

Amherst United Methodist Church

396 Park Avenue

Amherst, OH 44001

440-988-8330

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Worship at 10:30 AM

AUMC AUGUST NEWSLETTER



“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30)

For my beloved church family, grace and peace to you as we move through these final weeks of summer. For many households, August has its own kind of weariness. Some families are squeezing in one last vacation before school schedules return. Others are sorting through supply lists, sports calendars, work demands, childcare needs, and the quiet pressure to “make the most” of what remains of summer. Even joyful seasons can leave us tired. It’s to that very real fatigue that Jesus speaks with compassion: “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

In our culture, rest is too often confused with laziness. We may feel guilty when we slow down, as though every quiet moment must be justified by what we’ve already accomplished. But Scripture tells a different story. Rest is woven into God’s good design. It’s not a reward for being productive enough; it’s a gift that reminds us we’re loved by God before we achieve anything, held in high esteem before we perform, and sustained by grace rather than by endless effort.

When Jesus offers rest, He isn’t inviting us to neglect our responsibilities. He’s inviting us to stop carrying them alone. His rest is the rest of trust—the holy practice of placing our lives, our families, our unfinished tasks, and our anxious thoughts back into the hands of God. To rest is to say, “Lord, You are faithful even when I pause.”

Jesus says, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.” A yoke doesn’t remove all work, but it changes how the work is carried. Christ joins us in the ordinary burdens of family life: packing bags, making meals, preparing classrooms, returning emails, comforting tired children, caring for aging parents, and facing another busy season. His way is gentle. His burden is light because He bears it with us.

So, in these August days, I invite you to receive rest as a spiritual practice. Don’t let the final vacation become another project to perfect, but a chance to actually notice, enjoy, and be with the people you love. Let an evening at home be enough. Let a walk in the cool morning air, a shared meal, a nap, a quiet prayer, or a few minutes without a screen become an act of faith. Rest doesn’t have to be elaborate to be holy.

Some families are weary from travel. Some are weary because there’s been no vacation at all. Some are carrying financial strain, grief, caregiving, or work stress. Wherever you find yourself, hear the kindness of Christ: you’re not failing because you’re tired. You’re human, beloved, and invited to come to Him.

As a church, may we resist the idea that busyness is the truest sign of faithfulness. May we bless one another not only in serving, but also in slowing down. May our homes and ministries become places where weary souls can breathe, where families are not shamed for needing rest, and where the grace of God is trusted more deeply than the pressure to do more.

Saints, as summer winds down and a new season approaches, may you receive the rest of Christ as a gift rather than a guilty pleasure. Come to Him with the full calendar, the tired body, the scattered mind, and the tender places of the heart. He’s gentle and humble, and He gives rest to your soul.

With prayer for you and your families,

Pastor Joe

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS FOR AUGUST 2026

Welcome to the month of August! Your Leadership Team had “our annual vacation” with no in-house meeting in July. The next Leadership team meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10th at 11am. As always, all are welcome to attend!!

The month of July included many well-received Amherst United Methodist Church events and activities! The Kids Paint and Sip event was well-attended and enjoyed by all! America’s 250 year celebration around the U.S.A. via numerous events was recognition and appreciation for the liberty and freedom for each of us! Pastor’s worship service highlighted this message! The July 8th Amherst Main Street Walking on Wednesday provided interaction with many individuals. The nurturing committee met on July 9th to work out details for the annual church picnic on Sunday, August 9th at Maude Neiding Park. On July 16 and 17th, a dedicated group of individuals prepared and delivered the monthly St. Elizabeth meal. On July 26th, our church hosts a life size candy land event from 12-2pm. On August 14th from 6-8pm a Glow Party—Let Your Light Shine For Jesus event will be held at our church. (Look for more details.)

On July 12th during church service, our youth presented to Pastor Joe a photo album of The Ark Encounter trip. Fifteen youth and adults attended The Ark Encounter event, which was a wonderful learning experience and enjoyed by all who attended. Pastor’s leadership was instrumental and appreciated! (Enjoy the many Ark Encounter photos,too.)

Amherst United Methodist Church most definitely possesses dedication and commitment in spreading the love of God within the church and throughout the community! Take care!
Be well!

Hugs from a social distance,

Chair Jean Rounds

Communion Sunday	August 2nd
Picnic	August 9th After worship
Leadership Team Meeting	August 10th 11:00AM
Walking On Wednesday	August 12th 4:00PM-7:30PM
Nurturing Committee	August 13th 10:30AM
Mary Martha Circle	August 13th 11:30AM
Glow Party	August 14th 6:00PM-8:00PM
St. Elizabeth Meal Prep	August 20th 10:30AM & August 21st 2:30PM
Sunday School Evacuation drill	August 23rd during Sunday school
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



Aleah Wilson Aug 2 Tish Ferguson Aug 9

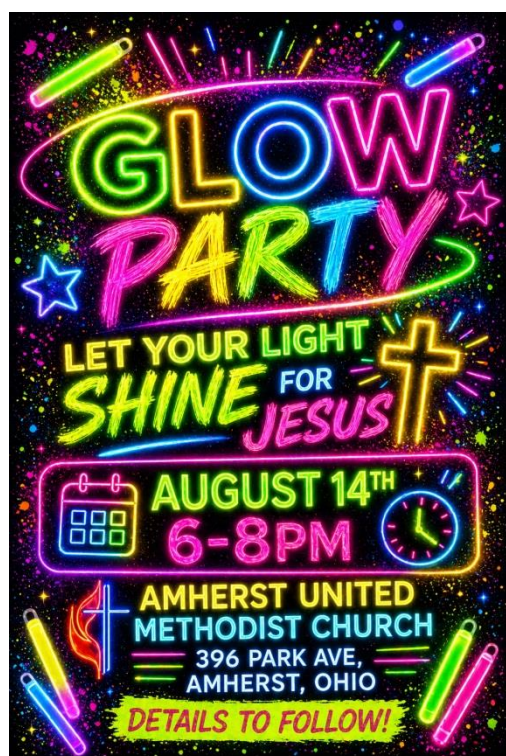
Ryan Holbrook Aug 8 Polly Makinen Aug 15

Diane Dicason August 20 Jacci Mack Aug 22

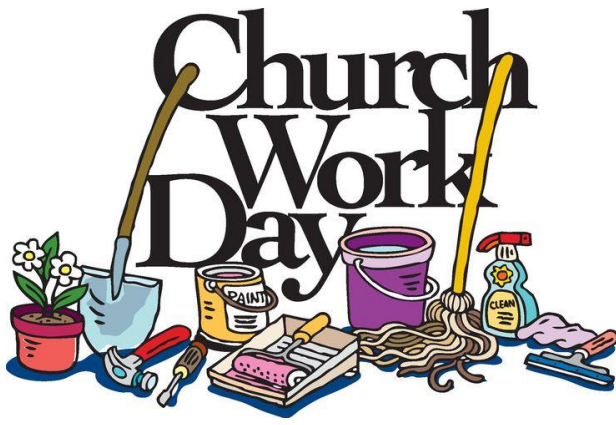
Karen Carney Aug 28 Jesse Sabo Aug 28

Lois Holbrook Aug 30 Bill Nahorn Aug 30

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



During this year's craft show we will be serving hot food for our vendors. There will be a craft show meeting in September to go over set for both the bake sale and the menu that we will be making. Volunteers are needed. This event was successful last year and looking forward to another great turn out this year.



Volunteers needed for our church work days. We will be organizing and decluttering our church. If interested in volunteering, the signup sheet is located outside the Dr. Elsie room.

September 8th and October 6th from 9:00 AM to 1:00PM



Hard to believe Back to school time is here! We will be collecting school supplies to be donated to Amherst Schools. Items needed are: pencils, erasers, color pencils, crayons, markers, highlighters, glue sticks, glue, note books, hand sanitizer and tissues. Thank you for all your help with our missions.



August 23rd our Sunday school will be having their annual emergency drills and evacuation. This includes, Tornado drill, Fire drill, and serpent in the garden (active shooter) drill. These drills will happen during Sunday school. Aleah is also looking for assistants to help with these drills. If interested in assisting please let her know. Parents please note that we will be leaving the building to practice both fire drill and active shooter to show the children where the safe location spot is at.



Coffee hour will resume Sunday, September 13th After worship service. The signup sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the Dr. Elise room for anyone who wishes to host.