Ashland City United Methodist Church
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November 1, 2026



What Do You Believe?
I want to offer a challenge to each of you. When we receive a new person into the membership of our church, we ask if they will be loyal to the United Methodist Church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Yet, we are often reluctant to share what we believe because we do not want to offend another or be judged critically for our beliefs or uncertainties. So... I offer this challenge. I would love to give folks the opportunity to state what they believe. Could we create an atmosphere of hearing and appreciating the thoughts and beliefs of others without having to like or dislike? We don't have to debate, just state what each believes and why. I wonder if anyone would respond to the challenge. Paul Randall offers the article below to start the conversation. Thank you, Paul Randall. I wonder if others differ in the way they experience God. Feel free to respond by email to allison.gilliam@twkumc.org. Please indicate if you give permission for your response to be published in a future ACUMC newsletter.

A Personal Relationship with Jesus?
Maybe Not So Much

Nearly a half-century ago, researchers polled pastors across the United States, asking them to name the often-sung hymn that best encapsulates Christianity and the one that was the poorest. It probably does not surprise you that the winner, and by a large margin, was Amazing Grace. Ministers said the simple message of this beloved hymn captures the great truth that grace is not earned through works, but freely bestowed by our loving God. The biggest loser is the hymn many families want sung at the funeral of a great-aunt. It is In the Garden. Clergy respondents to the survey excoriated the song as a paean to ego; an attempt to elevate the singer's theological position to a "higher than thou" voice. An example: "And the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known." Really?

The real problem with the hymn is broader than the words. It springs from the concept of having a personal relationship with Jesus - a position that is not supported by Scripture, either in the Gospels or in the writings of Paul. It is a by-product of the Enlightenment. While that movement of the 17th and 18th Centuries was beneficial in strengthening the worldview of science, individual freedom, and societal progress, it also knocked the props out from under religious dogma. The concept of a personal relationship was an attempt to make religion more relevant to some. The Gospels and the Epistles emphasize communal living; believers sharing what they had with one another and being stewards of Creation. So, what to believe in 20-nearly-27? Believe in the Gospel. Believe that God truly reigns. Believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whether you believe you have a "personal relationship with Jesus" is on you. For me, Christ is my Lord and Savior - not the guy I'm meeting at Starbucks for a latte.
Paul Randall Dickerson
Healthy Sceptic

ADVENT MONDAY SERIES 2027



Paul Randall Dickerson invites you to join him for Advent Mondays from the Ashland City UMC beginning on November 29, 2026. A devotional video will be released each Monday of Advent. Paul Randall Dickerson, a lay member of our congregation, will offer a series of short observations on the season which will try to imagine how the holy event of Jesus Christ's birth might have looked to some of the people who appear in the Gospels. Mark your calendar. These videos will be available on Facebook and YouTube.

LADIES EVENING CIRCLE

The Ladies' Evening Circle met on Monday, October 12, 2026. They watched an online Bible Study from the *Proclamations of Christmas Series.* They discussed "Zechariah's Song" found in Luke 1:41-45 and Luke 1:68-79.
The Ladies' next meeting will be Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6pm in the fellowship hall. They will watch and discuss the next episode of the series, "Angels Song" (Luke 2:1-14, Psalm 103:20-21, Isaiah 8:6).

TO OUR FAMILY AT ACUMC

We want to thank our church family for your love and support during my sister, Patsy DeLemos's illness and at her passing last week. The brunch provided by our ladies was so appreciated. It provided a time of fellowship and comfort for our family before the visitation and service. We also thank Pastor Allison and Billy Sapp for their coordination with the Cheatham County Funeral Home so that the celebration of life could be held in our sanctuary.

With our love, Darwin and Martha Lynn Newton

JOY (Just Older Youth) TRIP

Ashland City United Methodist Church took a JOY trip to Demos Restaurant in Hendersonville, TN on Wednesday, October 7, 2026. The service and the food were delightful.
Lots of smiles and laughter accompanied the dining. Thank you, Demos Restaurant! We will be back!
The next JOY Trip is scheduled for October 28th. Destination as yet undetermined.






UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United Women in Faith from Ashland City UMC attended the Red River district mtg. The picture shows women who have held a position for the district. Martha Lynn is second from the right in the picture.

The United Women in Faith participate in a reading program each year. They are challenged to read books from 5 different categories. Joanna Low read one of the books under the category - Education for Mission. Joanna shares the following book review. Maybe you will be inspired to read from their library as well. For more information, see Glenda Jacoway.

The Happiest Man on Earth

Eddie Jaku, born Abraham Jakubowicz, writes of his 100 years of life and shares his journey from a happy German child who happens to be Jewish Auschwitz survivor and happy great-grandfather and successful businessman.

In The Happiest Man on Earth: The Beautiful Life of an Auschwitz Survivor, Jaku relates his joyful childhood in a loving family who were first proud Germans and then observant Jews. He recounts his bewilderment when his fellow German citizens seemed to quickly change from friends and neighbors to unimaginably cruel persecutors. He unflinchingly relates the horrific details of his imprisonment in concentration camps including Auschwitz and the murder of his mother and father. Throughout these excruciating times, Eddie still finds strength in his friendship with other prisoners including his good friend Kurt.

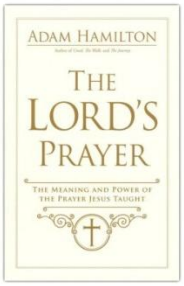
When he is finally liberated, Eddie struggles to come to terms with what has happened and to find a way forward. He is overjoyed to learn that his friend Kurt also survived as well as his beloved sister, Henni. Eddie is soon joined on his journey by his wife of seventy-four years, Flora. Eddie and his wife eventually immigrate to Australia where they establish a good life and are blessed with children and eventually grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Throughout the book Eddie shares lessons that he has learned which have led him to conclude that he is the happiest man on Earth including:

There are many more precious things than money.
Tomorrow will come if you survive today one step at a time.
You find kindness everywhere even from strangers.
One good friend is worth the whole world.
Education is a lifesaver.
If you lose your morals, you lose yourself.
Love is the best medicine.
We are all part of a larger society, and our work is our contribution to a free and safe life for all.

Category: Education for Mission.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY



The Pastor's Bible Study Class is currently studying *The Lord's Prayer* by Adam Hamilton. This six-lesson study looks at each petition of the Lord's Prayer as an example given by Jesus teaching us to pray. Could it be the most important prayer to know and pray? Class meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am.

COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT

Ashland City United Methodist Church participated in Tales from the Trunk at Cheatham Middle School on Friday, October 23rd. We had so much fun!! Can you tell which book we chose for our theme?




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YOUTH NEWS

Ashland City United Methodist Church hosted BIG YOUTH Event at Rocketown Cheatham on Saturday, October 24, 2026. Youth from Clarksville, Gallatin, and Ashland City gathered for fun, food and worship. Thank you, Rocketown Cheatham!










MID-CUMBERLAND HEAD START FALL FUN DAY

Volunteers from ACUMC had a great fall fun day with the children at Mid-Cumberland Head Start on Friday, October 23rd. The teachers and students were excited to see us. We were able to give a ton of one-on-one attention. Our volunteer time helps pay back the state grant Head Start receives. Our next event will be their Christmas Pancake breakfast. Details coming.







In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Bob Batson, Carin Casey, Helga Childers, Lucille Downs, Peggy Eades, Lin Goldsmith, 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, 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

Katherine Wisdom 2240 Fish Trapp Road, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

Ann Binkley 1201 Hunters Lane, Ashland City, TN 37015

Cecelia Hudelson 6901 Sunny Park Dr., White House, TN 37188

Peggy Eads 1085 Noah Reeves Rd., 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.

ON THE CALENDAR

UWF will meet November 6th 10:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 am

Ladies Circle November 9th 6:00 pm

JOY Trip Holiday Trip details pending

Choir Practice Sundays after service

Al-Anon Mondays 6:00 pm

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Date	Giving	Attendance
10/04/26	$4,140	36
10/11/26	$1,775	36
10/18/26	$3,985	37
10/25/26	$4,220	35

Weekly budget needs: $3,931

Online contributions can be made at www.ashlandcityumc.com

November Anniversaries

Phillip Breedlove & Lynn Newcomb	11/07
Rick & Adrian Johnson	11/24

November Birthdays

Gloria Marriott	11/01
Hope Bragg	11/13
Brooklyn Anderson	11/14
Judy Bell	11/15
Allison Johnson	1/16
Glenda Jacoway	11/19
Crosby Casteel	11/20
Rachel Moore	11/22
James Morris	11/29

December Anniversaries

Phillip & Genese Wilson	12/04
Gary & Penny Casteel	12/15

December Birthdays

Debbie Morrison	12/04
Logan Bell	12/08
Lucille Downs	12/11
Carol Herlein	12/14
Gary Casteel	12/15
Hannah Anderson	12/16
Lynn Newcomb	12/18
Lin Dickerson	12/21
Cindy Marshall	12/21
Shelley Brown	12/22
Ares Hernandes	12/23
Ruth sapp	12/24
Carol Cannon	12/26
Carin Casey	12/30
Adam Jacoway	12/31

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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

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor; if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. *Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

Quote for the Month

"Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together."

Woodrow T. Wilson

"Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends we choose."

Tennessee Williams