**Amherst United Methodist Church**
396 Park Ave.
Amherst, OH 44001
440-988-8330
www.amherstchurches.org
aumc396@gmail.com
Worship at 10:30AM

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2026



# A Table Full of Grace

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

There's something special about Thanksgiving dinner. Long before we sit down, the whole house seems to fill with anticipation. There are the wonderful smells from the kitchen, the sound of familiar voices, and the promise of time together. The main dish may hold the place of honor, but the meal wouldn't feel complete without all those side dishes being passed from hand to hand. Life with God is a little like that. He fills our days with gifts both great and small—some impossible to miss and others quietly waiting to be noticed. As we gather this season, let's look beyond the food before us and remember the faithful Giver behind every good gift.

At the heart of our thanksgiving are God's greatest gifts: the love we know in Jesus Christ, the mercy that meets us when we fall short, and the hope that carries us through every season. These are the spiritual "main dishes" that nourish our faith and remind us that we belong to God. We're also grateful for the people and places that make God's love feel close and real: family and friends, our church family, meaningful work, daily bread, a safe place to rest, healing, and the strength to face another day. These blessings are easy to recognize, and rightly so. They deserve a special place in our prayers.

But if you ask me, those wonderful side dishes are often what make a Thanksgiving table memorable—and my personal favorite is the stuffing. It may not hold the place of honor, but I'd miss it if it weren't there. The same is true of life. God's grace so often comes to us in small servings: a kind word at just the right moment, laughter from the kitchen, an unexpected phone call from someone you've missed, a favorite hymn that comes to mind, a quiet sunrise, a child's question, a neighbor's helping hand, or simply the comfort of a familiar routine. Like that favorite helping of stuffing, these gifts may not be the centerpiece, but they help make life a feast. They remind us that gratitude is not only a response to spectacular blessings; it's a way of seeing. The more thankful we become, the more we begin to notice God's goodness in ordinary moments and receive each new day as a gift of grace.

Of course, not everything placed before us is something we'd have chosen. I wouldn't have picked peas. However, difficult seasons can deepen our compassion. Delays can teach us patience. An interruption may open our eyes to someone who needs us. We don't have to pretend that hardship is pleasant or call suffering good. But even there, we can trust that God hasn't left the table. He stays with us, offering comfort, courage, companionship, and the promise that sorrow will not have the final word.

Here's a simple idea for your Thanksgiving table: invite each person to name one "main-dish" blessing and one "side-dish" blessing. Give thanks for the life-changing gifts, and then make room for the small kindnesses, quiet joys, and everyday provisions that might otherwise slip by unnoticed. Gratitude has a wonderful way of growing when we share it. Scripture reminds us, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1). My prayer is that our homes and our church will be places where thanksgiving is not saved for one special day but practiced in every season. God's table of grace is abundant, and there's always more goodness to discover.

Prayer: Generous God, thank you for every gift you set before us—the great blessings that sustain us and the quiet graces that brighten an ordinary day. Open our eyes to your goodness, help us share generously what we've received, and teach us to live with thankful hearts in every season. Amen.

Karen and I wish each of you a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving filled with good food, good friends, plenty of laughter, and most of all…the love of family.

Pastor Joe

**Leadership Team News for November 2026**

Autumn is displaying its beautiful colors of deep red, orange, and yellow! November 1 st is the onset of daylight savings time—fall back an hour! Your leadership team met on Monday, Oct.12 th . Pastor announced that Sunday, Oct. 18 th , our consecration Sunday, he had entitled his sermon "generous hearts." (Pastor Carney's previous Sundays have highlighted many various ways to provide stewardship to your church utilizing your time and talents in addition to financial contributions.) The nurturing committee is providing a light luncheon after worship service. Pastor Joe and Aleah Wilson are representing our church on Saturday, Oct.17 th at Medina UMC for the annual charge conference. (Reported that the conference went well and our reports have been approved and filed.) Pastor announced that he continues to work on the sound system. The upgrade of the internet , and the mesh system that has been installed ,have improved our zoom call service. Pastor has been working with homebound members to set up their zoom service. Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving and Judy Gutman, worship chair, announced that hanging of the greens will occur on Saturday, Nov. 28 th Aleah stated that the Amherst Churches Tour would occur on Oct. 13 and she would set up a table with flyers and favors for the community to remember us. Pastor presenting a history of our church (oldest church in Amherst!), Jesse playing the organ, and our Sunday School youth providing a hymn along with the tour of our church(including the newly-renovated Sunday School room) will be provided during our church's twenty minute segment. Aleah announced the Oct. 25 th Trunk or Treat event at the Spitzer stadium at the high school and our church again will participate. Congregation has been providing candy and candy money donations for the event. The Fall craft show is on Nov. 7 th and a second preparation meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, Oct.20 th at 11am to finalize pricing and prep of food that will be sold—hot ham and cheese sandwiches, hot dogs, cabbage and noodles, chips, and baked goods. Trustee chair, Bob Kinser, reported that an elevator inspection is upcoming. The deep freezer and the refrigerator/freezer combo need replacing. Both quit working. Bob, Judy Gutman and JoAnn Haskins shopped for a new refrigerator and purchased a refrigerator/freezer combination, which has been delivered! Kathy Blahay, nurturing chair, has been researching various sites for our annual church Christmas party. Martino's in Vermilion has closed, so a new location is needed. Kathy visited Blue Sky in Elyria, Ziggy's also was considered by the Leadership Team, and Pogie's catering is being considered. Your Leadership team and nurturing committee are reviewing location of the event and menu prices and options. A decision will be made soon to share information with the Congregation. As reported last month, the Leadership Team discussed provision of an event to recognize and celebrate our church's 200th anniversary. Projected date for September 2027. Considering a two day weekend event to include an invitation for our Bishop to celebrate with us in worship, a youth activity, and a display of historical information and memorabilia. Great opportunity for everyone to play a part through sharing their knowledge of our church's 200 year history! After Christmas more detailed information will be forthcoming! Plenty of time for each of us to collect our information and recall our memories! November 11 th hosts Veteran's Day to honor our veterans and also remember those military service men and women who gave their lives to preserve and protect liberty and freedom that we are able to enjoy. A blessed thank you to all Veterans! Take care. Be well! Enjoy your Thanksgiving with family and friends! The next Leadership team meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9 th at 11am.

All are welcome to attend!!

Chair Jean Rounds

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| Communion Sunday | November 1st |
| All Saints Day | November 1st |
| Daylight Savings (Fall Back) | November 1st |
| Craft Show | November 7th 10:00AM-3:00PM |
| Leadership Team Meeting | November 9th 11:00AM |
| Nurturing Committee | November 12th 10:30AM |
| Mary Martha Circle | November 12 11:30AM |
| Do U-NO Jesus loves you game night | November 13th 6:00PM |
| St. Elizabeth Meal Prep | November 20th 2:30PM |
| Hanging of the Greens | November 28th |
| First Sunday of Advent | November 29th |
| 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) 462-219 Or watch us on Zoom at amherstchurches.org** |

## Office Hours!

**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**

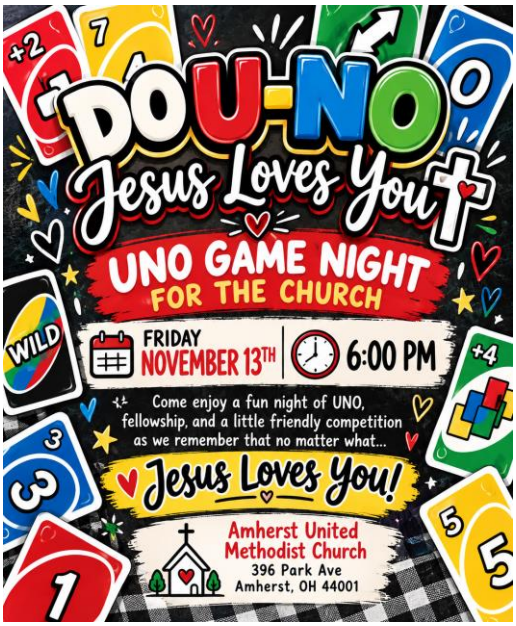


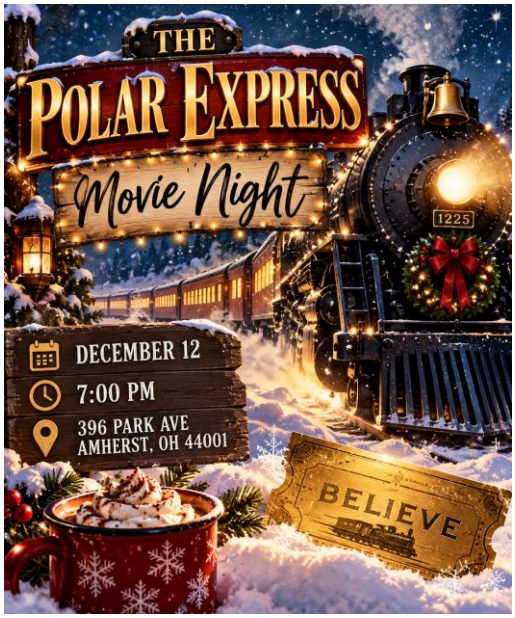
**God blesses us daily with answered prayers. If you have a situation that could use a prayer, we are here for you.**

**Please contact Pastor Joe or Judy Gutman**




**Colton Holbrook Nov 6th Jay Rounds Nov 11th Deb Filbert Nov 18th Sandra Teets Nov 28th Lee Wynne Nov 29th**









**Hanging of the Greens**

**November 28, 2026 at 11:00AM**

**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.**

Emergency contact cards are available. If there is someone whom you wish for us to contact in the event of an emergency please see Kathy Blahay to fill out an emergency contact card. There is also a space if you wish to fill out any medical information or allergies that we may need to give medical professionals if needed.

**Our craft show is Saturday, November 7th from 10:00AM-3:00PM. Please check your recipes and maybe add your favorite cookie or dessert to our bake sale. Please support our church by coming to see what the vendors have to offer and maybe get a little lunch from the church. Thanks!**

**St. Elizabeth Meal Prep will be Friday, November 20th at 2:30PM. We will also be delivering the sock donations at that time. Thank you so much for the food and sock donations, plus the helping hands on meal prep day. Our next mission will be collecting hats and mittens for the Amherst School District.**

# Amherst Churches Tour







# Consecration Sunday









Amherst honors and celebrates its servicemen and women unlike many other communities. Our town has a park dedicated to featuring and honoring those who have given much to our country. Patriots Park in downtown Amherst is a unique spot, where local patriots are celebrated through beautiful artwork by local artists.

Each year, a ceremony is held on Veterans' Day, when new paintings, celebrating and honoring local patriots, are unveiled. The Dolyk Family has commissioned a painting honoring Staff Sergeant Walter Dolyk, a longtime Amherst resident, husband of Ann Dolyk, who bravely served in World War II. The painting will be unveiled at the November 11th ceremony, at Patriots Park, between Park and Tenney Avenues.

"For meritorious service in direct support of combat operations," Staff Sgt. Walter Dolyk was awarded the Bronze Star medal in connection with military operations in the European Theater of Operations. As crew chief for a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter bomber, Sgt. Dolyk maintained his aircraft in such perfect mechanical condition that it had flown over 140 combat missions without failure of any kind. His mechanical skill and application to duty contributed no little part to the special commendations his group had won from commanding generals, for its excellent aerial cover for ground troops.

In the U. S. Army Air Corps, 493rd Fighter Squadron, S/Sgt. Dolyk participated in military battles and campaigns in Normandy, North France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Ardennes, and Air Offensive Europe. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star, Belgium Fourragere Citation Award for successful tactical air command missions, and a Distinguished Unit Citation.

He married Ann Breaz in 1946, and they had four children. We encourage you to attend the unveiling of paintings ceremony on Nov. 11 at 11am at Amherst Patriots Park.

## Poinsettias order form - $10.00 Each

**(Gold Pot Covers)**

**Make Checks Payable to AUMC**

**Name:**

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**Number of Pointettias:** **Total enclosed:**

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**In memory of:**

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**In honor of:**

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**Please place your envelopes in the offering plate. Orders must be turned in by December 6, 2026**