

## **Amherst United Methodist Church**

396 Park Avenue

Amherst, OH 44001

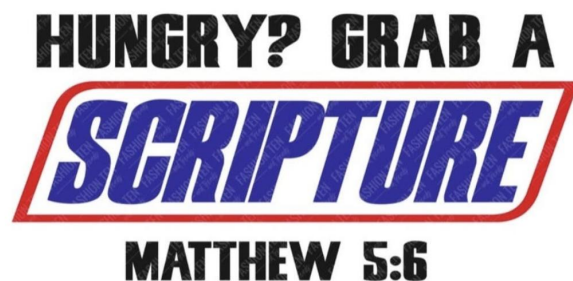
440-988-8330

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

[aumc396@gmail.com](mailto:aumc396@gmail.com)

Worship at 10:30 AM

# **AUMC SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**



For my church family,

As autumn arrives, God's creation seems to preach without saying a word. The maples glow with color, the air turns crisp, gardens offer their final harvest, and geese trace old pathways across the sky. This season invites us to slow down and notice that the world around us isn't merely scenery, it's a gift. Psalm 24 reminds us: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." Every flaming leaf, every acorn underfoot, and every field resting after harvest bears witness to the generous Creator whose artistry surrounds us. Fall gives us fresh eyes to receive that truth with gratitude.

In the Wesleyan tradition, creation can become a means of grace when it awakens us to God's presence and draws us into holy love. John Wesley was deeply interested in the natural world, not as a distraction from faith, but as another way to behold the wisdom and goodness of God. In his reflections on nature, Wesley encouraged Christians to become acquainted with "the works of nature" so we might join, in our own way, the great choir of creation. Autumn's beauty invites us into that kind of participation. We don't simply look at the world; we learn from it, give thanks with it, and offer our praise through it.

Creation care, then, begins in wonder, but it can't end there. Wonder grows into stewardship. Wesley's sermon "The Good Steward" reminds us that everything we have is entrusted to us by God. We're not owners in the deepest sense; we're caretakers who will one day give an account of how we used what was placed in our hands. That includes our time, our money, our bodies, our relationships, and also the earth itself, the soil that feeds us, the water that sustains us, the air we breathe, and the creatures with whom we share this beloved world.

For Wesleyans, stewardship is never only a private virtue. It's tied to love of God and love of neighbor. To care for creation is to practice holiness of heart and life. It's one way we live out the works of mercy, because the burdens of environmental harm often fall most heavily on the poor, the vulnerable, and future generations. When we reduce waste, conserve energy, protect clean water, plant wisely, or support neighbors facing high utility costs, we're not simply being "green." We're seeking to love our neighbors in practical, embodied ways.

The natural world also teaches us spiritual lessons, if we have ears to hear. Leaves let go in their season, reminding us that faith sometimes asks us to release what we've been holding too tightly. Fields rest after harvest, teaching us that fruitfulness depends on Sabbath as well as labor. Seeds disappear into the dark soil before new life springs forth, proclaiming the mystery of death and resurrection. Migrating birds trust paths they didn't invent, inviting us to trust the guidance of God. Even the shortening days can teach us to cherish light—the light around us and the light of Christ within us.

This fall, I invite each of us, and each household in our congregation, to choose one simple act of reverent care. Take a prayer walk and name aloud the gifts you notice. Rake leaves with gratitude instead of resentment. Compost what can return to the soil. Use less, waste less, and share more. Plant something native that will nourish pollinators. Learn the names of the trees and birds around your home. Spend an evening outdoors and let creation lead you into prayer. Ask as a family, "How can we live more gently with God's good earth?"

Autumn teaches us that change can be beautiful, letting go can be faithful, and every season belongs to God. May the falling leaves awaken gratitude in us. May the harvest deepen our generosity. May the cooling earth remind us that we're creatures dependent on grace. May our care for creation become one more way our congregation bears witness to the God who makes, sustains, redeems, and renews all things. And may this season fill us with wonder, gratitude, and holy responsibility.

With gratitude for God's good earth,

*Pastor Joe*

## Leadership Team News for September 2026

With the arrival of September begins the onset of Autumn and a change of seasons. I cannot believe how quickly the summer flew by! It is County Fair time and another way to enjoy the end of summer. Your Leadership Team met on Monday, August 11 th .

Bob Kinser, trustee chair, reported that it is the time of the year for elevator maintenance. Also, the drain pipe that goes across the entry way is being assessed to assure that it is functioning properly and there would not be water build-up and seepage into the lower level of the church where the Sunday School is housed.

A huge thank you to Diane Dickason, our financial secretary, for providing mid-year financial contribution statements to the congregation! (Diane thanked JoAnn Haskins for assisting her.)

Our lay leader and educational coordinator, Aleah Wilson, reported that the last Walking on Wednesday would be August 12 and she and Pastor planned on attending to interact with community members and distribute prizes to the children who participated in the faith-based games. (A huge thank you to Aleah and Pastor Joe for representing our church!) Two church work days are scheduled for Sept. 8 th and Oct. 6th in advance of Amherst's Churches tour scheduled for Oct. 13 th . Aleah is updating the Sunday School room for completion by Sept. 20 th which is National Back to Church Sunday. Our congregation will be encouraged to invite someone new to attend church on Sept. 20 th . On Sunday, Aug. 23 rd , the Sunday School children will participate in emergency evacuation drills which include fire, tornado, and active threat. During announcements, the congregation will be informed of the procedures that the children undergo and also procedures that those in attendance in the sanctuary would follow.

Within the nurturing committee report, a huge thank you to chair Kathy Blahay and grill chef, Carl Mack, and assistant chef, Doug Haney along with additional volunteers for the successful annual church picnic at Maude Neiding Park! The weather was perfect. Great variety of delicious food. Kathy has been researching various sites for the annual Christmas party, as Martino's in Vermilion is closed. At present, she found a Blue Sky restaurant in Elyria which has a party room. She will place a refundable deposit to secure the party room for the December 5 th date. Kathy acknowledged the positive feedback she has been given from those receiving cards from our church. A huge thank you to Jacci Mack for her ongoing diligence in sending the cards!

A thank you to everyone who has donated school supply items. That has been a Mission project at the current time. Judy Gutman, worship chair, reported that the sanctuary will be decorated for the Amherst Church tour date. A thank you to Judy for her ongoing diligence to ensure that the sanctuary is beautified throughout the year!

Pastor reported that the Charge conference is Oct. 17 th and the forms are to be submitted to the district by Oct. 3 rd . Leadership Team members are to review the provided form which Pastor distributed at our meeting and complete portions which pertain to each of us. The staff-parish consult is scheduled for Aug 12 th at Seville UMC. SPRC chair, Jill Keller, and worship chair, Judy Gutman are attending to meet with Rev. Brown, District chair and review the form which was submitted by members of the Leadership Team. Pastor reported that a new mesh system is being installed for our WiFi. Also, our capacity needs to be upgraded and a new contract is being reviewed with Brightspeed. Pastor stated that he will be attending School for Ministry from Aug. 31-Sept. 2 and . Also, a Local Pastors' meeting from Sept. 15-17 th . Vacation will be from Nov. 16-21. Pastor will recruit coverage for those above-listed dates.

JoAnn Haskins announced that from the Bonnie Gumpf memorial fund monies she wishes to order new banners for the sanctuary. (Many of Bonnie's handmade banners adorn our sanctuary!) JoAnn asked the Leadership Team about the possibility of our church recognizing our church's history with a 2027 celebration. She is willing to co- chair a committee to plan the event. This would be an opportunity for many of the congregation to participate in researching our church history and implementing an event! Stay tuned for additional information.

At September's Leadership Team meeting, there will be discussion regarding the annual stewardship campaign. Stay tuned in! Our next Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14 th at 11AM

All are welcome to attend and share ideas!!

Enjoy Labor Day with family and friends! Labor is given in many ways. Thank you for the labor which you provide to support your church!

Hugs from a social distance,

Chair Jean Rounds

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Communion Sunday                                                                                                                                                  | September 6th                                                                                                                              |
| Church Work Day                                                                                                                                                   | September 8th 9:00AM to 1:00PM                                                                                                             |
| Office Closed                                                                                                                                                     | September 10th                                                                                                                             |
| Nurturing Committee                                                                                                                                               | September 10th 10:30AM                                                                                                                     |
| Mary Martha Circle                                                                                                                                                | September 10th 11:30AM                                                                                                                     |
| Leadership Team Meeting                                                                                                                                           | September 14th                                                                                                                             |
| St. Elizabeth Meal Prep                                                                                                                                           | September 18th 2:30PM                                                                                                                      |
| Movie Night                                                                                                                                                       | September 19th, 7:00PM                                                                                                                     |
| National Back to Church Sunday                                                                                                                                    | September 20th                                                                                                                             |
| Craft Show Meeting                                                                                                                                                | September 24th 11:00AM                                                                                                                     |
| 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) 462-219 Or watch us on Zoom at <a href="http://amherstchurches.org">amherstchurches.org</a></b> |

## Office Hours!

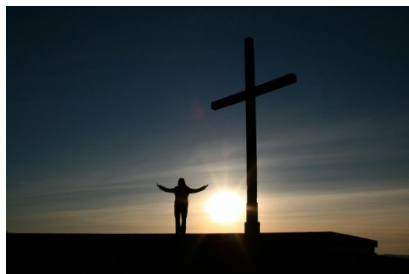
**Tuesday – 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

**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**



**Shirley Odelli Sept. 2 Carolyn Haney Sept. 8**

**Brand Gumpf Sept 11 Megan King Sept. 20**

**Gina Petridis Sept. 28 Dan Pursel Sept. 28**

**Fiona Alley Sept. 29**



My hope for this year's National Back to Church Sunday is to have the members of our church invite someone else to join us. 86% of people who regularly attend church came because someone invited them. Let us go and make Disciples of all the nations.

Thank you for the School supplies. Items were taken to Walking on Wednesday's cram the cruiser. Our next mission project will be collecting men's socks for the St. Elizabeth mission. The goal is 100 pairs, 2 per each client. Our congregation is so generous with mission projects! Many Thanks for your caring!

Cooler weather is approaching. If you or anyone you know is in need of a coat please check out our coat closet to see if we have one for you. If you have a coat that you no longer need please consider donating it to our cause. We are limited on coats and it is a first come first serve!



We will hold our craft show meeting on Thursday September 24th at 11:00AM to discuss our kitchen menu items and to prepare for our bake sale. All those who are interested in volunteering are welcome to attend

We are excited to announce that we will be participating in Amherst "Trunk or Treat event" at the Spitzer Stadium. Event date will be Sunday, October 25th, time TBA. Last year we had 600-800 children attend. We are seeking candy donations to prepare for this event. Donations can be dropped off on the table in the narthex. Thank you for all your help.

AUMC Church Picnic August 9th

