

Amherst United Methodist Church

396 Park Avenue

Amherst, OH 44001

440-988-8330

www.amherstchurches.org

aumc396@gmail.com

Worship at 10:30 AM

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2026



As we begin our yearly pledge campaign, I give thanks for a year of growth at Amherst United Methodist Church. God has blessed us with five new members and four confirmands, and our connection with the wider community has deepened. These signs of life are not possible through one person or one ministry alone. They are nurtured by the prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness of this congregation. Every pledge helps provide the steady foundation that allows us to welcome new people, form disciples, and respond faithfully when opportunities to serve arise.

John Wesley once said, “I look upon all the world as my parish.” That vision calls us to carry Christ’s love beyond the doors of the church and into the community around us. It also invites us to consider an important question: If Amherst United Methodist Church were no longer here, would our neighbors feel its absence? I believe they would, because your generosity, service, faithfulness, and care make a real difference. An annual pledge is not merely a contribution toward expenses; it is a promise to help our congregation share hope, extend hospitality, show compassion, and meet practical needs in Amherst and beyond.

Through clothing, food, school-supply, and other drives, our mission team has provided needed comfort and security throughout the community. Our nurturing team extends that same care to members who are homebound through visits, Holy Communion, and personally signed cards marking birthdays, anniversaries, and other meaningful occasions. Pledged giving helps sustain the worship, staff, facilities, communication, and ministry support that make this loving outreach possible throughout the year.

Our children and young people are not simply the church of tomorrow; they are a cherished and vital part of the church today. Each time we welcome them, listen to them, teach them, and encourage their gifts, we help them discover how deeply God loves them and that they have a place in the family of faith. This year, our youth group hosted Faith and Family activities such as paint-and-sip events, movie nights, and a life-sized “Candy Land” game, all of which were a great success. When we make a pledge, we invest in these opportunities for faith, fellowship, and belonging, trusting that God is already at work in the lives of our children and youth.

Our growing engagement with Main Street Amherst is opening new doors for connection. Through the Pews and Views bus tour, we will have twenty minutes to share the story of Amherst’s oldest church and the remarkable way our congregation came to be. Opportunities like this help us welcome our neighbors, honor our history, and invite others to discover what God is doing among us. Faithful pledges give us the stability to embrace such opportunities with confidence.

As we look to the year ahead, I invite every household to prayerfully consider its pledge to Amherst United Methodist Church. A pledge is an expression of trust: trust in God’s provision, commitment to our shared mission, and hope for what we can accomplish together. Your pledge—whatever its size—helps us plan responsibly, sustain the ministries already bearing fruit, care for our church home, and say yes to new ways of serving. May we respond with gratitude for what God has done and with generous hearts for what God will yet do through us. Together, through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, we can continue offering the hope of Christ to Amherst and beyond.

Pastor Joe

Leadership Team News for October 2026

The month of October provides colorful Fall foliage with the opportunity to enjoy delicious locally-grown apples and prepare a display of corn stalks and pumpkins! May you enjoy the splendor that autumn provides!! Your Leadership Team met on Monday, Sept. 14th to review our church's finances including income and expenses. Our treasurer reported that we are on track with the projected budget items, but there have been those expenses which cannot be pre-determined. (Sounds like the situation within our homes, too!) Trustee chair Bob Kinser reported that the cost for the annual elevator maintenance inspection with the need for new cables will cost \$500. and pest control in our basement is \$500. and the deep freezer has quit working. There will be a need soon to replace the refrigerator. Bob's good news is that the drain and down spout re-routing will be covered free of charge by Mr. Level! (Bob's other contacts gave him thousand dollar quotes to correct the issue.)

Aleah Wilson, lay leader and educational coordinator, provided information on the upcoming events.(See additional information within this newsletter.) For the Amherst Churches Tour on Oct. 13, our church's 20 minute tour will include an inviting message from Pastor Joe, beautiful musical selection from our organist Jesse Sabo, delightful musical selection from our Sunday School students, and provision of cookies and informational church flyers available to the visitors. Aleah has painted and reorganized the Sunday School room, which will be completed for Amherst Churches tour date. (What a wonderful transformation! The Sunday School room is inviting with charm!)

Nurturing chair Kathy Blahay has been working on the Christmas party and is researching various sites. She has placed a refundable deposit to reserve the Blue Sky Restaurant in Elyria. For Leadership Team's review and approval, Kathy circulated a designed emergency medical card . This card contains an individual's name, name /phone number of person to contact in case of a medical emergency at church, and any allergies (which is optional to list.) This card is an added safety measure available to those who wish to participate. (There will be verbal announcements at church.)

Leadership Team chose October 18th as this year's Consecration Sunday with the theme of "The Journey of Generosity." Each committee chair will provide an article for the October newsletter to inform the congregation of their committee's role and responsibilities. Pastor's annual stewardship message and a pledge card will be mailed to each household. There will be a light meal provided during social time after worship on October 18th.

JoAnn Haskins provided an overview to the Leadership Team regarding recognition and celebration of our church's 200th anniversary. The projected date would be September 2027. Exciting! What an opportunity for everyone to play a part through sharing of their knowledge of our church's 200 year history! Much more information to come!!

Next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Monday, October 12th at 11am. All are welcome to attend!

Take care. Be well!

Hugs from a social distance,

Chair Jean Rounds

Communion Sunday	October 4th
Church Work Day	October 6th 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Closed	October 8th
Nurturing Committee	October 8th 10:30AM
Mary Martha Circle	October 8th 11:30AM
Leadership Team Meeting	October 12th 11:00AM
Amherst Churches Tour	October 13th 6:00PM
St. Elizabeth Meal Prep	October 16th 2:30PM
Charge Conference	October 17th
Trunk or Treat	October 25th
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



Joy Doyle Oct 1 Judy Gutman Oct 2

Matt Nahorn Oct 3 Jean Rounds Oct 4

Tad Clark Oct 5 Jocelyn Kastl Oct 7

Brian King Oct 12 Mark Davis Oct 12

Debbie Shrum Oct 16 Tiffanie Alley Oct 16

Donald Wilson Oct 19 Carl Mack Oct 22

Ed Blahay Oct 23 Chris McCourt Oct 23

Andrea Davis Oct 23 Wayne Stang Oct 23

Denny Ryan Holbrook Oct 23 Gayle Waitt Oct 28



Bakers Wanted!!

We will be holding a bake sale during our craft show again this year! We are looking for volunteers to donate baked goods for this event. Proceeds will support the mission and ministries of our church!



Halloween Costumes wanted!

After your Halloween festivities are over, please consider donating used in good condition costumes to be put in our Amherst United Methodist Church Costume closet! Costumes that are donated will be saved for the following year and given to families in need of a costume for their children.

Donations can be dropped off at

396 Park Ave.

Amherst, OH 44001

Candy Donations Needed!

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.

Fields UM Church's 36th Annual
CRAFT BAZAAR
Sat., October 10, 2026 • 9am-3pm
 Admission: Donation of \$1.00 • Children Free
Large Variety of Crafts for Fall & Christmas
 Door Prizes • Bake Sale
 Breakfast & Lunch Available
 Breakfast Pizza • Homemade Soup
 Chicken Paprikash • Hot Dogs and Desserts
Fields United Methodist Church
 34077 Lorain Road, North Ridgeville
440-327-8753
www.fieldsumc.org

VIEWS & PEWS
 A JOURNEY THROUGH AMHERST ARCHITECTURE OF FAITH
 Six unique churches. Six beautiful stories. One inspiring tour through the heart of Amherst.

 GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	 ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH	 AMHERST HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S CHURCH
 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST (CCUC)	 AMHERST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	 ST. PETER'S UCC

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026
6:00 P.M.
 20-Minute Tour at Each Church

OPTIONAL LIGHT DINNER AT GOOD SHEPHERD 5:30 P.M.
 Enjoy a bite to eat before the tour begins!

ALL FUNDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO THE BACKPACK PROGRAM FOR AMHERST SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PROVIDE FOOD OVER THE WEEKEND.

\$5 PER PERSON

\$5 OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL BE USED TOWARDS OUR 4 \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS WE GIVE AWAY EACH MAY TO AN AMHERST GRADUATE.

PRESENTED BY

The Journey of Generosity

Leadership Team -- Jean Rounds. "The Journey of Generosity " is our church's 2026 stewardship theme. We possess a shared vision with shared hands to accomplish our mission. (Growth of Sunday School and expansion of youth opportunities, community outreach, and effectively interact with the homebound.) There are many ways to show stewardship—prayers, presence, financial gifts, and volunteer service. All are appreciated! Within this newsletter you will learn about the many operational functions of our church and also learn about the many service opportunities in which you could volunteer. I am serving as Leadership Team chair and in this role I conduct the monthly team meetings, where all the committees provide their verbal update and there is discussion and voting when appropriate. As is stated each month, all are welcome to attend! Also, I provide a monthly report in the newsletter, which everyone receives by e-mail or U.S. postal service. I am very fortunate to serve with a very talented and dedicated team!

Financial Secretary-Diane Dickason. The Financial Secretary is the person responsible for the accounting of all money given to the church and keeping track of who gives what to the church. The Financial Secretary walks the fine line of being completely transparent as to what money is given to the church (and for what purpose); and is very protective of the privacy of the specific giver (and for keeping track of individual pledges and recording all monies each person actually gives). The Financial Secretary produces reports each month for the Leadership Chairman and the Treasurer detailing the month's funds and the year-to-date funds. The Financial Secretary also keeps accurate addresses on all individuals giving money to the church and sends out or hand delivers statements twice a year.

Worship Committee: -- Judy Gutman The look of the Sanctuary is the responsibility of the Worship Committee. Included is décor, communion preparation and servers, ushers, banner, flowers, altar cloths, and the flower box in the narthex. Stewardship is our theme for fall. Stewardship takes many forms as we will be discussing and learning about. If you have a call in your heart to assist in our beautiful sanctuary, see Judy Gutman. Help is always appreciated!

Lay Leader & Youth Education Coordinator- Aleah Wilson As Lay Leader of the Church I am responsible for our community outreach. Ways I have been involved with the Amherst community this past year was participating in Main Street Amherst Morning Mingle, Participating in Amherst community parades and Walking on Wednesday. I also put on our church's Fun with fellowship events with the help of the Mom Squad (Heather, Megan, Jennifer, & Tiffanie) these events include our annual Easter egg hunt, cookies with Santa, and summer monthly movie nights. I also serve as our Youth Education Coordinator, providing weekly lessons for the children during Sunday school, and having the youth group put on plays and performances for the congregation. Assistance is always needed to help our congregation grow.

Missions Committee – Polly Makinen Your financial support has enabled our church to continue to support different areas of mission. A portion of our Apportionments goes toward disaster relief and mission projects of the Methodist Church. Locally, money is given to ministries of food banks, homeless shelters and senior citizens in the area. You are giving to missions whenever you donate food to St. Elizabeth's meal, school supplies, hats and mittens, items for health kits, and, recently, all the items for women and children at the Safe Harbor. Thank you for your continued support.

Trustees -- Bob Kinser. Our primary function is to oversee the real and personal property of the church and maintain it to the best of our abilities. Chris McCourt, Polly Makinen, Jay Rounds and myself try to do this with diligence and prudence. For the most part when things need done we always try to get at least three estimates. Sometimes this isn't always possible, but we still try. The purchase of raise right cards has helped keep our landscaping and snow removal cost manageable without neglecting our overall appearance. We have used some General Funds this year for the signage and rear entryway awning.

In the past year we have:

- 1) Tad and Jennifer Clark have painted and fixed the cracks in the Sanctuary.
- 2) The toilet has been removed in the Sunday school room.
- 3) A new air conditioner has been installed.
- 4) Down spout has been installed.
- 5) Framing around the back door has been replaced.

Nurturing Committee – Kathy Blahay Nurturing Committee has been very active in communicating with our homebound persons. We assisted in organizing a nice luncheon for our new church members and a baptism. We are looking forward to our trunk or treat activity this month. If you enjoy visiting your church, family, organizing, fun activities, and supporting your church where needed, then this is the committee for you. Anyone who is interest please join us!

Amherst United Methodist Scholarship Committee Chris McCourt: The Amherst United Methodist scholarship is awarded yearly to an applicant who is a member or relative of an active member of Amherst United Methodist Church and who attends an accredited institution of further education. The scholarship has been awarded for 11 years at AUMC and is funded by the previously established scholarship fund. Donations to the fund are also welcome and can be a memoriam. The committee consists of Chris McCourt, Jo Goodsite, and Carolyn Haney. Over the last eleven years, the fund has awarded more than \$7000 to students.

Raise Right Fundraising Chris McCourt: This fundraiser is an ongoing program for purchasing store gift cards. The cards are purchased at the face value of the card and the church pays below face value to the company. So it costs the buyer nothing extra and their purchase is recorded for their church giving. The program is under the supervision of Chris McCourt and you can talk to her for any questions or purchases. Most chain store cards are available. Profits so far have paid for new landscaping and ongoing maintenance which used to be done with church work days. So if you enjoy seeing the church looking well kept outside but would rather not be part of a work crew, this is an easy way to contribute to the upkeep of the church outside areas. Giant Eagle is our biggest selling item since groceries are a constant and your purchases there can also lower your gas price as Pastor Joe has mentioned often.

Website Chris McCourt: Our website has been updated and is now interactive as people who watch the service live on Sunday may also speak at prayer requests. You can watch at home when you can't make it to church or are on vacation. We have 3 of our teens who do recordings each week and then the service is added to the website. If

you might be interested in learning how to do this tech work as a possible fill-in, contact Chris McCourt or Pastor Joe to set up training times. There are also directions on the tech table.

Treasurer – Jim McCourt.The United Methodist Book of Discipline is very conscious of, and protective of, the monies given to the church, and how those monies are accounted for and spent. The Discipline specifically separates the duties of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Those officers must be two different people and cannot be related. The Financial Secretary is the person responsible for accounting for all the money given to the church and keeping track of who gives what to the church. The Financial Secretary walks the fine line of being completely transparent as to what money is given to the church (and for what purpose); and is very protective of the privacy of the specific giver (and for keeping track of individual pledges and recording all monies each person actually gives). The Treasurer is a separate person who is responsible for paying all the bills that the church encumbers. The Treasurer also works with the Leadership Team in preparing the annual budget, and making sure the monthly spending is in line with the approved budget. The Financial Secretary and the Treasurer serve as a check and balance on each other. The Treasurer double checks that all incoming funds recorded by the Financial Secretary match the income deposits shown on the monthly bank statements in the various accounts of the church. And the Financial Secretary double checks that the monies spent by the Treasurer matches up with the bank statements, and that the monies were spent as designated by the giver and in accordance with the church budget. This system helps preserve the financial integrity of the church and provides assurance to each giver that their financial gifts to the church are accounted for properly and spent according to their wishes and in compliance with the budgeted needs of the church.