

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



PASTOR: Allison Gilliam

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October 1, 2026



Dear Friends,

ACUMC will have Charge Conference 2026 on October 11, 2026 at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. The pastor shares a report each year. You will find my report for 2026 below. I share it as an expression of my appreciation of the opportunity to be your pastor. It has been a good year. We should celebrate together what God has done and is doing at ACUMC.

The Ashland City UMC is a beautiful expression of God's kingdom on earth. Most of our congregation are senior adults. Some of our congregants maintain active lifestyles, but others have health concerns which make it difficult to participate in church activities in person. These remote congregants continue to faithfully support their church with their prayers, worship online, and their financial giving. We have sought to remain connected with in-person visits, phone calls, emails, text messages, Facebook posts, cards and messages via Messenger. We continue to seek to minister to our younger constituents as well. We have regular and seasonal activities for the children and youth. This year's activities have included the Easter Egg Hunt, trips to the movies, youth trips to Madison Street UMC to join with their youth, trip to a trampoline park, and trips for ice cream. We had one youth and one child attend a week of elementary camp at Cedar Crest this year. Jen Shaver volunteers to work with the children/youth Sunday School and our youth activities. Martha Lynn Newton has volunteered to help with Sunday mornings as well. ACUMC has been very active in the community. ACUMC and Pleasant View UMC provided a pizza party for both CCCHS and Sycamore bands prior to the big football game. The United Women in Faith group is not only a 5-star unit but also supports many of our area ministries including the Bethesda Center, Safe Haven, Austin Peay Wesley Foundation, Thistle Farms, and provides school supplies for our students. We had a booth at the Cheatham Chamber sponsored Back to School Bash and volunteers at 2 of the One Generation Away Community Food Distributions. ACUMC will soon sponsor a Sky Warn class.

ACUMC is a member of the Cheatham Chamber of Commerce. I have participated in their Clergy Coffee and Conversation, Nonprofit Roundtable, Women in business luncheon and numerous Ribbon Cutting events within our community. I am a member of the Cheatham Ministerial Alliance, which also serves as the board for the Bethesda Center. I attended the Civitan sponsored Ministerial Appreciation lunch, and I recently prayed at the beginning of the Ashland City Council meeting.

ACUMC's reach extends beyond our local community. This year we have supported scholarships through the Native American Awareness Sunday offering, many of our members sponsor children at Raise the Roof Academy in Uganda, and some are sponsoring Robert Newton on his missionary journey to Japan and Derrick and Micah Hayes' trip to Kenya. Roger Marriott, Robert Mallory and I attended a training session at the new county jail in anticipation of developing a prison ministry there.

We have focused extended hours in planning for a children's learning center at ACUMC. After many hours of planning and evaluation by proper authorities, we have developed a plan and architectural drawings for renovation of the children's wing to accommodate and maximize the space for a licensed childcare facility. Conversations continue to move forward with the renovation and securing a licensed childcare provider to lease the property to provide childcare for our community. We seek partners with the local industry to provide childcare as a benefit for their employees.

Some of our ongoing activities include the weekly Pastor's Bible study, a monthly senior adult JOY trip, our monthly Ladies Evening Circle, Sunday school, and Sunday morning worship. Our choir provides anthems and special music each week. They present both Easter and Christmas cantatas under the direction of Mr. Dennis Barnes and are accompanied by Sabrina Mansfield.

Our relationship with Rocketown Cheatham has brought many highlights for this year. Their Rock the Block party provided an exciting end to the school year last May. They started the school year off with a Back-to-School Block party in August that was well attended and provided an opportunity for many of the organizations to gather to provide fun and information to the area families. Rocketown plans to assist ACUMC in hosting the Northwestern District Big Youth event in October.

ACUMC also enjoys a relationship with the Headstart Program. We have hosted their graduation at the end of last school year and their orientation at the beginning of this school year. We also enjoy hosting seasonal parties at the Headstart center.

This year ACUMC plans to participate in the Community Tales from the Trunk at the Cheatham County Middle school. Our relationship with our community partners provide opportunities to reach out to individuals who would not necessarily attend on Sunday morning. We are delighted to work with others to benefit our community and share God's love and grace. It has been a very busy, glorious year. I cherish every opportunity to serve as your pastor.

Blessings,

Allison Gilliam

TRUSTEES NEWS

The ACUMC Trustees met on August 23, 2026. The parsonage committee reported that several repairs were made to the exterior of the parsonage. They approved a proposal from the sign committee to pursue bids for a new church sign for the front of the church. A date was set for the annual parsonage walk-thru.

The parsonage committee walked through the parsonage on September 22, 2026. A list was compiled of additional needed repairs.

The church bus was repaired. The alternator and both batteries were replaced.

The trustee's next meeting will be Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 5pm.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



The United Women in Faith met September 4, 2026. The women enjoyed delicious refreshments and conducted their business meeting. The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. Presentations were made from the Prayer Guide, *The Response Magazine*, the reading program, and a treasurers report. New business included plans to participate in the community Tales from the Trunk at Cheatham Middle School and hosting a Fall party for the Headstart program. The United Women in Faith decided to send birthday cards to the children

at the Ashland City Headstart program. Jane Barnes led a program on the importance of "Soul Care". The women drew names and agreed to give a soul care gift to the person whose name they had drawn. Thank you to all the women who serve as leaders of the ACUMC United Women in Faith group.

ANSWERING YOU CALL

Carol Herlein has locked church doors behind us, sat in the back where she can see anyone coming into the sanctuary, and otherwise kept us safer in these days of increased violence against houses of worship. No one asked her to.

Bob Batson shows up early every Sunday, greets worshippers at the front door, serves as an usher, and counts and reports the number of us attending services. No one assigned him those tasks.

Adrian Johnson's ministry is encouragement. Hallmark would go out of business if she quit sending cards and she refuses to ask for postage reimbursement, although her wishes of joy, compassion, and kindness are clearly tied to our church. Again - not an assignment, but a ministry.

At the Tennessee Western Kentucky Annual Conference meeting in June, I listened to a man who was older than I am (an accomplishment in itself) say he was a lifelong Methodist and no one had ever asked him what God was calling him to do. So, he asked himself and the answer was urging other people to do the same thing.

What are your gifts? Yes, you do have some. Billy Sapp found his as our very own Ralph Cramden, driving the church bus when he isn't busy attending to several other church-related tasks. Dixie Perry creates lovely expressions of joy for the altar.

Here's a secret: a safe way of not needing to do something is wait to be asked.

If you think all of this is me assuming you don't "do things" for the church and ultimately for the Glory of God, then pardon me. All I'm asking is "what else are you good at?" Let's not wait for someone to ask us.

Love Boldly. Serve Joyfully. Lead Courageously.

Paul Randall Dickerson

A NOTE FROM YOUR STAFF

If you have something you would like to share with your church family, please send us an email. We are always open to submissions.

LADIES EVENING CIRCLE



Proclamations of Christmas

The Ladies' Evening Circle met at 6:00pm on Monday, September 15, 2026. We began a new Bible study on the Biblical Songs of Christmas by Brad Grey. We discussed Mary's song, the "Magnificat", found in Luke 1:46-55. The circles next meeting will be October 12, 2026 at 6:00pm. All ladies are invited.

MID-CUMBERLAND HEAD START HALLOWEEN

We will be having a Halloween/Fall fun day with the Mid-Cumberland Head Start classes on Friday, October 23rd. We will meet at their classrooms at 9:00 am. Volunteers needed. Join us for a fun morning of simple crafts with the kids. Our volunteer hours help the program pay back their annual state grant.

COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT

The United Women in Faith of Ashland City United Methodist Church will participate in one of the favorite community events of the year!

Tales from the Trunk (Trunk or Treat)



Friday, October 23, 2026



5:30–7:30 p.m.



Cheatham Middle School

Come enjoy an evening of candy, costumes, and creative literacy-themed trunks! This year's theme is favorite books and book series, so you'll see beloved stories come to life through fun, family-friendly trunk displays. Some trunks may even include games, activities, and photo opportunities!



They will also have FREE hot dogs, coffee, hot chocolate, and books to give away while supplies last! Ashland City UMC United Women in Faith will host a Trunk. Look for some of

your friends from *Charlotte's Web*. vb



Bring your children or grandchildren.

THE LITTLE LIBRARY



The Little Library is appreciated by our community. The headstart families enjoyed picking out a book while they were here for their orientation. We can see from the office window when people stop by to choose a book. The Headstart program will continue to be reminded throughout the year. 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!

YOUTH NEWS



Ashland City UMC and Rockettown Cheatham will host the Northwestern District BIG YOUTH event on Saturday, October 24, 2026. Enjoy Rockettown's exports room, vintage arcade games, recording studio and more. Then join in worship together with youth from our neighboring counties. Come and bring a friend. Please let Pastor Allison know if you plan to attend.

SKYWARN CLASS



The National Weather Service Skywarn program training class was offered at Ashland City UMC on Monday, October 5, 2026.

What is SKYWARN™?

In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning cause hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe

by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the focus is reporting on severe local thunderstorms. In an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to

issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. SKYWARN® storm spotters form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that your efforts have given your family and neighbors the precious gift of time--minutes that can help save lives.

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches and nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are encouraged to become a spotter.

If you missed the class, you are encouraged to look for other local training classes.

You'll learn:

Basics of thunderstorm development

Fundamentals of storm structure

Identifying potential severe weather features

Information to report

How to report information

Basic severe weather safety.

Please consider serving your community as a trained spotter.

APSU WESLEY FOUNDATION'S CHURCH TOUR

The Austin Peay State University Wesley Foundation visited Ashland City UMC on Sunday, September 13, 2026. Rev. Mary Kate Myers, Director of the Wesley Foundation, and students provided information about the ministries of the Wesley Foundation at APSU. Mary Kate and the students inspired us with a message of struggle and hope that resonates with all generations. ACUMC provided a pizza lunch and time for more conversation with the students following worship.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Ashland City United Methodist Church was well represented by our golf team at the 17th Annual Cheatham County Chamber Golf Tournament on September 24, 2026 in Joelton, TN. Tom Arnold, Darwin Newton, Steve Brown, and Tim Goodwin represented us well with an eight under par score.

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, 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

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 October 2nd 10:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 9:30 am

Ladies Circle October 12th 6:00 pm

JOY Trip October 28th 10:00 am

Choir Practice Sundays after service

Al-Anon Mondays 6:00 pm

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Date	Giving	Attendance
09/06/26	\$4,505	48
09/13/26	\$2,415	50
09/20/26	\$1,925	46
09/27/26	\$3,195	37

Weekly budget needs: \$3,931

Online contributions can be made at
www.ashlandcityumc.com

October Anniversaries

October Birthdays

Bobby Fitzhugh	10/02
Genese Wilson	10/09
Dennis Barnes	10/16
Ben Casteel	10/20
Rachel Wilson	10/22
Phillip Wilson	10/25
Donna Denman	10/30

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	11/16
Glenda Jacoway	11/19
Crosby Casteel	11/20
Rachel Moore	11/22
James Morris	11/29

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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

It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.

Psalm 112:5

Give, and it shall be given you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with what measure you use it will be measured back to you.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Quote for the Month

“The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose.”

Hada Bejar

“How far that little candle throws his beams!
So shines a good deed in the weary world.”

William Shakespeare