

# Amherst United Methodist Church

396 Park Avenue

Amherst, OH 44001

440-988-8330

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

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Worship at 10:30 AM

## AUMC JULY NEWSLETTER



### **State of The Church Address - Bishop Hee-Soo Jung**

In his State of the Church Address, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung reflected on visiting nearly 300 churches across East and West Ohio over the past 21 months.

“The story of Ohio Methodism is alive with grace,” Bishop Jung shared, describing signs of life, growth, and Christ’s abundance.

He celebrated the Abundant Grace of congregations, clergy, and laity transforming communities through faithful, innovative ministry, and thanked the Conference for meeting its General Church apportionment.

Using the miracle of the loaves and fish, Bishop Jung said offerings made in faith can become “bread for the world”—a theology of abundance.

Bishop Jung noted Ohio’s many differences but emphasized one shared purpose: “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

He said One Ohio is not uniformity but unity in Christ, bringing East and West Ohio’s histories, gifts, wounds, strengths, and hopes under Jesus’ lordship.

Bishop Jung said One Ohio should strengthen local churches through five strategic pillars: Building Relationships, Shared Mission, Discipleship, Multiplication, and Emerging Leaders.

### **Cabinet Report**

In the Cabinet Report, the Rev. Angela Lewis highlighted East and West Ohio Cabinets’ collaboration and celebrated the faithful ministry of the laity. Lewis thanked the laity for their hard work, sacrifice, and love for the church, saying, “without you, there is no us.”

### **Laity Report**

Conference Lay Leader Kimberly Green encouraged East Ohio laity to continue ministries that transform lives for Jesus Christ. Green said the church moves through everyday disciples whose witness carries Christ into the world, affirming that the Church cannot be the Church without the laity.

### **2027 East Ohio Conference Budget**

Members of Annual Conference adopted the 2027 budget of \$8,646,992. The 2027 budget is just a 3.71% increase over the 2026 budget.

### **Minimum Salaries for Clergy**

The 2026 annual conference approved a minimum salary increase of 3% in 2027. The minimum salary for a full-time provisional or full member would be \$53,029, and for a local pastor either \$47,656 or \$44,972, depending on Course of Study completion. Part-time salary ranges are calculated as corresponding percentages.

### **Resolutions**

Resolution 2026-01: “Support for Creation Care and the Green Church Movement” - **Adopted**

**Resolved:** that the East Ohio Conference supports and encourages local churches to join the Green Church Movement by signing the Green Church Pledge, completing the Green Church Sustainability Audit, attending the Green Church training, and/or earning Green Church certification.

Resolution 2026-02: “Creation of an Ohio Area Substance Abuse Task Force” - **Adopted**

**Resolved:** Encourage and support the creation of an Ohio Area Substance Abuse Task Force to help increase awareness, provide support, and develop practical resources for clergy, laity, and conference or district staff who are facing substance-related challenges.

Resolution 2026-03: “Concerning Christian Nationalism” - **Adopted**

**DEFINITION ADDED:** Christian nationalists affirm that “The United States was founded as a Christian nation and only Christians are the proper custodians of this nation’s heritage. Christianity should have privileged status in the United States, particularly in matters of law and political policy.”

**Resolved:** that the East Ohio Conference support the Conference Board of Church & Society document, stating that the philosophy, goals, and values espoused by Christian nationalism are inconsistent with the United States Constitution, and with

the history, teachings, and practice of the United Methodist Church, and as such, the advocacy of Christian nationalism is unacceptable in the congregations of the East Ohio Conference.

Resolution 2026-04: "The East Ohio Conference and Disabilities" - **Adopted**

**Resolved:** The East Ohio Conference shall urge each local congregation to submit annual Accessibility Audits and take steps to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Resolution 2026-05: "Answering the Call of Kairos Palestine II" - **Not Adopted**

**Resolved:** that the East Ohio Conference strongly urges its congregations and all United Methodist laity and clergy of the conference to engage in study and discussion of Kairos Palestine II with the Congregational Study Guide found at the website of United Methodists for Kairos Response with the goal of the actions and advocacy called for in Kairos Palestine II to follow.

**PASTOR'S NOTE ADDED:** This followed a resolution from last year's Annual Conference declaring Israel as an Apartheid State.

Resolution 2026-06: "Doing Justice: The Heart and Soul of Social Action" - **Adopted**

**Resolved:** May the people of Ohio land continue to sustain our long commitment to "doing Justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with GOD," as we see the needs around and among us, not only in our congregations, but in our neighborhoods, among immigrants, children, and wherever love, grace, and God's love is needed.

Resolution 2026-07: "On Christian Opposition to Cruel Treatment of Immigrants by the United States Government" - **Adopted**

**Resolved:** that the East Ohio Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby expresses its opposition to the current immigration policies and practices that criminalize, dehumanize, or inflict cruelty upon allies, migrants, immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers.

Resolution 2026-08: "Of War, and Peace: Welcoming the Stranger in Our Midst" - **Adopted**

**Resolved:** we are called to live as messengers and models of God's love: to comfort, feed, protect, and love one another, our brothers and sisters, The Stranger, The IMMIGRANT ... whoever, wherever, they may be ... SO, MAY IT BE, WITH ME!

Resolution 2026-09: "Supporting Gender Inclusivity, Equal Protection, and the Sacred Worth of Transgender and Non-Binary People" - **Adopted**

**Resolved:** that East Ohio Annual Conference and all churches consider providing coverage for gender-affirming healthcare to include hormone therapy, surgical care, counseling, and voice therapy.

**Pastor's Note:** I introduced the following amendment which was defeated

**Resolved:** that East Ohio Annual Conference and all churches consider limiting coverage specifically to all psychosocial counseling and suicide prevention modalities for minor children, while reserving coverage for all treatment modalities including psychosocial counseling, suicide prevention modalities, hormone therapy, voice therapy, and surgical care for adults, consistent with applicable law, parental involvement, and appropriate clinical oversight.

**Rationale:** According to Do No Harm, a group of doctors, nurses, medical students, and patients, "It is dangerous and destructive to let children, whose minds are still developing, make such life-altering decisions at such young ages – especially since 90% of children who believe they are a different sex no longer hold that view as adults if left to develop on their own without invasive medical interventions." According to this, providing palliative psychological care, and suicide prevention modalities, allows for 90% spontaneous resolution by adulthood.

Resolution 2026-10: "Support for Associate Members and Local Pastors in Legislative Efforts Toward General Conference 2028" –

**Adopted – Pastor's Note:** Resolution written by me.

**Resolved:** that this Annual Conference urges clergy and laity alike to engage in conversation, education, and advocacy around equitable representation, in preparation for General Conference 2028.

**Rationale:**

The East Ohio Annual Conference is currently served by 128 active and retired Associate Members and Licensed Local Pastors where the churches served by these pastors continue to have no representation in Annual Conference votes on constitutional amendments and legislation, as the current *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* does not grant voting rights to associate and affiliate clergy members (§602.1.c) or to full-time and part-time local pastors (§602.1.d).

## Annual Conference 2027

The 58<sup>th</sup> session of the East Ohio Annual Conference will be held during the week of June 7-13, 2027, at The College of Wooster.



***Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its width 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.***

***(Genesis 6:14-15)***

Fifteen members of our congregation visited the Ark Encounter in Williamstown KY and judging by the smiles they had a wonderful trip.

In Genesis 6, the world had grown so corrupt and violent that it saddened the heart of God to the point where God decided that the world must be cleansed by the waters of a great flood. Yet Noah found favor with the Lord, and God called him to build an ark as a place of rescue for his family and the living creatures of the earth. With detailed instructions and a promise of covenant, Noah obeyed, trusting God before the first drop of rain had fallen.

I was amazed by the depth of the questions some of the children had about the ark itself and the reasons why God had to act and why He chose water. The children along with many of the adults were also amazed by the massive size of this ark which was built using the Biblical dimensions where a cubit was equal to approximately 18 inches. For those who would prefer NOT to do the math that's 450 ft. x 75 ft. x 45 ft.

The story of Noah also points us toward what theologians often call the remnant: the faithful few through whom God preserves hope when the wider world has lost its way. In Scripture, the remnant is not chosen because it is large, powerful, or perfect, but because God's grace is still at work within it. Noah and his family become a living sign that judgment is never God's final word; even in a season of cleansing and loss, God keeps a people through whom covenant, mercy, and new creation can begin again. For the Church today, this reminds us that faithfulness is not measured by size alone, but by obedience, trust, and the willingness to carry God's promise into the future.

If you have never visited The Ark Encounter, then I strongly encourage you to add it to your bucket list. It is well worth the trip.

Pastor Joe

## LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS FOR JULY 2026

Summer is in full swing! Your Leadership team met on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Our trustee chair, Bob Kinser, reported that he has the soaker hose ready for watering our beautiful landscape around the perimeter of the church. Bill and Matt Nahorn and Zack Dolyk installed Ann Dolyk's memorial bench. Bob and Bill replaced the ballast in the Sunday school room. Bob will oversee checking our church roof to see if there is any hail damage from the last storm which tore through Amherst. Elevator maintenance will be this summer and Bob reported that new cables will most likely be recommended at an approximate cost between 500-600 dollars. Bob trimmed shrubs hanging over the sidewalk. Thank you to all for keeping our church "in tip top shape!"

Our treasurer, Jim McCourt, will be ordering our office printer this summer when the contract expires on the current printer. As was reported last month, it is cost-effective to purchase our own printer. A thank you to the donor for the 900 dollars to cover the printer purchase!!

Our lay leader, Aleah Wilson, reported that the first Walking on Wednesday in downtown Amherst went well in spite of the storm. Many flyers were distributed and also many signed up for the Sip and Paint event which occurred on June 15<sup>th</sup>. (Event was well-received and endorses our church goal of community outreach.) The Ark Encounter trip is on June 25-27 with sixteen adults and children attending. This trip has been in the planning for over a year and all are excited about the upcoming experience! The goal to raise \$2500.00 to cover entrance fees and hotel has been achieved. This certainly meets the church goal of expanding of our youth opportunities! Our congregation will have the opportunity to learn about The Ark Encounter through future photos and an account of the trip! Aleah will be attending a June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with those from other churches to prepare for the December 5<sup>th</sup> all churches walk through tours. More details will be forthcoming. Aleah would like "to freshen up" the Sunday School room and will schedule a few days when volunteers can assemble to complete the task. The Leadership Team agreed that this project is much-needed.

Aleah announced that an updated church directory is near-ready for distribution. Thank you to Aleah and Jennifer Clark for their diligence in compiling information and taking photos for the directory!!

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> after worship service. Location is Maude Neiding Park with good weather and our fellowship hall if inclement weather occurs. Pastor Joe and Aleah Wilson represented our church at the district conference in Wooster on June 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Pastor provided information regarding the ten resolutions presented at the conference. Nine of them passed and will be presented at general conference for further action. Resolutions include creating a substance abuse task force, opposition to cruel treatment of immigrants, supporting gender inclusivity, and welcoming a stranger in our midst. Also, a resolution to provide support for local and associate pastors so that they would have the right to vote at conference along with their attendance. If you wish to gain further knowledge of the resolutions, I am sure that Pastor Joe would be able to share more information with you. As always, Pastor will keep our congregation informed of issues that impact us.

Pastor Joe has purchased two security cameras and he and Bob will install them at the front and back entrances. This will provide visual image within the church office of those at the entrance doors.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am. July is the team's monthly meeting vacation. Enjoy your Fourth of July, as you remember the importance of our Country's independence and the freedom that provides to each of us! A thank you to those in service to protect that independence!

Take care. Be well!

Hugs from a social distance.

Chair Jean Rounds

Kids Paint & Sip	July 1 <sup>st</sup> 6:00PM-8:00PM
Happy 250 Years America	July 4 <sup>th</sup>
Communion Sunday	July 5 <sup>th</sup>
Office Closed	July 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>
Walking on Wednesday	July 8 <sup>th</sup> 4:00PM-7:30PM
Office Open	July 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> 9:00AM- 2:00PM
Nurturing Committee	July 9 <sup>th</sup> 10:30AM
Mary Martha Circle	July 9 <sup>th</sup> 11:30AM
Reach out camp	July 14 <sup>th</sup>
St. Elizabeth meal prep	July 16 <sup>th</sup> 11:00AM & 17 <sup>th</sup> 2:30PM
Life Size Candy Land	July 26 <sup>th</sup> 12:00PM- 2:00PM
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> <b>Or watch us on Zoom at <a href="http://amherstchurches.org">amherstchurches.org</a></b>	



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.



Deanna Afrates July 2<sup>nd</sup> Pete Dickason July 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Robert Ferguson July 6<sup>th</sup>



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

Please share and save the dates for our upcoming FREE events!



Amherst United Methodist Church  
**LIFE SIZE CANDY LAND**  
Join us **SUNDAY JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
FROM NOON TO 2PM  
FOR SOME FAMILY FUN!  
REFRESHMENTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!



Amherst United Methodist Church  
*National*  
**BACK TO CHURCH Sunday**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>  
WORSHIP STARTS AT 10:30 AM  
*with an ICE CREAM Social*  
FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICE!



**GLOW PARTY**  
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE FOR JESUS  
AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup> 6-8PM  
AMHERST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
396 PARK AVE, AMHERST, OHIO  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW!



Amherst United Methodist Church  
**Craft Show** Free Admission!  
SHOP • SUPPORT • COMMUNITY  
Gifts Accessories Scents Household Items Church Bake Sale & More!  
DATE: November 7, 2026  
TIME: 10:00AM - 3:00PM  
LOCATION: 396 Park Ave. Amherst, OH 44001  
Come shop, enjoy baked treats, and support local!  
If interested in being a vendor please email us at [aumc396@gmail.com](mailto:aumc396@gmail.com)



The Sunday School Room is getting a new look!!! During this time Sunday school will be held in the fellowship hall while upgrades are being made!

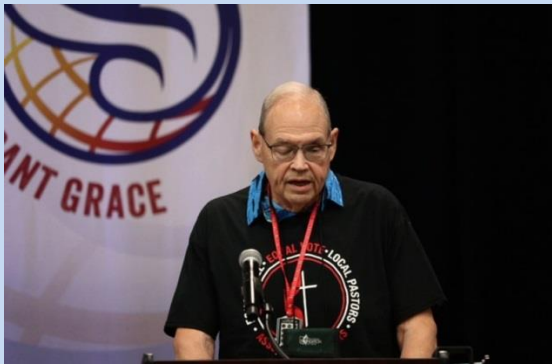
# June was a busy month!



Memorial bench for Ann Dolyk was put in!



Congratulations to Addison, Blake, Hannah, and Annabelle our new confirmed members of the Church.



Pastor Joe, speaking on behalf of resolution 10: Supporting local Pastors at Annual Conference.



Congratulations to Tristen Sabo, Winner of the Amherst United Methodist Church Scholarship program.



Happy Anniversary to Myrt and Leroy Bradly Celebrating 66 years of marriage!

On July 14<sup>th</sup> a reach out camp will be staying the night at our church. While they help Good Knights build beds to those in need. Thank you for your missions.

## AUMC Trip to The Ark Encounter!

Thank you to all who had support our youth group fundraisers to get them on this trip. It was truly an amazing experience for them and the adults who went.



# GOD BLESSES AMERICA!



☆☆ Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! ☆☆



**GOD'S TRUTH**  
 "Blessed is the nation  
 whose God is the LORD."  
 Psalm 33:12

One nation under God.  
 Psalm 33:12

## ☆ WORD SEARCH

☆ Find the words below in the puzzle.

F	R	E	E	D	O	M	H	B
L	I	B	E	R	T	Y	O	L
U	S	A	P	R	A	Y	E	R
G	O	D	B	L	E	S	S	E
F	A	I	T	H	L	O	V	E
J	E	S	U	S	H	O	P	E
T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L	K

- ☆ FREEDOM    ☆ BLESS    ☆ PRAYER
- ☆ LIBERTY    ☆ FAITH    ☆ HOPE
- ☆ USA        ☆ LOVE    ☆ THANKFUL
- ☆ GOD        ☆ JESUS

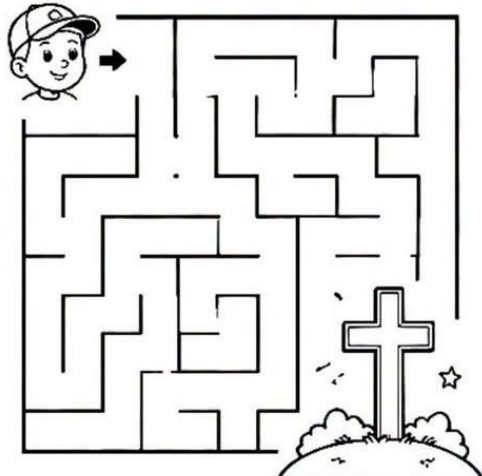
Let freedom ring—  
 let us praise our  
**HEAVENLY KING!**



"So if the Son sets you free,  
 you will be free indeed."  
 John 8:36

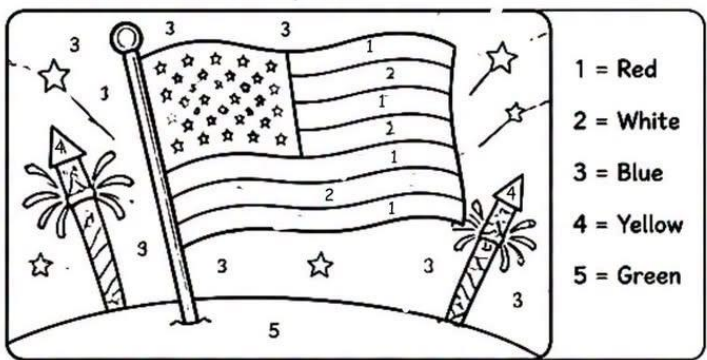
## ☆ MAZE

Help the boy find his way  
 to the cross.



## ☆ COLOR BY NUMBER

Use the code to color the picture.



- 1 = Red
- 2 = White
- 3 = Blue
- 4 = Yellow
- 5 = Green

## ☆ FILL IN THE BLANKS

Use the words below to complete the verse.

plans    prosper    hope    future    Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the \_\_\_\_\_ I have for you,"  
 declares the LORD, "plans to \_\_\_\_\_ you  
 and not to harm you, plans to give you  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)



☆    ♥    **THANK YOU, LORD, FOR OUR FREEDOM AND FOR YOUR LOVE!**    ♥    ☆