

# Amherst United Methodist Church

396 Park Avenue

Amherst, OH 44001

440-988-8330

[www.amherstchurches.org](http://www.amherstchurches.org)

[aumc396@gmail.com](mailto:aumc396@gmail.com)

Worship at 10:30 AM

## AUMC SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



## “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Dear beloved Church family,  
As summer’s warmth begins to yield to the crispness of autumn air, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of a new season. It’s a time of turning, of harvest, and of holy reflection. Fall is nature’s gentle sermon. The trees, once clothed in vibrant green, now put on their robes of gold, crimson, and amber. They do not resist the change but embrace it with grace. In their quiet surrender, they remind us that letting go can be beautiful. That transformation, though sometimes bittersweet, is part of God’s rhythm.

Isaiah tells us: “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” (40:8)

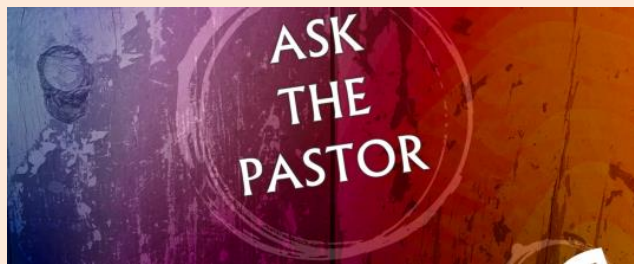
This season invites us to gather around tables, around fires, and around stories. It’s a time to give thanks for the fruits of our labor, to reflect on what has grown in us and around us, and to prepare our hearts for the slower, quieter days ahead. The Psalmist declared: “You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.” (65:11) So, just as the earth settles into rest, we’re also called to pause, to breathe, and to listen for the still, small voice of God reminding us “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” (Isaiah 30:15)

Let’s walk into this season with open hands and open hearts. Let’s look for the

sacred in the falling leaf, the morning mist, or the laughter of children crunching through piles of leaves. And may we remember that even in the fading light, God’s presence is steady, and His promises endure because “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

As with the turning of a new season it’s also the turning of a new church year in ministry. Our mission team is working on new ways for us to reach out to and help our community. The Mom Squad is preparing an old fashion ice cream social to start the new church year, and the kids are preparing a play to bring God’s message to us from their point of view. We are also bringing our plan for a new Church Directory to fruition with details coming soon. As the hymnist wrote, this is a time of new beginnings, and I can’t wait to get started.

Pastor Joe



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

## LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Welcome to the onset of autumn! Those hot and humid days now have become days of 70 degree temperatures. Your Leadership Team met on Monday, August 11. Nurturing reported that the church picnic, which was held in Fellowship Hall due to the very humid weather, was enjoyed by 45 hungry individuals. What a great variety of food! Nurturing committee continues to work with missions and also our youth to accomplish projects. Our church is collecting school supplies and will be collecting used blankets for APL and also filling purses with hygienic items. Aleah's report included information regarding movie nights, our church's participation in Walking on Wednesdays, the upcoming ice cream social after worship service, and the November 1<sup>st</sup> craft show.

Within Pastor's report, he told the team that Aleah's title is lay leader and her role as Youth Education Coordinator falls within that role. Pastor provided additional information regarding our Bishop's visit on August 20<sup>th</sup> which will occur within the sanctuary. Pastor sent an additional notice to the congregation with continued announcements in church. (See separate article regarding our Bishop's visit.) Pastor continues his visits to our homebound. The communion cups which he purchased have no expiration date. Communion to our homebound continues to be offered. Pastor is working with the Mom Squad in making arrangements for our youth to visit Noah's Ark Encounter in Kentucky. Information is being gathered and will be shared with the congregation. Participation is open to all.

Jennifer Clark is orchestrating the process for a new and current church directory. Information will be posted in the church and also sent out in various communication formats to reach everyone. A current directory is very useful for us to "keep in touch" with each other!

Our annual SPRC meeting with our district superintendent is scheduled for Sept 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:15pm at LaPorte UMC. If you are interested in attending, please let Jill Keller, our SPRC chair, know. On a more somber note, our congregation has lost two more of our dedicated and devoted members—Donna Gnagy and Bonnie Gumpf. Each of us have fond memories. I think of Donna with her love and kindness for not only her church family but also her cats. Bonnie's love and kindness for her church family and also design and sharing of her creative flower cards. May they rest peacefully in Heaven.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Monday, September 8 at 11am. As always, all are welcome to attend!

Hugs from a social distance,

Jean Rounds

### Our Bishop's Visit

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung visited Amherst UMC on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Jung's goal is to visit all 1264 churches within the East and West Ohio Conferences. What an ambitious and worthy goal! As our Bishop entered our sanctuary, he was greeted with Jesse's inspirational music and 25 members of the congregation. We had our name tags on and the first thing that the Bishop did was to go to the pews and greet each of us by name. How personable and friendly. Bishop provided plenty of time to listen and learn about us. The Bishop shared his vision to combine the East and West Conferences. Annabelle presented an Amherst UMC gift bag to our Bishop which contained newsletters, bulletins, and other information to further share whom we are. Evelyn sang for the Bishop and then we all sang with the Bishop, as Jesse accompanied! There was truly an inter-generational representation during this visit! The visit has been recorded for all to see! Also, please enjoy the photos included with September's newsletter.

Communion Service	September 7 <sup>th</sup>
Leadership Meeting	September 8 <sup>th</sup> 11:00AM
Nurturing committee	September 11 <sup>th</sup> 10:30AM
Mary Martha Circle	September 11 <sup>th</sup> 11:30AM
SPPRC Consult	September 15 <sup>th</sup> 12:15PM LaPorte UMC
St. Elizabeth meal prep	September 18 <sup>th</sup> 10:30AM & September 19 <sup>th</sup> 2:30PM
Movie Night	September 20 <sup>th</sup> 8:00PM
National Back to Church Sunday	September 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:30AM
Youth Group Bible Study	September 24 <sup>th</sup> 6:00PM-7:00PM
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.	
<b>CALL IN NUMBER for CHURCH SERVICE (440) 462-2193</b>	

OR Join our Zoom Meeting using a computer, tablet, or smart phone with an Internet connection at [Amherstchurches.org](http://Amherstchurches.org)



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.



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



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



Shirley Odelli Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brad Gumpf Sept 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Megan King Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> Gina Petridis Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Dan Pursel Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> Fiona Alley Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>



## National Back To Church Sunday

**Please join us on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 at 10:30AM. You will be in for a SWEET TREAT. The children will be performing a play "Noah Speaks" and after worship service we will be having a welcome back ice cream social along with Bible bingo.**



**AUMC will be holding a craft show on Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. If you are or know anyone who is interested in participating, email Aleah at [aumc396@gmail.com](mailto:aumc396@gmail.com) for an application or you can pick one up at the office.**



**Movie night will be September 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00PM bring a chair and additional snacks you wish to enjoy. We will provide the popcorn.**



AUMC Youth group will be collection unwanted blankets to be donated to Friendship Animal shelter. These can be clean used blankets that you no longer want. You do not need to go out and purchase new. Blankets cannot be knitted or crochet as it may be a choking hazard. We will also be accepting Purina dog or cat food, puppy pad and cat litter. We will be collecting until October 12<sup>th</sup>.



We will be updating our church directory to a photo directory. There will be a signup sheet outside the Dr. Elise room for dates you may get your picture taken if you are interested.

How lucky are we to have the helpers when they are needed? Losha Zirkle and Karen Allison helped with the catered funeral lunch for Donna Gnagy. Annabelle Wilson and Carl Mack gave assistance at St. Elizabeth food prep. Jim and Chris McCourt's efforts on our kitchen were greatly appreciated! Thanks to all who give their time and talents to keep our church running smoothly!

## Hall Rental

Amherst United Methodist Church offers hall rentals for Weddings, Birthday's, Showers, Anniversary, etc. For more information please call the office at 440-988-8330 or email us at [aumc396@gmail.com](mailto:aumc396@gmail.com).

Cost for 4 hour rental

\$50.00 deposit required (Refund after event)

\$150.00 Sanctuary uses for rehearsal and wedding

Other rooms \$100.00

Each additional room \$50.00

Pastor counseling/service for wedding- Set by Pastor

Organist for rehearsal and wedding- Set by Organist

School supplies were collected and taken to "Cram the Cruiser" at walking on Wednesday on August 13<sup>th</sup>! Extras will be taken to Amherst Elementary school! Thank you!

Room Capacities

Dr. Elsie Room: 30

Fellowship hall: 102

Small Conference Room: 8

Front Sunday School Room: 18

Sanctuary (Balcony not available): 150

Thank you Pastor Joe for conducting a Women's self-defense class!

She is clothed in strength and dignity. Proverbs 31:25



# A Month of Fun

Pancake breakfast, Movie night, walking on Wednesday, and our annual picnic.



# Visit from Bishop Hee- Soo Jung. August 20, 2025

