

Amherst United Methodist Church

396 Park Avenue

Amherst, OH 44001

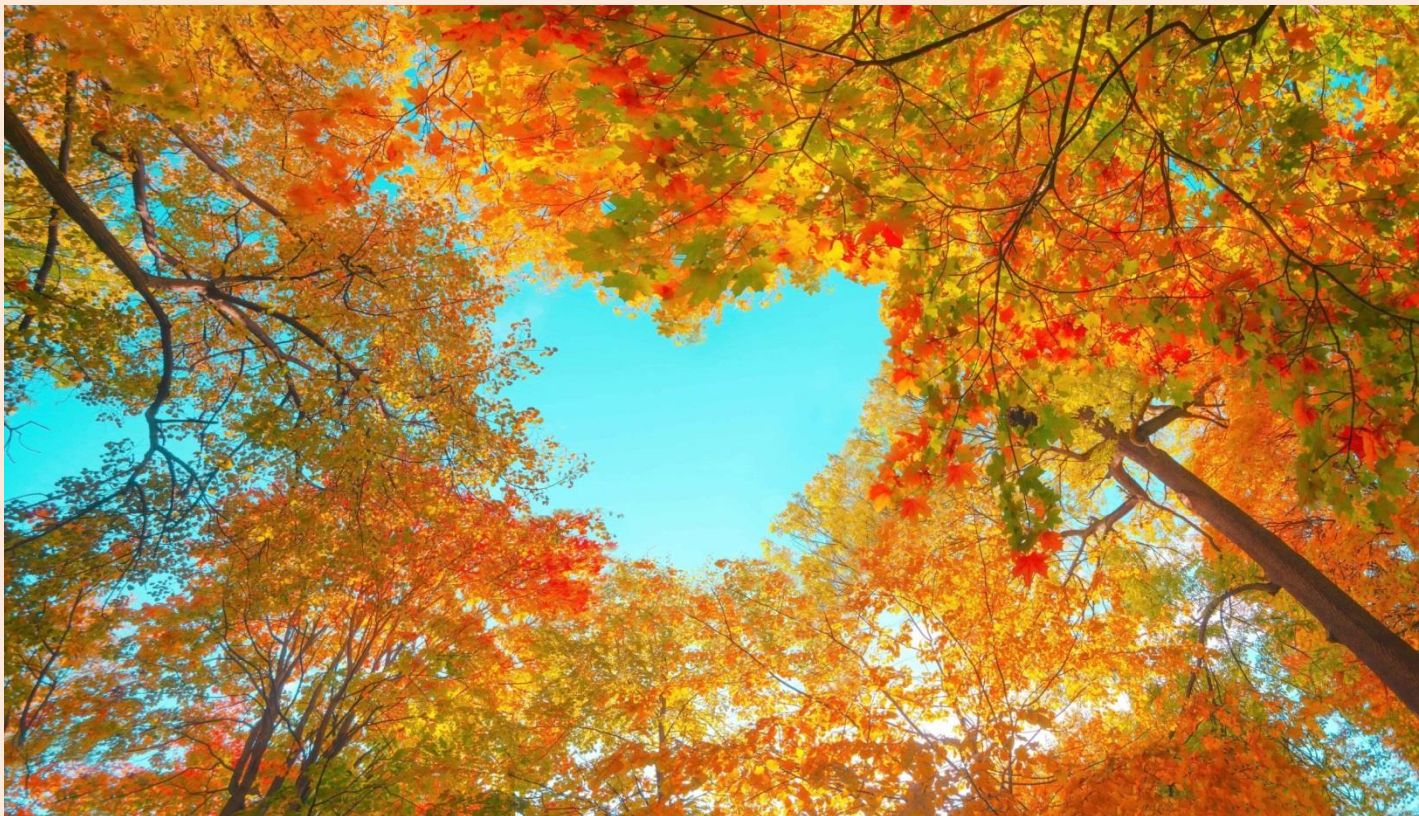
440-988-8330

www.amherstchurches.org

aumc396@gmail.com

Worship at 10:30 AM

AUMC November Newsletter



AMHERST UMC 2025 CHURCH CONFERENCE – PASTORAL REPORT

As I write this report I am basking in the glow of a 45% increase in average weekly worship attendance over these last 10 months. The reason for this increase is...YOU! Your efforts and dedication to this church and this community have not gone unnoticed and the result is leading more people to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Once again, this has been a great year for Amherst United Methodist Church. We continue to pay all our bills and also 100% of our connessional apportionments which magnify our mission and outreach to the entire world. Members, who for whatever reason, drifted away from the church during Covid are returning to our church and participating in our outreach activities.

Over the past year, we have made significant improvements to our church facilities and expanded virtual access, ensuring that everyone can participate in worship services regardless of their circumstances. Our congregation has grown stronger as we welcomed eight new members by profession of faith, enriching our fellowship and advancing our shared mission. We also celebrated four baptisms, each marking a meaningful step in faith for individuals and their families.

Our nurturing ministries have provided essential aid to families, students, and patients in need, demonstrating our commitment to caring for our community. This year their ministry has expanded as each member was trained as a Eucharistic Minister allowing them to deliver The Lord's Table to our shut-ins.

The Mission team has been especially active, launching new initiatives that support outreach programs and vital community services. These services include supplying food and clothing to those in need as well as school supplies and financial support for various community groups.

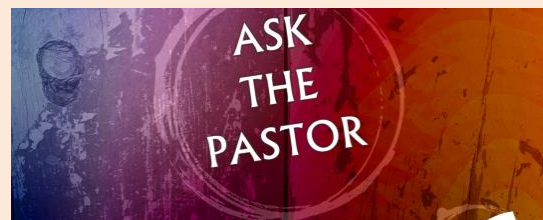
Our youth group has taken part in local community parades, fostering a spirit of service and building connections with our neighbors. We have also shown our appreciation for first responders through dedicated activities and service projects, recognizing the invaluable

contributions of our police officers and firefighters. Finally, we have begun a program to educate the youth members of our congregation on what it takes to administer a church like ours. Each child has chosen a Leadership Team member to shadow so they can observe what that team member does. The youth group member then selects a leadership team project that further enhances that leadership function

So, what does the future hold for us? We will continue our current outreach activities and search for ways to improve on them as well as discover new avenues of community support. Our new Lay Leader is working with the Main Street Amherst group to identify community needs that our church has the resources to fulfill. Our Youth group will continue to participate in Amherst Community activities like the Memorial Day, and Miracle on Main Street parades as well as community Easter Egg hunts and Cookies with Santa. Their future activities include a trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum which will have a profound impact on their realization of just how awesome our God truly is. Finally, we will once again provide a Vacation Bible School event open to all the children in our town so that they may also learn about the wonders of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As your pastor, I am humbled and filled with excitement for the opportunities that lie before us. With your unwavering commitment and faith, I am confident we will embrace new ways to serve our community, deepen our spiritual connections, and reach even more individuals with Christ's message of hope and love. Together, we will continue to build upon our successes, nurture each other, and boldly seek God's guidance in all that we do as we move forward into another promising year.

Pastor Joe



For any spiritual guidance or questions you may have, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Joe at umcpastorjoe@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS FOR November 2025

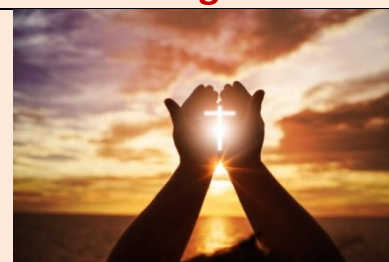
Welcome to the month of November. Your Leadership Team met on Monday, October 13. The team chose Sunday, November 9th as the date for Consecration Sunday. The team will provide information to the congregation regarding committee responsibilities on either Sunday, Oct. 19th or October 26th. Also, information will be provided within the November newsletter. Judy Gutman, worship chair, announced that the first week of Advent is November 30th and Hanging of the Greens will be on November 29th at 10:00am. Judy is working with Pine Haven nursery to finalize cost of poinsettias, which will be available for order. Kathy Blahay, nurturing chair, announced that our church Christmas luncheon will be on Saturday, December 6th at 2pm nurturing committee is meeting on October 16th to finalize the menu. (Flash news: great menu chosen with a beef, chicken, or fish selection. details to follow.) Bob Kinser, trustee chair, stated that Mitchell's will be replacing the air conditioner which serves the office and Dr. Elsie Snell area. This will be on Oct. 29th. This is the air conditioner that has been serviced by Bill and Matt Nahorn, at no charge, to keep it running. Bob spoke with various companies to gather information regarding future air conditioner costs, and he reported that there would be a substantial increase in the future and uncertainty on availability of parts. So, your Leadership Team, after much discussion, voted to approve the new air conditioner at this time. Bob also reported that in the sanctuary there are stress cracks to be taken care of and then painting. Jennifer and Tad Clark have volunteered their time to repair the cracks and paint. They are volunteering their time and will only need the church to pay for the materials. This project will be done over the winter months. (What a wonderful gift of service!) Colleen, our custodian, will be asked to do a deep vacuum cleaning of the pews at this time and a more thorough cleaning will be done after the cracks are repaired and painting has been done. Chris McCourt, chair of website, provided an overview of a new company to address our church's website needs. Pastor spoke with other churches regarding their usage of tithe.ly, and it was determined that the company is user-friendly and offers free tech support. Your leadership team had discussion and voted to begin service with tithe.ly. Chris thanked Mike Filbert for his ongoing tech support in working out the hardware and software so that the sound and video on zoom are working well. Chris and the team thank Mike for his volunteer tech service to our church! (The website supports the church's goal of developing multiple ways to actively interact with our homebound and also the goal of community outreach.) Aleah provided her lay leader report which highlighted the youth group activities and events. (Aleah will provide her separate information within this newsletter. (These activities support our church's goal for community outreach and expanding youth opportunities.)

Our November Leadership Team meeting will be held on Monday, November 10th at 11am. All are welcome to attend! Do not forward to "fall back" with your clocks on Sunday, November 2nd. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, as we thank God for all of our daily blessings! Take care. Be well!

Hugs from a social distance,

Jean Rounds Chair

Craft Show	November 1 st 9:00AM-3:00PM
All Saints Sunday/Communion Service	November 2 nd
Nurturing committee	November 6 th 10:30AM
Mary Martha Circle	November 6 th 11:30AM
Consecration Sunday	November 9 th
Leadership Meeting	November 10 th 11:00AM
West Plains Conference	November 16 th 3:00PM
St. Elizabeth meal prep	November 21 st 2:30PM
Hanging of the Greens	November 29 th at 10:00AM
First Sunday of Advent	November 30 th
Bell Choir Practice	Every Sunday after worship service
AUMC practices safe sanctuary and we do lock our doors for Sunday Service at 10:40AM. If you are running behind please ring the door bell and we will let you in.	
CALL IN NUMBER for CHURCH SERVICE (440) 462-2193 Or watch us on Zoom at amherstchurches.org	



Tuesday – 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Thursday 9:00 AM to Noon
Office phone: (440)988-8330
Pastor Joe: (440)724-2433

If there is a Sunday with severe weather please be advised that the church will always be open for service. But if you do not feel comfortable driving in bad weather we ask that you stay home and watch on Zoom.

God blesses us daily with answered prayers. If you have a situation that could use a prayer, we are here for you.

Please contact Pastor Joe or Judy Gutman

West Plains District Charge Conference

Date: November 16, 2025

Time: 3:00pm

Location: Medina UMC

4747 Foote Road

Medina, OH 44256



Jay Rounds Nov 11th
Dick Griffith Nov 14th
Deb Filbert Nov 18th
Sandra Teets Nov 28th
Lee Wynne Nov 29th



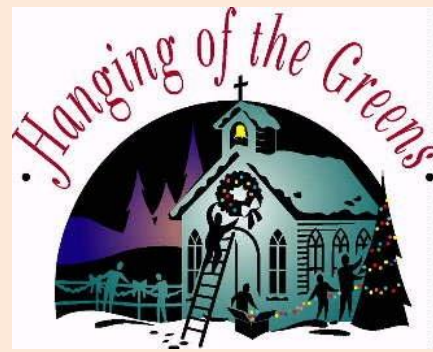
AUMC will be marching in Amherst's Miracle on Main Street parade on Friday December 5th 2025 at 6:00PM. If you wish to participate in the parade please see Aleah. Since this will be a night parade we will be passing out glow sticks. Glow stick donations will be greatly appreciated.



Retake day for the photo directory will be Sunday, December 14th after worship service. Signup sheet will be located on the bulletin board by the Dr. Elsie room!



Holidays are right around the corner. And gift cards are a perfect gift. AUMC gets rebates on gift cards purchased through us. We have hundreds of options to choose from. Please see Chris McCourt to place your order!



Saturday November 29, 2025 at 10:00AM

Christmas is such a special time of year- a time of celebration, family, and the birth of our Lord. With this in mind you are invited to join us as we prepare the house of our Lord to celebrate His birth.



Save the Date!

AUMC Christmas party will be Saturday, December 6, 2026 at 2:00PM. Location: Martino's Restaurant, Vermillion more information to come!



Our November Mission Project is collecting sock and underwear for the men at St. Elizabeth. Thank you for your help.

Baptism of Penelope & Fiona Alley, and Profession of Faith of Peter & Diane Dickason, and Tiffanie Alley



Pastor Appreciation Day!

Thank you Pastor Joe for your unwavering faith, guidance, and dedication, your leadership has not only strengthened our faith but also our community!





The Singing Saints' weekly performances are a cherished part of our congregational experience, bringing great joy to all. We invite anyone interested to join the Singing Saints each Sunday.



AUMC participated in Trunk or Treat at Amherst High School!

Pardon Our Tech Issues

The tech department has been working to resolve recent issues with Zoom and the services recorded for the church website. We have worked to improve the viewing experience so if you are not able to attend in person, check out the website to view it live through Zoom or the recordings available Sunday or Monday.

You can watch the service live by going to our web page at amherstchurches.org or just google Amherst United Methodist Church. On the home page click the blue link which will take you to the Zoom meeting at 10:30. Or you can go to the Sunday Services link to watch the service later. If you need help knowing how to connect, call the church office and we can arrange help to get you there. So check out all that's been happening at AUMC!

The Way We Serve

Our congregation participates in Consecration Sunday each autumn. This year the date is Sunday, November 9th. As we prepare, I am reminded of the words that were shared by our congregation during the membership ceremony on October 12th. "As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithful to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." There are many wonderful ways to show your stewardship—prayers, presence, financial gifts, and volunteer service. Thank you for the many ways in which you are already contributing! Included within this newsletter you will learn about the many operational functions of our church and also learn about the many service opportunities in which you could volunteer.

Leadership Team -- Jean Rounds. I am serving as Leadership Team chair and in this role I conduct the monthly team meetings, where all the committees provide their verbal update and there is discussion and voting when appropriate. As you hear each month, all are welcome to attend. Also, I provide a monthly report in the newsletter, which everyone receives by e-mail or U.S. postal service. I am fortunate to serve with a very dedicated and talented team!

Financial Secretary- JoAnn Haskins & Diane Dickason The Financial Secretary is the person responsible for the accounting of all money given to the church and keeping track of who gives what to the church. The Financial Secretary walks the fine line of being completely transparent as to what money is given to the church

(and for what purpose); and is very protective of the privacy of the specific giver (and for keeping track of individual pledges and recording all monies each person actually gives). The Financial Secretary produces reports each month for the Leadership Chairman and the Treasurer detailing the month's funds and the year-to-date funds. The Financial Secretary also keeps accurate addresses on all individuals giving money to the church and sends out or hand delivers statements twice a year.

Lay Leader & Youth Education Coordinator- Aleah Wilson As Lay Leader of the Church I am responsible for our community outreach. Ways I have been involved with the Amherst community this past year was participating in Main Street Amherst Morning Mingle, Participating in Amherst community parades and Walking on Wednesday. I also put on our churches Fun with fellowship events with the help of the Mom Squad (Heather, Megan, Jennifer, & Tiffanie) these events include our annual Easter egg hunt, cookies with Santa, and summer monthly movie nights. I also serve as our Youth Education Coordinator, providing weekly lessons for the children during Sunday school, holding monthly bible study, and having the youth group put on plays and performances for the congregation. Assistance is always needed to help our congregation grow.

Trustees -- Bob Kinser. Our primary function is to oversee the real and personal property of the church and maintain it to the best of our abilities. Chris McCourt, Polly Makinen, Jay Rounds and myself try to do this with diligence and prudence. For the most part when things need done we always try to get at least three estimates. Sometimes this isn't always possible, but we still try. The purchase of raise right cards has helped keep our landscaping and snow removal cost manageable without neglecting our overall appearance. We have used some General Funds this year for the signage and rear entryway awning.

In the past year we have:

1. Overseen the maintenance and construction of a new rear entry with signage, awning, and modernization of the front sign.,
2. In conjunction with the library we've resealed, recoated, and re-stripped the parking lot.
3. Relit and modernized the sanctuary and narthex.
4. Repaired gas lines to furnace, hot water tank and stove.

Amherst United Methodist Scholarship Committee -- Chris McCourt. The Amherst United Methodist scholarship is awarded yearly to an applicant who is a member or child of an active member of Amherst United Methodist Church and who attends an accredited institution of higher education. The scholarship has been awarded for 8 years at AUMC and is funded by the previously established scholarship fund. Donations to the fund are also welcome. The committee consists of Chris McCourt, Jo Goodsite, and Polly Makinen. Over the last eight years, the fund has awarded more than \$6400 to students.

Raise Right Fundraising -- Christ McCourt. This fundraiser is an ongoing program for purchasing store gift cards. The cards are purchased at the face value of the card and the church pays below face value to the company. So it costs the buyer nothing extra and their purchase is recorded for their church giving. The program is under the supervision of Chris McCourt and you can talk to her for any questions or purchases. Most chain store cards are available. Profits so far have paid for new landscaping and will go toward ongoing maintenance of landscaping but may go to other programs in the future.

Website Management: Chris McCourt

Our website has been updated and we welcome anyone with knowledge/interest in this area to get involved. The live service can be accessed there and also some previous services, as well as the latest newsletters. If you have suggestions or contributions or would like to get involved, contact me or the church office.

Worship Committee: -- Judy Gutman The look of the Sanctuary is the responsibility of the Worship Committee. Included is décor, communion preparation and servers, ushers, banner, flowers, altar cloths, and the flower box in the narthex. Stewardship is our theme for fall. Stewardship takes many forms as we will be discussing and learning about. If you have a call in your heart to assist in our beautiful sanctuary, see Judy Gutman. Help is always appreciated!

Treasurer – Jim McCourt

The United Methodist Book of Discipline is very conscious of, and protective of, the monies given to the church, and how those monies are accounted for and spent. The Discipline specifically separates the duties of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Those officers must be two different people and cannot be related. The Financial Secretary is the person responsible for accounting for all the money given to the church and keeping track of who gives what to the church. The Financial Secretary walks the fine line of being completely transparent as to what money is given to the church (and for what purpose); and is very protective of the privacy of the specific giver (and for keeping track of individual pledges and recording all monies each person actually gives). The Treasurer is a separate person who is responsible for paying all the bills that the church encumbers. The Treasurer also works with the Leadership Team in preparing the annual budget, and making sure the monthly spending is in line with the approved budget. The Financial Secretary and the Treasurer serve as a check and balance on each other. The Treasurer double checks that all incoming funds recorded by the Financial Secretary match the income deposits shown on the monthly bank statements in the various accounts of the church. And the Financial Secretary double checks that the monies spent by the Treasurer matches up with the bank statements, and that the monies were spent as designated by the giver and in accordance with the church budget. This system helps preserve the financial integrity of the church and provides assurance to each giver that their financial gifts to the church are accounted for properly and spent according to their wishes and in compliance with the budgeted needs of the church.

Nurturing Committee – Kathy Blahay

Nurturing Committee has been very active in communicating with our homebound persons. We assisted in organizing a nice luncheon for our new church members and a baptism. We are looking forward to our trunk or treat activity this month. If you enjoy visiting your church, family, organizing, fun activities, and supporting your church where needed, then this is the committee for you. Anyone who is interest please join us!

Missions Committee – Polly Makinen

Your financial support has enabled our church to continue to support different areas of mission. A portion of our Apportionments goes toward disaster relief and mission projects of the Methodist Church. Locally, money is given to ministries of food banks, homeless shelters and senior citizens in the area. You are giving to missions whenever you donate food to St. Elizabeth's meal, school supplies, hats and mittens, items for health kits, and, recently, all the items for women and children at the Safe Harbor. Thank you for your continued support.



It is that time of year again to put in your Christmas flower order. Orders need to be put in by December 7th to be here in time for Christmas. Orders can be put in the offering plate, mailed in or can be called into the church office at (440)988-8330 or to Judy Gutman (440)935-3681. Attached below is an order form. There will also be some available in the sanctuary.

Poinsettias ~ \$10.00 each
Gold Pot Covers
(Make checks payable to AUMC)

Your name: _____

Number of plants: _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

In memory of _____

In Honor of _____

(Please place your envelope in the offering plate)