

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 April Newsletter



Scripture: *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.”* (Isaiah 9:2)

As I am preparing to celebrate this Easter season, my thoughts turned to the promise Jesus gives us in John 10:10: “I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance.” Because of Christ’s resurrection, we are invited into a life overflowing with hope, joy, and purpose. Then I began to reflect on the abundance of Kingdom work we, as a church, are doing and like Wesley my heart was strangely warmed.

Our monthly mission and nurturing projects like clothing drives, food bank requests, and shut-in visits along with card mailings are extremely well supported by all of you. Our Clothing shed is so popular the shed needs to be emptied on an almost weekly basis, and our St. Elizabeth meal provisions are very popular. Continuing along with the shut-in ministry activities we have been providing phone and online worship experiences which also enhance our outreach activities. Thanks to a generous contribution from the family of Phyllis Fravel, we are going to be able to expand our technical capabilities to make the virtual worship experience even better.

I am especially proud of your support for our youth ministries. They have collected candy and snacks for our first responders in Amherst and collected coloring books for children in the hospital. They have dedicated themselves to service within the church by participating as acolytes, communion servers, and enhancing our worship services with skits and songs which I am sure God finds as pleasing as we have.

Finally, we have started a Confirmation class with four members which hasn’t happened here at Amherst within the collective memory of some of our most “experienced” members. The children have completed two of the eight classes covering our United Methodist beliefs and what it means to be a Christian and a member of a faith community like ours. As part of their study, they will have a Christian Laboratory experience by visiting the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in June.

WHEW!!!

This church has truly exemplified what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and I am both honored and blessed to be your Pastor as we continue along our faith journey to Perfection together.

Karen and I pray that this Easter will fill your hearts and homes with the abundance and grace that Jesus so freely offers ALL who work in His vineyard.

Pastor Joe

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS FOR APRIL 2026

Welcome to the month of April with a focus upon Easter. Leading up to Easter Sunday will be recognition of Palm Sunday followed by the Maundy Thursday dinner at 6pm and Good Friday service at 6pm. Judy Gutman, worship chair, has provided Easter flower order forms within the pews. The Easter bunny will be on site this year as well.

A thank you to Judy Gutman for chairing the March Leadership Team meeting held on Monday, March 9th. (Jay had open heart surgery at downtown Cleveland Clinic on March 6th.) At the meeting it was reported that the clothing shed held 46,718 pounds of clothing which yielded \$1,869.00 for the 2025 calendar year! Our treasurer, Jim McCourt reported that there is now an option to provide your offering through electronic giving using a credit card. Lay leader, Aleah Wilson, stated that there will be ten adults and six children attending The Ark trip from June 25-27th. (This trip benefits one of our church's goals "to expand our youth's opportunities.") Aleah also provided information regarding our church's participation within the Amherst Main Street Wednesdays. Various items are being purchased for distribution at our table. (Main Street participation is another way to "emphasize community outreach" which is another of our congregation's current goals.)

Pastor provided an overview of his Holy Week's services. Pastor Joe also reported that he is working with others to address the sound system issues. Pastor is going to conduct Confirmation classes for our children. There will be eight sessions. Nurturing Committee continues to reach out to the homebound (another designated church goal). Pastor and other church members are visiting homebound to provide cheer and communion. Missions Committee is collecting coloring books and crayons to provide to children's hospitals. Chris McCourt announced that scholarship applications are available and can be obtained from the church office. Your next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th at 11am. As always, all are welcome to attend!

May you and your loved ones enjoy a blessed Easter as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Take care. Be safe.

Hugs from a social distance.

Jean Rounds

Maundy Thursday Service	April 2 nd 6:00PM (After Church Dinner)
Good Friday Service	April 3 rd 6:00PM
Easter Sunday	April 5 th
Communion Sunday	April 5 th
Nurturing Committee	April 9 th 10:30AM
Mary Martha Circle	April 9 th 11:30AM
Leadership Meeting	April 13 th 11:00AM
St. Elizabeth meal prep	April 17 th 2:30PM
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.



Zack Dolyk Apr 2nd Alex Denomme Apr 2th
Jill Keller Apr 4th Heather Denomme Apr 6th
LeRoy Bradley Apr 8th John Kasper Apr 8th
Lori Gumpf Apr 20th Jeff Pietch April 24th



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



The Raise Right app allows you to purchase gift cards from hundreds of retailers and it will instantly be downloaded to your phone to make instant purchases. Rebates that you receive will benefit AUMC. All you have to do is download the app and enter in our code: **FBEELFD95896L.**



If you would like to donate to the church online, go to amherstchurches.org and click on the Give tab in the right hand corner, then the blue Give Online Now. You will have choices for one time giving and other options. You can give through credit card (there is a fee involved) or by direct bank payment from your checking or savings. It will direct you through the process.



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.



Thank you to all who donated coloring books and crayons to be given to a local children's hospital. We were able to collect 29 books and 18 packs of crayons.