THE SPRE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS OF BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADVENT FAMILY EVENT

We are worshipping together at one service in the morning at 9:15am in the Sanctuary.



Following the service, we will continue our celebration as we fellowship with one another at our Advent Brunch

Sunday, November 23rd 10:30-12:00 noon

News from the Districts of Baltimore Washington Conference

The United Methodist Church New Vision Statement: The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling serves as the Episcopal Leader for both the

Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences of the United Methodist

Church. Bel Air United Methodist Church is part of the vibrant Baltimore-Washington Conference.

As of **July 1, 2025**, the Baltimore-Washington Conference entered an exciting new chapter, reorganizing into **six districts**. Each district is guided by a Superintendent and is made up of a network of **Hubs**—clusters of congregations working together to strengthen vitality, deepen ministry, and multiply impact in their communities. Within every Hub, there is a Connecting Church.

Bel Air UMC is part of the **Reservoir District**, one of six districts in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The district is home to **11 Hubs**, and our congregation belongs to the **Bel Air Area Hub**, where **Havre de Grace UMC** serves as the Connecting Church, encouraging collaboration and mission among neighboring congregations. The Reservoir District is led by **Superintendent Rev. Elizer Valentin-Castañon**, with administrative support from **Charles Carrington**, working together to resource and guide churches as they deepen ministry and extend their impact.

Bel Air Area Hub

- · Ames, Bel Air, MD
- · Asbury, White Marsh, MD
- Bel Air, Bel Air, MD
- Grace, Aberdeen, MD
- Havre De Grace, Havre de Grace, MD* Hub Connecting Church
- John Wesley, Abingdon, MD
- Salem, Upper Falls, MD

For more information, please go to https://www.bwcumc.org/100-at-100/creating-vital-change/

2025 Church Conference Schedule – Reservoir District

Bel Air UMC Church Conference - November 15 9:00 AM

We're thrilled to announce that **Bel Air UMC** is one of the Host Churches for this year's Church Conferences — and we need your warm hospitality and bright smiles to make it a day to remember!

Why your presence matters:

In addition to our own conference at 9:00 AM (where **Full Members can vote**), other churches will be holding their Church Conferences here at **11:00 AM and 1:00 PM**. It's a big day — and a wonderful opportunity to **welcome our new District Superintendent, District Administrator, presiding elders, pastors, and congregations** with the love and hospitality that Bel Air UMC is known for.

Here's how you can help:

We're looking for friendly faces to serve as greeters throughout the day. A sign-up schedule will be available starting November 2 at the Welcome Desk.

For more information, please contact ????

Let's come together, show our Bel Air spirit, and make this a joyful, welcoming celebration for everyone!

Training Tuesday

Training Tuesdays are Conference teaching sessions led by Rev. Bill Brown.

Training Tuesdays equips and encourages leaders for faithful and effective ministry. Sessions are practical, accessible, and rooted in Wesleyan theology, designed for clergy, laity, and ministry teams.

- 10/28 Church Council Training
- 11/4 SPRC Training
- 11/11 Nominations & Leadership Development
- 11/18 Trustees Training
- 11/25 Finance Training

Learn more and register by going to https://www.bwcumc.org/events/training-tuesdays/

November Stewardship - A Season for Giving and A Season for Giving Thanks!

November is a season for Giving and a season for Giving Thanks. Giving thanks is a faithful occasion throughout the entire year, but it's especially appropriate in November. During this month, we pause and give thanks for all that God has done for us. Thanksgiving will be one of those opportunities. We gather with our families and friends around the table to remember to give thanks to God for each of our blessings. Even before the pumpkin pie gets passed around, you're invited to reflect.

How has God blessed us in this past year, and in response, how might I be a blessing to God in the year ahead? How might God use me? When we overwhelmingly receive, we, in turn, want to overwhelmingly give. From a posture of gratitude comes our response of generosity.

"We love because God first loved us." (1 John 4: 19)

To be faithful is to be faith-FULL! It's a wonderful opportunity to give in response to God's blessings in our lives: our homes, our families, our friends, our work, our school, our health, or the opportunity to seek healthcare, new things that we've seen, tasted, touched, and experienced, and a multitude of other things. We prayerfully re-commit our lives to God each year through our financial giving.

Your pledge cards will be mailed soon or you can scan the QR code. You're invited to return those cards sometime this month. To be faithful is to look for opportunities to respond to God whenever they come our way. Thank you for all of you who take this spiritual discipline seriously. Thank you to all of you who give of yourselves in Christ-like service, sacrificially and lovingly, through our M&Ms, our Ministries and Missions, throughout the year.

Grace and peace!

Byron

2026 Pledge

Our Sunday Worship Services



Traditional Service - 9:15am In-person & Online (Facebook Live)

This is our traditional service held in our Sanctuary at Bel Air United Methodist Church

Sermon by Phone enables people to call in and hear the scripture reading and sermon.

410-800-4472



Contemporary Service -10:15 am In Person & Online (YouTube) Worship along with us as contemporary music fills the air.

https://belairumc.com/ 1015ContemporaryYouTu beLink



Family Worship - 2:00 pm Join us at our Mt Carmel Chapel location with Pastor Deb!

All Saints Day - November 2nd

We will celebrate and remember all our loved ones who have gone before us. On November 2nd, please bring pictures of your loved ones who have passed and before the service, place them on the tables, in the Sanctuary or McComas Hall, for display.

There will also be candles that you can light in remembrance.

Join the Prayer Team via Zoom Wednesdays at 3:30 pm https://belairumc.com/PrayerTeam

Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: BAUMC or 3017158592 To Dial In: 252 215 8782 Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: 242531 SIGN UP BY CALLING 800-733-2767 OR ONLINE AT WWW.REDCROSS.ORG REMEMBER THAT SIGNING UP FOR EASY PASS WILL MAKE THE DONATION PROCESS FASTER AND EASIER.

Attention Blood Drive Donors

November 10 from 9:30am to 8 pm in McComas Hall





Come have fellowship and craft with friends November 23rd at 10:30 am.

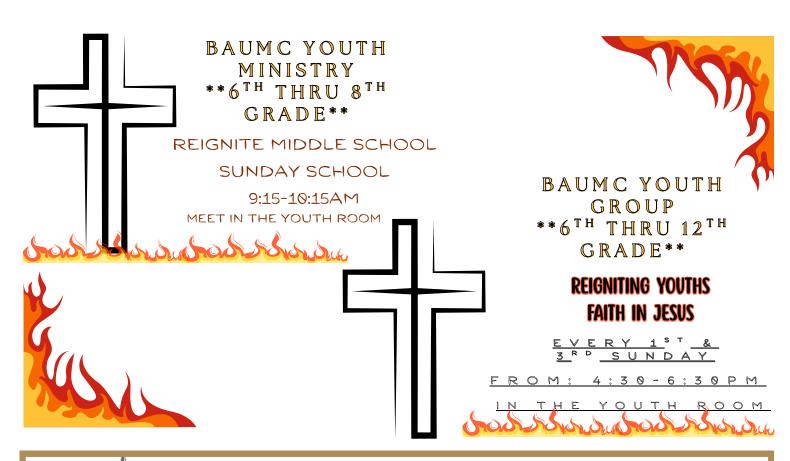
Come to the Celebration of Advent!

BAUMC Kid's Ministry will be continuing to have God putting our Ducks in a Row.

Lessons centering on stories that God gives us to remember. We just happen to have a duck per week that corresponds with that story. November will be Creative with Paintings and Cooking – The Armor of God and Gaming!



We will continue in December with...wait for it...NATIVITY DUCKS! Don't miss out on Sunday School with our Kid's Ministry.



BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Confirmation CLASS OF 2026

We joyfully invite you to register for our upcoming confirmation class of 2026.

You are welcome to participate if you are in 7th grade or higher and have not been confirmed yet.

CLASSES WILL COMMENCE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH

AND GO UNTIL MARCH 22ND, 2026.

INCLUDED: 10 SESSIONS (INCLUDING ONE FIELD TRIP)

MEETING TIME: SUNDAYS FROM 4:30-5:30PM @ BAUMC

If you would like to register please reach out to our Youth Ministry Director, Andrea Sergi, for more information. (sergia@baumc.com)

Join Our Youth Ministry in Our Mission to Help Those in Need!

Your support can transform lives and bring hope. Youth Ministry is collecting donations for the Harford Family House. Feel free to donate whatever you can to help. Together, we can spread love and kindness to others in need this winter season.

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY & HARFORD FAMILY HOUSE



Here is the list of Items we will be collecting for donations:



https://harfordfamilyhouse.org/ how-you-can-help/wish-list/ Donations Needed

https://harfordfamilyhouse.org/



-DONATION BOXES- (Sunday, Nov 2nd- Nov 30th)
LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX & OUTSIDE YOUTH ROOM

9th THRU 12th GRADE

After-School FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 21 LINWOOD AVE, BEL AIR, MD







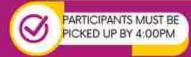


FUN GAMES 8 ACTIVITIES





SIMPLE SNACK & DRINK











WEDNESDAYS: 2:15 TO 4:00PM BEGINNING SEPT 10[™], 2025 THRU JUNE 3[™], 2026

(Except for Cancelled School days (weather/etc.) 8 Holidays)

CASSEROLE CREATIONS

FOR: 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

FROM: 6:00-7:30PM
MEET IN BAUMC KITCHEN
READY TO COOK!!!

CASSEROLES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 9:15AM SERVICE BY THE WELCOME DESK





COME HELP MS. ANDREA
PREPARE MULTIPLE
CASSEROLE DISHES FOR
YOUTH MINISTRY
FUNDRAISING



Casserole Night 11/6

PROVERBS 3:9-10, "HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR WEALTH, WITH THE FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL YOUR CROPS: THEN YOUR BARNS WILL BE FILLED TO OVERFLOWING".





Thank You

Dear Church Friends,

I thank you for all the birthday cards and notes.

That was so kind and thoughtful of you. I had a wonderful birthday and thank all of you so much.

With Love, Dot Clark

Dear Church Family,



We want to thank you sincerely for the delicious lunch, beautiful flowers, thoughtful cards, and generous gifts during Pastor Appreciation. Your kindness and encouragement mean so much to us. It is a true joy and blessing to serve such a loving and faithful congregation.

With heartfelt gratitude, Your Pastors



Tuesdays 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Bel Air UMC Parlor



Surviving the Holiday - November 4 This requires a separate registration



To Register go to www.GriefShare.org

Game Day

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Room 202

Members and friends are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Light refreshments will be served.

We will provide games, however if you have a favorite game please bring it along. For information or questions, contact Cindy Graham

dgcg6056@gmail.com



Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Soup Sale

November 16 between services.



To View Bel Air United Methodist Church Calendar go to https://belairumc.com/Events Calendar
Add it to your Home screen on your phone!

Toy Workshop 2025

The Toy Workshop's Mission is to collect, check, clean and repair toys. We also put together gift baskets for mom, dad and teens; baby sets; and stockings which are all given to those in need at Christmas.

Our 2nd mission is to support those groups helping these children such as their families, teachers, guidance counselors and social service agencies.

To receive help, the family will need to reach out to their case worker at Social Services.

Our 3rd mission is to recycle used toys and give the opportunity for others to pass on their gifts for baskets, baby sets, dress up clothes, etc.

Our 4th Mission is to bring people of our church and the community together to join for a worthwhile, needed and fun project.



Toy Collection - November 3 - 24

It is time to start collecting your new, nearly new or repairable toys for the Toy Workshop.

Toys of all kinds

Dolls & clothes

Books

Art/crafts sets

Cars & trucks

Barbies & clothes

Games

NO Large Items or bikes

Kitchen sets

Build a Bears & clothes

Electronics

Please include DIRECTIONS and BAG TOGETHER PARTS for toys or games.

GIFT BASKETS for mom, dad, teen girls, teen boy



BASKETS

Pens

Body Lotion

Hats Gloves

Small games

Toothpaste / toothbrushes

Coomico

Shampoo

Mugs

Make-up Nail polish

Scarves

2026 calendars

Shampoo

Shaving cream

Socks

Body Wash Deodorant

Small gifts

TOY WORKSHOP is November 28 - December 5

Please join us to help provide toys and gifts for children at Christmas, to join in the fun and fellowship with us and to accomplish a huge recycling project.

We check, clean and repair toys and add batteries. We fill stockings, make gift baskets and much more. Questions? Coming as a group? Email Elaine Ziegler at elainezig1@yahoo.com

To donate please go to https://belairumc.com/ToyWorkshop



All donations will help pay for storage pods and purchase parts and batteries for toys.

Toy Workshop







Deodorant





Shampoo



PreK just
\$295/full week!
Call 410-420-8304
or email
ccc@baumc.com
for details!

Register today for the 2025-2026 school year!

Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Preschool, Ages 3, 4 & 5

Before/After Care: Available for Kindergarten - Grade 5, 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (bus service to Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School)

Children's Christian Center of Bel Air United Methodist Church provides:

Theme-Based Curriculum Indoor and Age-Appropriate Activities Homewor

Indoor and Outdoor Play Homework Assistance





Welcome One Homeless Shelter Volunteers Needed to Cook & Serve in 2026

Every month on the 27th, Bel Air United Methodist Church volunteers to cook and serve a meal at the homeless shelter in Belcamp. A team of three to four people is needed each month. All the foods are provided through the Neighbors in Need Food Ministry (no expenses to volunteers).



The hours are from 4:15 - 7 pm.

Location is: 1221 C Brass Mill Road (right off route 543) in Belcamp 21017

Go to https://belairumc.com/2026CooknServe to sign-up or contact Lisa Wolf at 410-838-5181 or wolfl@baumc.com.

We will have a support staff for volunteers who are volunteering for the first time.

College Box Ministry

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES: Please help us support and show God's love to our college students as they prepare for finals! We will be collecting donations of packaged snacks and treats. Please place them in the designated bin next to the Information desk during the month of November. We will be putting care packages together the Monday after Thanksgiving (December 1st) to get them sent out in time for final exams.

If you would like to help, please contact Cathy Kogler at (410) 322-9361 or <u>Cathy.Kogler@Verizon.net</u>. Thank you!

COLLEGE ADDRESSES – We know people move, young adults go into the military, go away to school or move out of Mom and Dad's house. We would like your young adult/college student's address and e-mail in order to keep in touch and to update our database.

Please go to the below link to update the Young Adult Contact Form

https://belairumc.org/update-your-contact-information/



WANTED: Adopt A Child Sponsors & Coordinators It's time to help Harford County children for Christmas

Job Requirements:

Sponsors

• Select, buy and wrap gifts for each child adopted (\$60 per child)

Coordinators

- · Call sponsors and assign each a child
- Select toys and gift baskets from the Toy Workshop for all the children and parents
- Collect wrapped gifts from each sponsor.
- · Come for food pick up
- Deliver gifts and food to the family

Sign up on hallway bulletin board or email Jeanne Arseneau at mysticheaven805@gmail.com with whether you would like to be a coordinator or sponsor or both positions and how many children you would like to sponsor?

Thank you,
Jeanne Arseneau
410-459-0721 <u>mysticheaven805@gmail.com</u>



UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY



BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

To donate please go to

https://belairumc.com/Give2StudentDayOffering





SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER TOY WORKSHOP

To donate please go to

https://belairumc.com/ToyWorkshop





HELP OUR CHURCH HOST COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

To donate please go to belairumc.com/CommunityEventOutreach



Introducing Michael Moody

Who in the world is Mike Moody? Mike is a member of Bel Air UMC, currently enrolled in the M.Div. program at Asbury Theological Seminary. He has plans to be ordained as a U.M. pastor. You may have brushed elbows with him at some point. He's one of our lay readers at church. Here's a little bit of his call story, and a little bit of his bio. Hopefully, you'll get a chance to meet him soon, if you haven't already.

Brief Personal History

My journey is a testament to the transformative power of faith and community. Born in Warren, OH, I pursued a finance degree at Kent State University and worked in future & options trading before serving eleven years in law enforcement across Stark County, Ohio, and Charleston, South Carolina. It was in Charleston that I met Janiece, my wife of 15-years. My academic pursuits continued in graduate work at Tiffin University and Vermont Law School.



After leaving law enforcement, we moved to Denver, Colorado, Waterbury, Vermont, and finally settled in Bel Air, Maryland. This move reconnected me with my childhood friend Matt, who guided me back to Christianity after a 30-year break. I started attending BAUMC in 2023.

I was raised Catholic at Saint William Catholic Church in Warren, Ohio, where I was baptized, received first communion, and was confirmed. However, during college and beyond, I often strayed from my faith entirely, lacking any genuine relationship with God despite my Catholic upbringing.

First Awakening Through Tragedy

My spiritual awakening began on 9/11 as I worked in Cleveland's Key Tower, the tallest building in the city. With United 93 flying overhead and there being fears that it was going to be brought down in Cleveland, the city was evacuated. I returned home safely, but like many others I had an awakening which inspired me to protect my community. I embarked on an 11-year law enforcement career in Stark County, Ohio and Charleston, South Carolina, where I witnessed humanity's darkest moments. After a particularly traumatic week during 2007, I found myself sitting in the parking lot of a Methodist church in tears, when I experienced God's grace and Christ's love for the first time in decades. I was compelled to walk through the door and observed worship, grace, and love all in the name of Christ Jesus.

Professional Success but Spiritual Emptiness

By 2022, I had left law enforcement, graduated from Vermont Law School, and built a successful career in financial services. Despite this success, I felt spiritually unfulfilled. During this time, my mother's Alzheimer's and macular degeneration had stolen her mind and sight. My sister had been estranged from the family for ten years. As my mother's condition worsened and she stopped recognizing my father, my wife, and me, I reached out through my godmother to attempt to reconcile with my sister.

In February 2023, my sister texted me after months of silence. Our conversation, filled with sibling love and mutual forgiveness, restored our relationship, and helped heal our family. This led to a chance meeting with my godmother's son, Bob, who was now a Deacon in that Catholic Church where I had been raised. I listened to his sermon, at the very Catholic church where I had grown up, about living a life of gratitude rather than just being grateful for God's blessings. This ignited my spiritual passion, and shortly after I would be called to ministry by the Lord.

I Am Called

On Saturday, March 4th, 2023, I watched The Jesus Revolution, inspired by Pastor Greg Laurie's life. As someone who has embraced hippie social principles and recently rekindled my spiritual passion, I found Pastor Greg's journey relatable. Leaving the theater with my wife, I reflected on my life's recent changes, including reconnecting with my Godmother, reconciling with my sister, Deacon Bob's impactful sermon, my renewed faith, and the movie's timely release.

Recognizing the deepening political divide in our country, especially with the 2024 election approaching, I was guided on how to bridge the gaps in a society growing more angry, violent, and hateful. I felt a profound calling to lead a church that transcends cultural, generational, and religious lines, focusing on a Gospel centered on love, acceptance, inclusion, compassion, and support for the oppressed and marginalized. In that moment, I experienced a burning passion and a voice urging me, "I need to use you again. I need you to bring people together. I need you to lead." And so, I answered the call and am seeking ordination as an elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the UMC.

Current Ministry

I am a member of Bel Air UMC, a lay reader, and have assisted with the Food Ministry, the 4th of July events, and previously the Youth Group Bible Study. I have been serving in the role of Lay Pastor with the Mission Central Parish at the oversight of Pastor Karin Walker of Fallston UMC. I am assigned to three churches where I am tasked with leading service and delivering the sermon on a rotational basis.

Missionary Focus

In the role of religious leader, I view it crucial in addressing social injustices and bridging societal divides. I aim to be a voice of peace and action for the oppressed, including the poor, marginalized, immigrants, and refugees. Influenced by my brethren at St. James AME Church, including Rev. Dr. Baron Young, our leaders at BAUMC, and figures like Dr. Martin Luther King, Senator John Lewis, and Fred "Mister" Rogers, I strive for a compassionate world focused on social justice and equality for all.

Additionally, Janiece and I are committed to combating generational poverty through organizations like Children International, having sponsored our first child, Iris, who is thriving in her studies and life in Honduras. By supporting disadvantaged children with essentials like clean water, healthcare, and education, we aim to break the cycle of poverty.

Conclusion

Coming to Christ later in life gives me both knowledge and wisdom to serve effectively in God's work. I hope this authentic account demonstrates the transformative power of grace, faith, and community in my life.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Mission: To bring prayers and comfort to those in need, by providing tangible reminders of God's love, peace, hope and healing.

Our prayer shawls, comfort blankets, prayer squares, and crosses are lovingly made, blessed and given to those in our church family and community who are in need of encouragement and prayer. It is our hope each recipient will feel God's loving arms surrounding them as they accept our gifts for healing, strength, and protection during their difficult times.

*Prayer items are free of charge and given with much love and God's

Blessings

This item was lovingly handmade
for you by our Prayer Shawl
Ministry. As it was created,
we prayed for you. We asked
the Lord to give you blessings
of courage, strength, healing,
peace, comfort and joy.

As you touch and hold this near
to your heart, may you feel God
comforting you. May it
always be a reminder of how
much you are loved!

Bel Air United Methodist Church

7 PROMISES OF GOD

1 I will be with you.
2 I will protect you.
3 I will be your strength.
4 I will answer you
5 I will provide for you.
6 I will give you peace.
7 I will always love you.

Cards that are enclosed with prayer items delivered.

BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVE AS JESUS LOVES

21 LINWOOD AVENUE | BEL AIR, MD 21014 | 410.838.5181

The e-Spire, a weekly update of information, devotions, upcoming events and activities is distributed via e-mail. If you would like to receive the e-Spire, please send your e-mail address to wolfl@baumc.com.

E-spire articles are due by Wednesdays. at noon.

E-mail to carmenc@baumc.com

CONFERENCE STAFF

Bishop - Rev. LaTrelle Miller Easterling District Superintendent - Rev. Eliezer Valentin-Castanon

BEL AIR UMC STAFF

Lead Pastor - Rev. Byron E. Brought Associate Pastor - Rev. L. Lynn Boyd Family Pastor - Rev. Deb Lampton Director of Youth Ministry - Andrea Sergi Director of Music/Chancel Choir - David **Tramontana**

Bookkeeper - Meg Kolarik Administrative Specialist/Mgr - Lisa Wolf Administration/Congregational Care Asst. - Cheryl Carmen Hospitality Coordinator - Alice Archer aaarcher@comcast.net

E-mail for BAUMC Staff: last name first initial @ baumc.com (ex: broughtb@baumc.com)

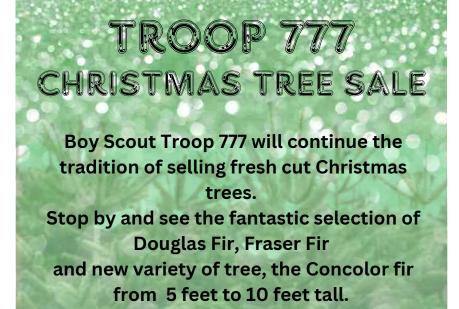
IT'S OK TO ASK FOR HELP



- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-(TALK) 8255
- Transgender Suicide Hotline: Trans Lifeline 877-565-8860
- 988 Mental Health Hotline

SUBMISSIONS FOR DECEMBER Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in the DECEMBER edition of the SPIRE? Send them to wolfl@baumc.com and carmenc@baumc. com by 12 noon, Monday, November 17.

Current addressee or Body



Mon - Thur 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Friday 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Proceeds are used for troop camping trips and equipment.

SALES STARTS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 at 9 am Hours are:

The scouts appreciate your support

Church Office Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm Church Building is Closed on Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28 in observance of Thanksgiving