Carin Casey,
Helga Childers, Patsy DeLemos, Lucille
Downs, Peggy Eades, 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 Gwen

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 August 7th 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>
07/05/26	\$3,430	26
07/12/26	\$2,560	34
07/19/26	\$2,270	43
07/26/26	\$2,673	40

Weekly budget needs: \$3,931

*Online contributions can be made at
www.ashlandcityumc.com*

August Anniversaries

Darwin & Martha Lynn Newton 8/23

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

September Anniversaries

John & Aubrey Albright 9/14
Ben & Kaycee Casteel 9/26

September Birthdays

Bob Batson 9/03
John Mansfield 9/04
Jane Barnes 9/08
Judith Rhodes 9/11
Kim Arnold 9/12
Martha Lynn Newton 9/13
Earl Batson 9/21
Penny Casteel 9/23
Mary Grey Jenkins 9/23
Dixie Perry 9/25
Jen Shaver 9/28

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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.”
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Bible Verse for the Month

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. *Hebrews 6:19*

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. *Psalms 119:114*

Quote for the Month

“Christian hope is not a ghost and it does not deceive. It is a theological virtue and therefore, ultimately, a gift from God that cannot be reduced to optimism, which is only human. God does not mislead hope; God cannot deny himself. God is all promise.”
Pope Francis