

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 May Newsletter



Scripture: *And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."*
(Revelation 21:5)

As the days grow warmer and flowers begin to bloom, we welcome the onset of a spring season filled with fresh energy, anticipation, and hope. Each new bud, each gentle breeze, reminds us that change is possible and that new beginnings are never far away. Spring stands as a living symbol of God's promise to renew and restore, offering us a vision of life reborn and hearts refreshed.

All around us, the world transforms during springtime. Trees awaken with green leaves, gardens burst into color, and the air fills with birdsong. Nature's renewal is more than a beautiful backdrop; it invites us to reflect on the ways God brings new life to our spirits. After seasons of hardship or waiting, God's love gently calls us forward. Just as the earth is renewed each year, we too can experience spiritual renewal through faith, forgiveness, and gratitude. Spring urges us to trust in God's ongoing work of making all things new.

For our faith community, spring also marks an extraordinary milestone—Pentecost, often called the birthday of the Christian Church. On this day, we remember how the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, filling them with courage and understanding. This moment transformed a small group of disciples into bold witnesses, igniting a movement that would spread the message of Christ's love across the world. Pentecost reminds us that God empowers each of us to play a vital role in His mission, no matter where we begin.

The presence of the Holy Spirit did not end with that first Pentecost. Today, the Spirit continues to inspire, comfort, and guide us on our journeys. When we feel uncertain or afraid, the Spirit offers wisdom and strength. When we gather as a community, the Spirit weaves us together in unity and purpose. Just as the disciples found new courage and vision, we are invited to open our hearts to God's presence, trusting that the Spirit will lead us in love and truth. Embracing renewal and service and responding to the Spirit's call.

This season invites us to more than personal renewal; it calls us outward, into service and compassion. With the Spirit's help, we can share God's love in practical ways—by encouraging a neighbor, volunteering in our community, or simply offering a listening ear. Our acts of kindness and service continue the legacy of Pentecost, spreading hope and light wherever they are needed. As we embrace the Spirit's guidance, our faith is not only renewed but also made active and vibrant.

So, as we rejoice in spring and the Spirit's Gift, let's rejoice in both the beauty of spring and the lasting gift of the Holy Spirit. May we trust that God is always at work, making all things new in nature, in our hearts, and in our shared mission as a faith community. As we step forward into this season, may renewal blossom within us and through us, bringing God's peace and hope to the world around us.

Speaking of fresh energy, anticipation, and hope; our Confirmation class will graduate on May 20th. Our Confirmands have worked hard, studied hard, and laughed hard. They have also impressed me with the maturity of their questions and their answers which gives affirmation to the old adage: "Out of the mouths of babes oft times comes wisdom". I am so proud of all of them and look forward to a special Confirmation/Communion service on June 14th 2026 with an ice cream and cake social immediately after the worship service. This is an extremely important step into the faith journey of these young people which is befitting of the entire congregation coming out to support them.

Pastor Joe

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS FOR May 2026

April showers bring May flowers! Spring has sprung! Hope everyone is enjoying the change of the season's colors, as we enjoy beautiful spring flowers! Your Leadership Team met on Monday, April 13th. Again I thank Judy Gutman, who chaired the meeting in my absence! Bob, trustee chair, reported to the team that Sunshine Electrical will be working on the air conditioner issue so that the job can be completed. Bob also said that Coates Brothers will replace the missing roof shingle, which will cost approximately 500 dollars. Tad and Jennifer Clark are currently painting and fixing the cracks in the Sanctuary. (Thank you to the Clarks, as they are donating their time to complete this much-needed task!)

Aleah, Lay Leader and Education Coordinator, provided the team with a multitude of upcoming events and activities! Here is a listing: a glow family party event in August, a paint and sip party to learn about our church's stained glass windows, and family game nights in Fellowship Hall. (These are wonderful ways to promote our current church's goal of community outreach!) Also, Aleah reported that many items are being brought in for the May rummage sale and over 30 winter coats have already been collected for the fall giveaway! (More outreach!)

Kathy, Nurturing Committee chair, stated that cards are being sent to the homebound and visits are being made. (Interacting with our homebound is another of the church's current goals.) Also planning is being done for Mother's Day recognition.

Chris, website chair, stated that additional tech support aid would be helpful, especially over the Holidays. If anyone in the congregation would be interested in assisting, training would be provided.

Judy, worship chair, thanked everyone for their assistance during Holy Week and Easter. Preparation for Pentecost will be next.

Pastor Carney reported that he is working with Technologies in North Ridgeville in addressing the sound system issue. There are now two microphones for Singing Saints. (Jay and I have most recently been watching our church services on zoom. We have found the audio and visual to be working much better! A thank you to the tech assistants for operating the audio and visual to accommodate movement and direction in the sanctuary!) Pastor informed the team that the confirmation classes are going well, as the children are asking questions and the conversations are productive.

Under old business, your Leadership Team discussed printer options for the office printer. Jim, church treasurer, did much research regarding continuing renewal of our current printer contract or purchasing our own printer. After further discussion, your team voted to purchase a printer for approximately eight hundred dollars. This price includes the printer, four year warranty, and set up and operational instruction. There would be a twelve month same as cash financing. So, after a year, the printer would be paid for and only the ink supply would be our cost. (Sounds great, team!)

Under new business JoAnne Haskins told the team that from the Gumpf memorial fund, her family wishes to purchase rose bushes, stamps, and a camera for the outside door.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Monday, May 11 at 11am. All are welcome to attend!

May everyone enjoy a Happy Mother's Day, as we honor our mothers here on Earth and in Heaven!! Be safe. Be well.

Hugs from a social distance,

Chair Jean Rounds

Communion Sunday	May 3 rd
Nurturing Committee	May 7 th 10:30AM
Mother's Day	May 10 th
Leadership Meeting	May 11 th 11:00AM
Rummage sale set up	May 12 th , 13 th , 14 th 9:00AM- Noon
Rummage Sale	May 15 th 9:00AM-3:00PM & May 16 th 9:00AM-Noon
St. Elizabeth meal prep	May 15 th 2:30PM
Folk Medley	May 17 th
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 12:00PM
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.



Beau Bowers May 2nd **Jennifer Clark May 5th**
Jonathan Sturtz May 10th **Max Denomme May 21st**
Miles Holbrook May 21st **Allen Afrates May 25th**
Josie Bicu May 30th



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

Amherst United Methodist Church
396 Park Ave.
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CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Friday May 15, 2026 9:00AM- 3:00PM &
Saturday May 16, 2026 9:00AM- Noon

**Drop off donated items on Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00AM- Noon**

**GOOD CONDITION, CLEAN, gently worn clothing,
house hold items, toys, attic treasures in WORKING
ORDER gladly accepted!**

**All proceeds to support the missions and
ministries of Amherst United Methodist Church!**

Questions? Contact our office at 440-988-8330 or
aumc396@gmail.com



Many hands make for light work!
We can always use help with:
St. Elizabeth Meal prep
Nurturing committee
Ushering
Liturgists
Sunday School Room
Tech Support
Opening the doors for Sunday service
& more!
Please see Aleah if interested.

Volunteers needed to help with the rummage sale. Sign-up sheet is located outside the Dr. Elsie room. We will need help with set up, cashiers and clean up. All help is appreciated!



The AUMC Scholarship is given out each spring to a qualifying student who will be attending college or other higher education. It is open to members of the church or their family members. We currently also have the Ernie Goodsite scholarship which is a private scholarship for medical technologies and trades. Applications are now being accepted and can be picked up at the office.



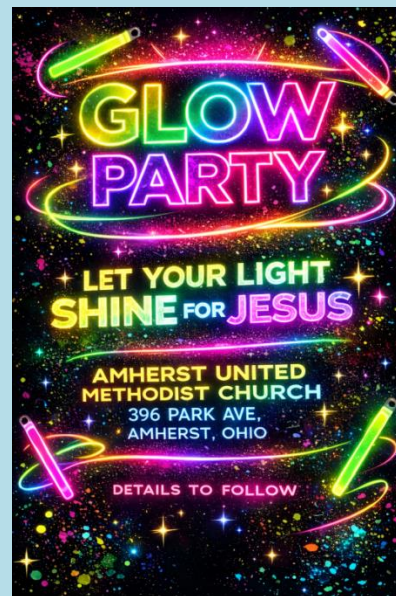
We are currently collecting nonperishable, quick and easy food items to be donated to Amherst's backpack program. Items are given to Amherst students to help them get through the weekend. Items we are looking for are microwave mac & cheese bowls, pasta cups; instate oatmeal packets, granola bars, and snacks. We will be collecting these items until May 7th. There are 124 students who participate in this program. Anything you can donate will be of great help

Amherst United Methodist Church
Kids Paint & Sip



Please join us Monday June 15th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for our paint & sip event. All are welcome to attend. We will take a small tour of our sanctuary to admire the beautiful stain glass window we have and to give us inspiration to paint our own stain glass windows. Juice and tea will be served. Paintings will be on display for the church from June 16th to June 30th and can be picked up after or be donated to the church for the Sunday school room. Registration is required for this event to ensure we have enough supplies. Please email aumc396@gmail.com with your name, phone number and how many participates.

Keep an eye out for our July's date for America's 250th Anniversary!



Let your light SHINE for Jesus!

Amherst United Methodist Church
 396 Park Ave.
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 Friday August 14th 2026
 From 6:00PM to 8:00PM

Families are invited to join for our end of summer glow party. We will have Snow cones, snacks, games, prizes, & music. All are welcome to attend. Parents are required to stay for the event. No drop offs.



Our Youth Group is \$460.00 away from their goal!

AUMC Youth Group Pretzel fundraiser is back! Pretzels are \$1 each and come in 4 great flavors; sprinkle, toffee crunch, s'mores and caramel. Proceeds of this fundraiser will go towards the youth group's trip to The Ark Encounter.



Tiffanie will be making T-shirts for the Ark Encounter trip. They are \$15.00 each and orders must be placed by June 7th to have the shirts in time for the trip. Order form can be found in the office.