

THE SP^{IRE}RE

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



April 5th, 2026

6:45 am Outdoor Sunrise Service - Under the cross on the front lawn of the main sanctuary, or inside if it is raining. Bring a lawn chair

7 am - 9 am - Easter Breakfast in Room 202

9:15am Traditional Service in Sanctuary and online

10:15 am Contemporary Service in McComas Hall and online

2 pm - Mt Carmel Worship

Pastor's Message

Dear friends,

After church on April 19th, I'll head to the airport to begin my pilgrimage. It's called the Via Francigena, which means "the way through France." It starts at the cathedral in Canterbury and ends at the Vatican in Rome. It's roughly 2,000 km or 1,300 miles. I have no idea if my feet and legs will hold up, but that's my current plan. There will be a map outside the office for you to chart my progress. My family will meet me near the half-way point in Lausanne, Switzerland, and spend a week with me before I continue on with my pilgrimage. I will return by the end of August, and I'll be thankful for your prayers throughout. I go with our risen Christ, and plan to walk in his footsteps.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, (that's the church) we have a fun and exciting spring and summer planned. Pastors Lynn and Deb will lead most of the worship services. In addition, there will be several guest preachers coming to visit. Please see the schedule below. I know you'll have summer plans, but it would be sure nice to see you whenever possible.

I'll leave you with a blessing from the Liturgy of Hours that speaks to me,

**“Go, pilgrim, and take your place in the sun,
and your share in the dust – heart awakened, forget the ephemeral.”**

Buon Cammino, Bonne Route, and Vaya Con Dios!

Byron

In just a few weeks, Pastor Byron will be beginning his pilgrimage from England to Italy. We will be holding a prayer vigil for him during his absence, and a chart will be placed in the Narthex very soon for you to sign up for times when you will be praying for him. We encourage you to sign up for as many times that you want to pray for him. We will provide a list of Bible verses to you when you sign up that will help guide you in prayer for Pastor Byron's plans for his journey, safety, strength and courage, etc. Please take advantage of this opportunity to support Pastor Byron on this wonderful experience and show him our love through the power of prayer.

Janet Dorer
Chair, SPRC



May – August 2026 Preachers at Bel Air United Methodist Church



Rev. Dr. Lynn Boyd

Bel Air UMC
Associate Pastor



Rev. Deb Lampton

Bel Air UMC
Family Pastor



Sunday, May 3

Rev. Bill Brown

Director of Congregational
Vitality



Sunday, July 19

Rev. Dr. Jim Ditto

Retired Pastor Baltimore-
Washington Conference



Sunday, May 17

**Rev. Dr. Eliezer
Valentin-Castañón**

Reservoir District
Superintendent



Sunday, August 9

**Rev. Dr. Melissa
McDade**

Retired Pastor Baltimore-
Washington Conference



Sunday, May 31

Rev. Byron P. Brought

Minister of Pastoral Care
Severna Park UMC



Sunday, August 16

Rev. Robin Johnson

Retired Pastor, Western North
Carolina



Sunday, July 12

Mike Moody

Asbury Theological Seminary

Lenten Evensong

Thursday, April 2 @ 7 pm with Pastor Deb
Bel Air UMC Facebook Live



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/1015ContemporaryYouTubeLink>



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

P R A Y E R

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

Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: BAUMC
To Dial In: 252 215 8782 or 301 715 8592
Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: 242531

Easter Cantata

Palm Sunday, March 29

9:15 am Service

Holy Thursday

April 2, 2026 - 7:00 pm

Hub Worship Service

Bel Air UMC with Pastor Darius Butler

Good Friday Service

12:00 pm Mt Carmel Chapel

BAUMC CHILDRENS MINISTRY IS HOSTING A FOOD LABYRINTH

Saturday, April 4th
Time: 12:00-2:00pm

We invite you to walk our labyrinth in McComas Hall this day. Along your walk feel free to place a canned/dry goods along the path. All donations will go towards the BAUMC Food Ministry, allowing us to walk on behalf of our friends and neighbors.

BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST



Congratulates

Rev. Dr. Lillian L. Boyd

FOR SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HER DISSERTATION AND EARNING THE

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Meg Kolarik is Retiring!

It is with mixed emotions that we announce that our bookkeeper, Meg Kolarik will be retiring on May 27, 2026. Her dedication and hard work have made an incredible impact here. She will be deeply missed, but her retirement is well deserved! Wishing her all the best in this next journey.



God's Blessings Meg on your retirement and thank you for your service to Bel Air UMC.

Bookkeeper Job Opportunity

Bel Air United Methodist Church has an immediate opening for a Bookkeeper. This is a non-exempt 28 hours per week, part time position, working four 7 hour days. Go to <https://belairumc.com/BookkeeperJobDescription> for more details.

If interested, please complete Bel Air UMC Employment application by going to <https://belairumc.com/EmploymentOpportunity>, and send a cover letter and resume to employment@baumc.com.

EASTER EXPEDITION

DISCOVER THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD!



BAUMC KID'S MINISTRY EASTER MORNING 9:15AM

6-7 WHATEVER SERIES BEGINS FOR OUR KIDS APRIL 12TH.
WE WILL BE GOING THROUGH PHILIPPIANS 4:8. WHATEVER!!

Bel Air United Methodist Church


VBS 2026

August 3 - 7 9am - 12 noon

Registration opens on
Easter Sunday

<https://belairumc.com/VBS>





*Tiny Tot School
Art Show &
Ice Cream Social*

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

The Tiny Tots have created a variety of artwork throughout the school year, and we are excited to share their masterpieces! Come enjoy an art gallery walk beginning in the lobby of the Armstrong building and stay to enjoy ice cream if you can.

All are welcome!



Register now for Fall
2026-2027 School Year

Back to School

Open Registration

Now Underway

Please stop by the
CCC office to pick up
a Fall Registration

Contact us at: Packet.
Children's Christian Center
704-420-8304
cc@baumc.com



Grief & Share®

Tuesdays, February 17 - May 12

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Parlor



BAUMC YOUTH
MINISTRY
6TH THRU 8TH GRADE

REIGNITE
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15-10:15AM

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY IN THE YOUTH ROOM



NO Youth Group
Easter Sunday



BAUMC YOUTH
GROUP
6TH THRU 12TH GRADE

**REIGNITING YOUTH'S
FAITH IN JESUS**

1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS

4:30-6:30 PM - IN THE YOUTH ROOM

Stay Connected

6TH THRU 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

Parents/ Guardians & Youth Members:

Make sure you are up to date with all the upcoming meetings & events taking place with our amazing Youth Ministry here at BAUMC.

Facebook: BAUMC Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Website: <https://belairumc.org/youth-ministry/>

Create a BAUMC REALM ACCOUNT: <https://belairumc.org/>

Any questions/ concerns feel free to reach out to Ms. Andrea at Sergia@baumc.com.



BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

CLASS OF 2026

Sunday, April 12th, 2026
9:15am Service

Digital Disciples

Wednesday nights w/ Ms. Andrea

-For Youth Grades 6th thru 12th-



Meeting on:
Wed. April 8th & 22nd

Zoom call - 7:30-8:00 pm



Serving as a mid week check-in including a quick Devotional, all of our youth ministry members are welcome to join the call.

Please ensure you have an active account on Realm and your email is up-to-date!

TRUTHFUL PURSUERS

Serving Up One Cup of Jesus At a time!

****FOR: 9TH-12TH GRADE ONLY****

ALL HIGH SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN MS. ANDREA AT A NEARBY COFFEE SHOP. WE WILL BE HAVING SIMPLE FELLOWSHIP WHILE TOUCHING UPON VARIOUS TOPICS SUCH AS HIGH SCHOOL, NEXT STEPS, LIFE, FAMILY, CHURCH, SPORTS, ETC.

UPCOMING GATHERING:

MONDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2026 TIME: 3:00-4:00PM

HOPE
YOU CAN
MAKE IT!

REGISTER NOW TO SEE OUR MEET UP LOCATION



YOUTH CHAOS NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH

GAMES, FOOD & FUN FELLOWSHIP

TIME: 7:30-10:30PM

MEET IN YOUTH ROOM

REGISTER NOW!

6TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

EMBRACE THE CHAOS OF THE NIGHT





**5TH GRADE
STEP-UP DATES**

Youth Ministry invites **ALL current 5th Graders**
to JOIN our
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL Class on

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH
& SUNDAY, MAY 3RD, 2026**

9:15AM- MEET IN THE YOUTH ROOM

BAUMC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE!



BAUMC High School Graduating Senior Scholarship

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 2026. 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, and donations from members and friends of BAUMC fund the scholarships awarded each spring.

TO APPLY:

[HTTPS://BELAIRUMC.ORG/COLLEGE-SCHOLARSHIP-OPPORTUNITIES/](https://belairumc.org/college-scholarship-opportunities/)
QUESTIONS: [INFO@BAUMC.COM](mailto:info@baumc.com)

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.

**ALL SCHOLARSHIP MATERIALS ARE DUE BY
APRIL 23 AT 3PM**



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR APRIL BEL AIR UMC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To donate please go to

<https://belairumc.com/Give2ScholarshipFund>



Give 2 Scholarship Fund



MANNA HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

We need volunteers to serve food every Wednesday, 10 am - 12 pm

To volunteer, contact food.services@baumc.com



FAMILY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We need volunteers to help bag and distribute food on the first Saturday of each month 7:30 am - 11:30 am

To volunteer, contact food.services@baumc.com



SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We need regular & substitute drivers on the last Thursday of each month

To volunteer, contact Jamey 443-243-5578

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

We need volunteers to answer phones, greet people and help with general office work.

Monday Afternoons 12 pm - 4pm

Wednesdays & Fridays 9 am - 12pm

Wednesdays & Fridays 12pm - 4 pm

Please check your calendars to see if you can

help the church office once a week. To volunteer, contact wolf@baumc.com

PASS IT ON LEADER NEEDED

Pass-It-On Financial Assistance Ministry of Bel Air United Methodist Church helps Harford County residents with BGE or Delmarva turn-off notices.

This ministry will be available to Harford County residents only on Mondays, from 9 am - 11:30 am. In person applicants only.

Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering to lead our Pass It On Ministry.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl group meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm in Room 202.

Everyone is welcome!

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

"Please help us support our college students!! We will be collecting donations of packaged snacks and treats thru Sunday, April 12th in a bin next to the Information desk. We will be assembling the care packages the evening of Tuesday, April 14th 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 cathy.kogler@verizon.net. 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.

Do you have a student graduating from high school or college?
Please click on the link to update.

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



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

SAFETY & SECURITY MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

On behalf of the Safety & Security Ministry Team, Doug Ellington presented a congregational message during the worship services on Sunday, March 22. This message is provided below.

I appreciate the opportunity to share an important update about the safety improvements coming to our church -- improvements designed to help us care for our congregation in a deeper and more intentional way.

Last spring, our team began working on a grant application through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. After months of preparation, prayer, and planning, we were blessed to receive the grant this past August. These funds are dedicated specifically to upgrading and modernizing our closed-circuit TV cameras and access control systems – tools that help us provide a secure environment for our children, our ministries, and everyone who calls this church home.

As a church family, we know that God calls us to be good stewards of the people entrusted to our care. Safety isn't simply about equipment; it's about protecting the spaces where we worship, learn, and grow together. It's about ensuring that every person who walks into our church can do so with confidence and peace of mind. Our goal is to create an environment where ministries can flourish without distraction or concern.

To move this project forward, we invited four companies to submit proposals. After a careful and thorough review, Harford Alarm Company was selected as the contractor. Their experience, responsiveness, and understanding of our church made them the best fit for the needs of our congregation and the requirements of the grant.

The project will involve the installation of upgraded CCTV cameras, enhanced intercom systems, and improved access control measures throughout the facility. The work is scheduled to begin in April and should be completed by June. Most of the work will take place during weekday hours. I especially want to reassure our families and staff that these upgrades will not disrupt the Tiny Tots School or the Children's Christian Center. Harford Alarm will work closely with our team to ensure that all programs continue safely and uninterrupted throughout the process.

Safety in a church setting means more than monitors and locks. It's about hospitality. It's about honoring the trust our families place in us when they bring their children here. It's about creating a space where everyone—from our littlest ones to our oldest members—feels protected, valued, and free to worship without hesitation.

As we move forward, I'm reminded of Proverbs 18:10: *"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."* With God's guidance and the support of this congregation, we are working to ensure that our church remains that strong, safe place for generations to come.

On behalf of the Safety & Security Ministry Team, thank you for your support, your prayers, and your continued commitment to the well-being of our church family. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact Doug Ellington at dukedann@comcast.net.

VIM and Habitat For Humanity

First, thank you for supporting our Super Bowl Soup sale! We split \$2200 between VIM and the Habitat for Humanity Panel Build in July.



We're sending a VIM team again to Spruce Pine, NC on June 14th to the 19th. We need more team members!! We have skilled workers going, so being a "clever assistant" could be a perfect roll for you.

We will continue to repair flood damaged homes from Hurricane Helene. Last year, the owners of the home where the team replaced the floors and dry wall sent BAUMC \$300. That hasn't happened before. With the funds from you, we will buy them something they need.

So, if you're called to help these people rebuilding their lives, please contact Randy Wentzel at 443-243-7271.

Get the wonderful feeling of helping others and making a difference. Thank you!

All are welcome at the VIM/Habitat Meeting on April 12th in the Parlor. If you want more information on the Volunteers in Mission trip to Spruce Pine, NC, that will be our main topic. We also will discuss our July 4th fundraiser and Habitat for Humanity Panel Build on July 18th. We're looking forward to a meaningful summer.



Sunday, May 31, 2026

Following the Unity Service at 9:15 AM

Our volunteers are the heart and hands of
Bel Air United Methodist Church.

Please join the congregation for a
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

in McComas Hall as we give thanks for those who serve in
ministry and mission.

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 Wednesdays at noon.
E-mail to stearnk@baumc.com

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

BEL AIR UMC STAFF
 Lead Pastor - Rev. Byron E. Brought
 Associate Pastor - Rev. Dr. 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
 Interim Administration/Congregational Care Asst. - Kathy Stearn
 Hospitality Coordinator - Alice Archer (aaarcher@comcast.net)

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

Current addressee or
 Body



Join our Welcome, Care and Connect Ministry!

Do you have a welcoming spirit, the gift of empathy, a sunny disposition and a welcoming smile? If so, and you can give some of your time at least one Sunday a month, do we have a volunteer position for you!

Join our Welcome, Care and Connect team as we work to make everyone who walks through our church doors feel welcomed and loved. Our efforts will include greeting folks at the entrance doors on Sundays, identifying new guests and distributing welcome gifts to them. We'll answer questions, follow up after the visit and generally help people to love BAUMC as much as we do.

If you're not sure what to do or say, don't worry, we'll offer some training. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Leslie at jymlady@aol.com, Patti at patti4304@aol.com or Kathy at stearnk@baumc.com. We plan to go live with our Welcome, Care and Connect initiative on Sunday, April 26.

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 MAY/JUNE
 Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in the MAY/JUNE edition of the SPIRE?
 Send them to wolf@baumc.com and stearnk@baumc.com by 12 noon, Tuesday, April 20.