

THE SPIRE



21 Linwood Avenue Bel Air, MD 21014 • 410-838-5181

BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

fax: 410-893-8363 • info@baumc.com • www.belairumc.org

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

**Have a Blessed New Year,
from your Friends and Staff at BAUMC!!!**



May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you,
and may you be blessed
each day!

Happy New Year

Signing up for worship helps us keep attendance records.
We invite our new guests to register
for the in-person worship services:

You may go to <http://bit.ly/BAUMCSunday9-15amWorship> for
9:15am Traditional Service

You may go to <https://bit.ly/BAUMCSunday10-15Worship> for
10:15am Contemporary Service

OR

You may text Worship to 410-210-4363,
then choose the service you plan to attend.

In order for Bel Air UMC to continue contact tracing, we ask that
you sign in at the Narthex for the 9:15am service or upon entering
McComas Hall for the 10:15am service.



Sermon By Phone 410-800-4472

We are happy to announce that we now have a
way for those of our congregation who are not
electronically-connected to hear Sunday sermons.
"Sermon By Phone" allows people to call in and
hear the scripture reading and sermon. The
information will be updated on a weekly basis.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this,
please pass along the information.

Helping you stay connected while we are apart.



Join Anne Goodman and the Prayer Team
Wednesdays for group prayer at 3:30 pm.

Join Through the ZOOM App
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/905302493?pwd=U3J4WU5tZHhvNytHV1J4Ym5FNjJIQT09>

Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: BAUMC
To Dial In: 253 215 8782 or 301 715 8592
Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: 242531

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Worship

Bookend the month of January

We will be having Family Worship the first Sunday of January (2nd) and the fifth Sunday of January (30th).
No in person Sunday School on these bookend Sundays.

January and February our theme will be.....wait for it.....

PENGUINS!

We will be exploring with our fowl friends the life of Jesus. We will waddle as we follow Jesus.

There will be Facebook challenges during this series and contests for our families.

We need someone to organize a trip to the zoo and see some PENGUINS.



C4 Kids QR Codes



YOUTH MINISTRIES

WEEKLY EVENTS

Middle School Sunday School

Sundays, 9:15 am - Youth Center

Youth Bible Study

Sundays, 10:15 am - Youth Center

Youth Group

Sundays, 4:30 pm - McComas Hall, Youth Center Room 202 and Gaga Pit



Save the Date

Summer Missions 2022

ROMNEY, WEST VIRGINIA

JULY
10-16

Join us for a week
of home repair
projects, worship,
friends and fun.

JP
JEREMIAH PROJECT





Scholarship Opportunities offered by Bel Air United Methodist Church

Bel Air United Methodist Church offers two scholarship opportunities. One is for high school seniors who will graduate in Spring 2022. The second is for individuals who are seeking education after high school, but are not 2022 graduating seniors.

Applications for each scholarship will be available in early January. Watch for announcements in the e-Spire that scholarship applications are available.

BAUMC Church Pay It Forward Scholarship

The "Pay It Forward Scholarship Endowment" provides funding for individuals seeking education beyond high school. This includes traditional higher education, trade school, apprenticeships, or job training /retraining /certifications. Applicants may be:

- high school graduates;
- GED completers;
- individuals currently in the workforce;
- unemployed individuals.

While the items listed below are not requirements, preference is given to:

- Individuals attending Bel Air United Methodist Church.
- Individuals unable to continue schooling without financial assistance.
- Individuals committed to attending a local community college, trade school or apprenticeship program.

Applicants do not have to have stellar academic records, but must demonstrate a determination to attain further education/training.

The Pay It Forward Scholarship is a renewable scholarship. Successful applicant(s) are encouraged to apply for renewal and must show evidence of successful progress in working to complete his/her program.

Recipients of the scholarship are encouraged to financially support the program once established in their careers.

BAUMC Church Involvement Scholarship (for graduating high school seniors)

The Bel Air United Methodist Church Involvement College Scholarship is offered to high school seniors who are members of the church and who will be entering the first year of college in Fall 2022. Scholarship applications are reviewed and evaluated on three criteria – academic achievement, community and church involvement, and letters of recommendation. This scholarship award began in 1980 through a gift from Ben and Rachel Tobin; donations from members and friends of BAUMC fund the scholarships awarded each spring.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church Scholarship Program

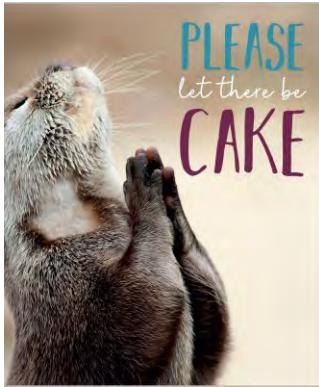
Go to <https://www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/>
Applications are accepted online only Dec 15, 2021 - Mar 24, 2022

Both the BAUMC Church Involvement Scholarship and the Pay It Forward Scholarship are administered by the BAUMC Scholarship Committee Team. For further information on these scholarships, contact Carol Sherman (cwsherm@verizon.net).

JANUARY / FEBRUARY MILESTONES

Happy Birthday

01/01 - Bill Cox
01/02 - Mary Ellen Lindenmuth
01/11 - Kitty Letsch
01/11 - Joe Schruefer
01/12 - Pat Potter
01/19 - Ruth Winaker
01/22 - Mary Jane Neal
01/24 - Ed Townsley
01/25 - Edith Steiger
01/25 - Janet Zsebedics
01/28 - Jane Wahba
01/30 - Kenneth Wright



02/03 - Albert Dukes
02/04 - Dorothy Bell
02/07 - Wes Jenkins
02/11 - Bruce Middlekauff
02/20 - Ernestine Aberle
02/22 - Sandy Hainley
02/24 - Sarah Bowman
02/24 - Lynn King
02/24 - Fletcher Ward

We are pleased to celebrate the birthdays of those who are at least 80 years young!

Happy Anniversary

Sheila & Ed Beksinski, Sr - 5th anniversary on 1/1
Jeffrey & Sandy Juchs - 41th anniversary on 1/10
Jim & Gayle Stephens - 34th anniversary on 1/10
Rick & Kelly Fling, Jr. - 15th anniversary on 1/14
Rick & Phyllis Reid - 53th anniversary on 1/18
Mark & Victoria Rinehart - 14th anniversary on 1/18
Ron & Pat Ballard - 48th anniversary on 1/19
Dean & Verna Brubaker - 21th anniversary on 1/20
Mark & Fran Downes - 27th anniversary on 1/21
Tom & Rhonda Little - 28th anniversary on 1/22
Maurice & Anne Miller - 27th anniversary on 2/5
Chip Breighner, Jr. & Donna Schadt - 16th anniversary on 2/11
Dave & Sharon Hammerbacher - 50th anniversary on 2/12
Dave & Debbie Panowitz - 46th anniversary on 2/14
Cliff & Gale Steg - 43th anniversary on 2/15
George & Deborah Gill - 3th anniversary on 2/16
Joseph & Mary Jane Ciupo - 27th anniversary on 2/18
Larry & Grace Mize - 19th anniversary on 2/22
Dean & Darlene Alban - 46th anniversary on 2/28



Happy Anniversary! May you continue to love, cherish and honor one another for years to come.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JANUARY - PASS IT ON MINISTRY
Helps Harford County Residents once every 12 months with BGE or Delmarva turn off notices; Court Ordered Evictions and Security Deposits
To donate please go to
<http://bit.ly/BeAirUMCPassItOn>



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY
ZIMBABWE MEDICAL CENTER
To donate please go to
<http://bit.ly/BeAirUMCZimbabwe>

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

Volunteers in Mission (VIM)
Soup Sale - February 13 between services.
Crab and Chicken Corn



Family Food

The Maryland Food bank has implemented a new schedule for deliveries to our Neighbors in Need Ministry (Food Ministry). These changes will affect when we distribute food to the community. As of October 2021, we changed our day of serving from the 3rd Saturday to the 1st Saturday of each month.

Since New Year's Day is on the first Saturday Neighbor's in Need (family food) will be on January 8th.

Please help us get the word out to the people affected by these changes. Any questions contact me at food.services@baumc.com.

Manna House

Volunteers needed to help serve guests a meal from 9am-1pm
If you can help, contact Greg - food.services@baumc.com

Manna House is happy to announce that we are now serving meals.

Doors open at 10:30 am. Meals served from 11:30 am - 12:45 pm.
Manna House is in need of plastic grocery bags.

Furniture donations/requests are no longer accepted at the church. Please call Found in Faith at 443-519-2464.

The Pass It On (Financial Assistance) Ministry volunteers are working remotely on Mondays from 9am to 12 noon. Volunteers will be available by phone during that time; voicemail messages are responded to on Monday mornings and e-mails are checked on a regular basis. To apply, please go to the church website: www.belairumc.org. The Pass It On phone number is 410-838-0235.

The Lightner Library volunteers are available on Wednesday from 12 noon - 3 pm and Thursdays from 9am - 12 noon. We look forward to seeing our library patrons.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

CREATION CARE NEWS:

UM Bishops Pledge to Address Climate Crisis

In an article written by Heather Hahn of UM News (Nov. 10, 2021), "...the bishops approved five responses to the climate crisis that is increasing the severity of natural disasters around the world and contributing to record global migration."

The bishops pledged to:

- Encourage and support action on climate change at the annual conference level, including support for moving toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- Review the Council of Bishops 2009 document ***“God’s Renewed Creation”*** (<http://hopeandaction.org/main/take-action/>) to determine how to best address the intersection of climate change, poverty, racism and colonialism.
- Encourage the use of the **United Methodist Board of Church and Society website** (<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/take-action/tell-congress-to-make-climate-justice-a-priority>) to sign onto letters related to climate justice.
- Join the denomination’s 13 general agencies’ pledge **to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 across ministries, facilities, operations and investments.** (<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/agencies-set-greenhouse-gas-emissions-goal>)



Reaffirm the denomination’s **Social Principle on Global Climate Stewardship** (<https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/the-natural-world-160/the-natural-world-global-climate-stewardship-160-d>) as an ongoing commitment. The Social Principle, approved by General Conference, supports government efforts to mandate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The bishops’ pledge described climate change “as an existential crisis the Church cannot ignore.”

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishops-take-on-climate-finances-vaccines>

Furthermore, **the Baltimore-Washington Conference recently established two new resolutions in favor of Creation Care.**

- Creating A Green Baltimore-Washington Conference
- Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Please see the link for the details of each resolution that commits to "...save all of God's creation, including the children of God around the planet who are most in danger of results of climate change."

<https://www.bwcumc.org/about/how-we-are-organized/annual-conference/2021-annual-conference-resolutions/>

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022



DivorceCare Program – Spring 2022

BAUMC will host the Spring session of DivorceCare from January 26 through April 27, 6:30-9:00 pm, in Room 115. DivorceCare is a video-based divorce recovery program and support group open to anyone from our church or community undergoing divorce or the associated recovery process. New participants are welcome to join at any time throughout the session. The only cost is \$20 for the workbook.

For additional details, go to the Bel Air United Methodist Church “Find a Group” listing on the DivorceCare web site (www.divorcecare.org) and click on the “More Info” button. This will show details such as our weekly schedule, along with links for registering or for e-mailing questions to the group leader.



Creation Care Winter Walk

Sunday, January 23

Marshy Point Nature Center (Middle River)

meet at 10:30 am at the church to carpool (or meet at Marshy Point Nature Center at 11:15 am)

Join members of the Creation Care Team as we marvel at the peace and beauty of nature in winter. All ages welcome. Easy, flat trails. (Rain/snow date: Feb. 6) For more info or to register, contact Cheryl Firth at cherylfirth@gmail.com.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The intent of this policy is to ensure the safety of BAUMC's guests, visitors, members, volunteers and staff and to provide for effective communications regarding programs and activities during severe or hazardous weather.

Monday – Friday Weekdays:

If Harford County Public Schools are closed all day due to inclement weather, all church programs and activities will be canceled.

If there is a school opening delay, all church programs and activities scheduled during the delay will be canceled. Any programs scheduled after the delay will be held as planned.

Evenings and Weekends:

In the event schools close early or cancel weekday evening activities, please check the BAUMC website, FaceBook page or call the office for the latest information.

For weekend activities, please check the BAUMC website or FaceBook page for the latest information.

Sunday Worship Services:

Sunday worship services are generally not cancelled, however, in the event of severe weather, please check the BAUMC website or FaceBook page for the latest information.

Ways to Stay informed:

The fastest way to get weather closing information is through social media sites and by opting in our texting service. **Text weather to 410-210-4363 to opt in to our texting service.**

Check Bel Air UMC social media sites, Facebook or www.belairumc.org for the most current updates on church. (If you have Facebook, “like” us and “follow” us to get the most up-to-date information.)

In some cases, emergency messages such as weather closings will be broadcast through phone texts. Because of high volume of traffic through phone carriers, these messages are often delayed. Therefore, we encourage you to check social media sites and websites for the most updated information.

You can also go to <http://www.wbaltv.com/weather/closings>.



IT'S OK TO ASK FOR HELP

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



SENIOR FOOD

**Help deliver food to our Seniors in need.
We are in need of regular & substitute drivers
(one day a month for a few hours).
If you can help, please contact
Jamey 443-243-5578**



SUNDAY COUNTER

Would you like to help count the Sunday service offerings? We are looking to build counting teams as soon as possible. If you are able to help, please contact Meg Kolarik kolarikm@baumc.com



CHRISTMAS CARD RECYCLING

The Harford County Office of Recycling has restarted their program for recycling holiday cards. If you have used or leftover cards from Christmas and the holidays, the Office of Recycling would love to use them AGAIN! They will be used for children's workshops throughout Harford County and at the Harford County Farm Fair next summer. Cards can be placed in the plastic bin at the Welcome & Information Center.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

THE TOY WORKSHOP WAS HAPPY TO BE BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR.

Thank you to all who donated, helped at the workshop and delivered the toys. We served 88 adopt-a-child children, many schools, 2 Head Start programs, Social Services, the 2 Judy Centers, Sarc, Harford County Infants and Toddler, Tiny Tots adopt-a-child, a church in Churchville and Extreme Outreach in Edgewood. Your toys and gifts helped give toys to the children and were a blessing to parents, teachers and others who are trying to share the joy at Christmas.

THE TOY WORKSHOP WAS STILL ACTIVE IN 2020

- * We sent toys to a Baltimore church in a very needy area -- and later sent boxes of books. The pastor of this church is Donna Browning's brother-in-law and her sister is very active there.
- * In a foster care program in Baltimore, Katherine (Ziegler) Heinz made up a box for each child and delivered them just as all was to shut down last year.. Toys were safe because they were in the pod or in our homes. The plan was to save the foster care parents from having to spend their money or being exposed to COVID, and to give the children some extra activities during the shutdown.
- * Books were given to schools/teachers who needed books on certain levels.
- * A high school Red Cross Club at Eastern Neck High used our small book and stuffed animals to add to the making of 120 Comfort Kits to be given out when needed. The club/kits were organized by Amy Heinz and were recently sent to Afghanistan.
- * Toys were given to foster care children when they were in the hospital.



**Join us as we break bread
together, building trust and
connecting across racial lines**

Hosted by the Racial Justice Family
of Harford County.

March 8, March 22, April 5 and April 26
6:30-8pm

Bel Air UMC, 21 Linwood Ave, Bel Air, MD
21014

To Register:
<https://bit.ly/PeoplesSupper2022> or text
"PeopleSup" to 410-210-4363

Questions: Contact Beth at
harfordpeoplessupper@gmail.com

Free Will Offering

NEWS ABOUT THE HOMESTEAD

We want to thank everyone who attended, either in-person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom, the informational meeting held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 regarding the proposed sale of The Homestead property. The purpose of this update is to summarize some of the information presented and discussed at that meeting, and to give everyone the opportunity to continue to consider and pray about this important decision.



On May 10, 2021, The Homestead Sub-Committee presented three primary options to the Board of Trustees, as follows:

- Option A – Sell property in two separate transactions, as four apportioned lots and The Homestead. This requires some development costs, which could be offset by the anticipated revenue.
- Option B – Demolish The Homestead and retain all land currently owned. This would be negative revenue due to the costs of demolition.
- Option C – A hybrid version that sells the four apportioned lots and uses the revenue to demolish The Homestead and retain the remaining land.

The Board of Trustees approved and forwarded the recommendation for Option A, to sell four unfinished lots to a builder/developer and then sell The Homestead house and remaining property as a family dwelling. This recommended Option A was in turn approved by the Administrative Council on May 24, 2021. Please refer to the Site Development Plan (developed by Frederick Ward Associates) to see the existing boundary and the proposed property lines.

Click <https://bit.ly/HomesteadSiteDevPlan> for the pdf file.



Following these approvals, both the District Superintendent and the District Board on Church Locations and Buildings were informed of this proposed sale of church property. The next step was to prepare a report to the District Board that addressed these questions:

- Why Bel Air United Methodist Church seeks to sell The Homestead building and property.
- What Bel Air United Methodist Church plans to do with the proceeds of the sale.

The current condition of The Homestead does not allow for its continued use, and significant investment would be required to mitigate its decline and make the property safe and usable. The proposed sale of the house and apportioning some of the property into residential lots would allow the church to retain a land buffer and parking. It would also allow The Homestead to be retained as an iconic property in the Town of Bel Air. The impact on the church would be to end the oversight and maintenance of this property that is not serving the church's ministries and to provide needed funds for capital improvements. The Board of Trustees have identified some of these pending capital projects: additional and improved storage and operational space for the Food Ministry program, replacement of roofing over the Sanctuary and the administrative wing, replacement of carpeting in both McComas Hall and the Sanctuary, and enhancement of the equipment used for worship experiences and livestreaming services.

We still do not have a confirmed date for holding the Church Conference to conduct the congregational vote on this motion: To approve Option A for the sale of four apportioned lots and the remaining Homestead property, in two separate transactions.

In the meantime, please take the time to review the Site Development Plan. Due to many questions asked at the informational meeting, additional information about our Champion Trees is also provided. <https://bit.ly/BAUMCChampTrees> Since the identification and mapping of these trees by Matthew Yamagata of Boy Scout Troop 777, we have unfortunately lost Tree #4, the Boxelder Maple Tree. Keeping The Homestead property on about 3 acres will protect the majority of the trees.

Finally, we have attempted to address many of the questions asked during the meeting. See the attached list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). <https://bit.ly/FAQsHomestead>. We will continue to be available to discuss the pending sale of The Homestead and answer any additional questions that you may have. Please reach out to John Caspero at 410-236-1203 or jfcaspero3@gmail.com or Doug McCorkle at 410-937-6283 or doug.mccorkle@outlook.com.





BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVE AS JESUS LOVES

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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 wolf@baumc.com. **E-spire articles are due by 12 noon on Thursdays.** **E-mail to carmenc@baumc.com**

CONFERENCE STAFF

Bishop - Rev. LaTrelle Miller Easterling
District Superintendent - Rev. Ann Laprade

BEL AIR UMC STAFF

Lead Pastor - Rev. Byron E. Brought
Associate Pastor - Rev. L. Lynn Boyd
Director of Children & Family Ministries -
Rev. Deb Lampton
Director of Youth Ministry - Ashley Sanders
Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director -
David Tramontana
Church Administrator - Tony Ciampaglio
Bookkeeper - Meg Kolarik
Administrative Specialist - Lisa Wong Wolf
Administrative/Congregational Care Asst. -
Cheryl Carmen
Facilities & Maintenance Manager - Rick
Schulte
Hospitality Coordinator - Alice Archer
aaarcher@comcast.net
Wedding Coordinator - Cheryl Firth

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

SUBMISSIONS FOR DECEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in **MARCH'S** edition of the SPIRE? Send them to wolf@baumc.com and carmenc@baumc.com by **12 noon, Tuesday, FEBRUARY 15TH.**

If you are receiving the Spire by mail but would like to receive the SPIRE newsletter by e-mail, please send Lisa Wolf your e-mail address to wolf@baumc.com or visit our web-site

www.belairumc.org

and click on the **red** tab on the left labeled "SPIRE Newsletter."

Current addressee or



Attention Blood Donors:

Those wishing to donate blood at the drive on January 10 are encouraged to sign up by calling 1-800-733-2767 or online at www.redcross.org.

Remember that signing up for Easy Pass will make the donation process faster and easier.

**Thank you.
Blood Drive Committee**