

THE SP^{IRE}RE

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



**34 days until World
Communion Sunday
48 days until Laity Sunday and
Fall Festival
54 days until 2026 District
Church Conference
60 days until All Saints Day
87 days until Thanksgiving
90 days until Advent
116 days until Christmas
122 days until 2027**

Pastor's Message

Hello, friends! Welcome back. Oh wait, that's me.

I'm back from my pilgrimage and looking forward to getting reconnected with all of you. Many thanks to Dr. Lynn and Pastor Deb for leading the charge while I was away. Many thanks to the office staff for handling all the matters under the sun, and then some. Many thanks for our summer preachers: Rev. Dr. Bill Brown, Rev. Dr. Eliezer Valentín-Castañón, Rev. Byron P. Brought, Mike Moody, Rev. Dr. Jim Ditto, Rev. Dr. Melissa McDade, and Rev. Robin Johnson. The family of God is overjoyed by so many different voices, and we were blessed by their presence in worship.

Also, many thanks to each of you as well for all of your prayers while I was away. I was encouraged and strengthened by the thought that you were praying for me.

On the first Sunday of September, I'll begin a sermon series based on my experiences with the pilgrimage. Here's a look into what's coming.

August 30 – Dialogue Sermon

September 6 – Pilgrimage Sermon Series – Canterbury – When God Calls!

September 13 – Wisques – St. Paul's Monastery – Hospitality, rejection of the world, wealth, and distractions

September 20 – “The Western Front” – Do we believe when Christians are nasty toward one another?

September 27 – Laon – Do we believe without miracles?

October 4 – Reims – Do we believe only when we're successful?

October 11 – Besançon to Pontarlier – Sharing

October 18 – Geneva – Getting into heaven; Salvation & Grace

October 25 – Laity Sunday

I hope you've had a wonderful summer. I hope you've had an opportunity to rest, and I hope that we all have a wonderful season of discovery and rediscovery of God in the upcoming weeks.

Blessings and peace,

Byron

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!**



**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**

Thanks to the many volunteers who participated in the 2026 Bel Air United Methodist Church Panel Build for Habitat for Humanity on our parking lot.



Please Welcome Our Administrative Assistants



Kathy Stearn

Hi, I'm Kathy. After being retired for 12 years I have returned to the working world on a part-time basis and I'm really enjoying it. When I'm not at BAUMC I am spending time with my family or crafting. Just ask; I would love to show you pictures of my 8 grandchildren and one great grandson!! I'm so happy being their Baba!



Theresa Eaton

Hi, I'm Theresa. I have worked here at Bel Air United Methodist Church since I was a teenager. I started at CCC as a substitute, then taught in my own classroom for many years. I served in the children's ministry as a Sunday School teacher and VBS Leader. My mother and I spent time caring for different ministries within the church throughout the years and even still. You could say, I've been around 😊 I am happy to join the office team as an Administrative Assistant and look forward to continuing to get to know all the wonderful people here. In my spare time I focus on my growing artistic talents and hangout with my family.

Hello all,
Bel Air United Methodist Church and the American Red Cross are hosting an upcoming blood drive.
Drive Details:
Site: Bel Air United Methodist Church
Address: 21 Linwood Ave, Bel Air, MD, 21014
Room Name: McComas Hall
Date: Mon Sept 14, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM



**What animal did Noah find hard to trust?
The cheetah!**



We are being Sheep Detectives on Sunday, September 13 as we kick off the beginning of Sunday School. Looking for fun times ahead!!!



An outreach ministry of BAUMC, Tiny Tot School offers preschool classes to help 2-5 year old children grow and thrive academically, physically, socially, and spiritually.

Limited spots remain in select classes:

- PM Pre-K 3s/4s
- Preschool Prep 2s/3s

Wishing every child and educator a blessed start to the 2026-2027 year!

tinytots@baumc.com ~ 410-838-6399 ~ tinytotsbelair.com

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



CAMP BREAKAWAY

Northbay Adventure Camp:
North East, MD 21901



Financial Assistance Available;
please reach out to Andrea Sergi: Directly.

BAUMC

Middle School Youth

2026 FALL RETREAT

SEPT 25-27, 2026

****For all students going into 6th, 7th & 8th grade this 2026-2027 academic year. ****





REGISTER TODAY!

Activites at Camp Breakaway

- Kayaking
- Beach volleyball
- Music
- Ziplining
- Rock-climbing
- Campfires
- Worship
- Small groups
- Lively group games
- Free time to forge new/ existing connections.

COST:
\$190
(Per Person)

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY

Starting back up Sunday, September 6th



REIGNITE MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

****For: 6TH - 8TH GRADERS****

9:15 - 10:15AM

Meeting Every Sunday
- Youth Room -





2026-2027

YOUTH GROUP

****For: 6TH - 12TH GRADERS****

4:30 - 6:30pm

Meets Every 1st & 3rd Sunday
- Youth Room -

Youth Ministry Members & Parents/Guardians are invited to Join Us on

Sunday, September 20th

10:30-11am or 12-12:30pm (Youth Room)

for a quick informational presentation highlighting all our upcoming events and planned activities for 2026-2027 year.

Highlighting: Youth Ministry Leaders, Communications, Retreat Info (MS & HS), BAUMC EVENTS (Fall Festival/ Christmas Parade), Casserole Cooking Nights, Sign-Ups to Serve at Church/ Future Podcasts Spotlights (beginning Jan 2027), Popcorn & Praise Movie Nights, Summer 2027 Mission Trip!!!

Lets make this year UNFORGETTABLE!

Looking forward to seeing you there!



For: 6th-12th grade students

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY



REGISTER
TODAY

COST:
\$20/ Per
Person



JOIN US FOR Paint & Praise Night

Join us for a fun PAINT NIGHT EVENT!

We will be lead by a very talented local artist & art teacher who will take us step-by-step to create a beautiful painted canvas.

Light refreshments & simple snacks will be available.

Saturday, OCTOBER 3RD
6:00-9:00PM

LOCATION: BAUMC YOUTH ROOM

TRUTHFUL PURSUERS

For: High School Students ONLY

First Meeting:
Sunday, October 11th
Time: 12:30-2:45pm

Calling all High School Students: You are most welcome to attend your very own Youth Group meeting on Sunday, October 11th. Ms. Andrea will select a local meet-up location (off BAUMC Campus) where our group will meet & discuss a variety of HOT topics such as; high school, next steps in life, family, Faith/church, sports, love/relationships, etc. Our meeting time will finish up at our Mt. Carmel Chapel as we will attend the 2pm service led by Pastor Deb.



If you are ready to take this step in your walk of faith, I look forward to seeing you at our very first meeting this October.

*Serving Up One Cup of
Jesus At a Time!*

**"My cup overflows
with your blessings."
Psalm 23:5**

BAUMC
YOUTH
MINISTRY

Karaoke

& HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 23RD

FROM:
7-10PM

6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE
-MEET IN YOUTH ROOM-



Youth Ministry Members & Parents/Guardians are invited to Join Us on
Sunday, September 20th

10:30-11am or 12-12:30pm (Youth Room)

for a quick informational presentation highlighting all our upcoming events and planned activities
for 2026-2027 year.

Highlighting: Youth Ministry Leaders, Communications, Retreat Info
(MS & HS), BAUMC EVENTS (Fall Festival/ Christmas Parade),
Casserole Cooking Nights, Sign-Ups to Serve at Church/ Future
Podcasts Spotlights (beginning Jan 2027), Popcorn & Praise Movie
Nights, Summer 2027 Mission Trip!!!
Lets make this year UNFORGETTABLE!
Looking forward to seeing you there!



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
FROM: 6-7:30PM

REGISTER
TODAY!!



CASSEROLE CREATIONS

CASSEROLES WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON:
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 9:15AM
SERVICE NEXT TO THE BAUMC WELCOME DESK**

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

Youth Ministry- Grades: 6th - 12th

PROVERBS 15:17: "BETTER IS A DINNER OF HERBS WHERE LOVE IS THAN
A STALLED OX AND HATRED WITH IT."

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY MOVIE NIGHT

All Youth Ministry
Members & their
immediate families
are welcome to join
us for a monthly
movie night!



SEPTEMBER
SOUL SURFER
(2011/ PG)



OCTOBER
GHOSTBUSTERS
(1984/PG)

REGISTER
TODAY:

First dates:
Friday, September 18th
Friday, October 9th

7:15-10:30pm

FOR: 6TH-12TH GRADERS & their Families

OCTOBER 25th IS GOING TO BE BIG!

Grounded in Love: From Worship to Community

Laity Sunday + Fall Festival | Worship • Food • Fun • Fellowship • Community

We are excited about what's happening at Bel Air UMC on Sunday, October 25th! This year we reimagined Laity Sunday and our Fall Festival and brought them together for one incredible day!

LAITY SUNDAY: GROUNDED IN LOVE

One Church. Two Worship Experiences. One Time. One Theme.

At 9:15 a.m., two worship services will happen simultaneously:

Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship - McComas Hall

Our laity will lead us in worship as we explore this year's theme, "Grounded in Love." We are thrilled to have four laity speakers sharing messages during our two services: Jim, Jen, and Steve from Bel Air UMC, along with Charles from Ames UMC. Come hear how God's love is taking root and making a difference in the lives of everyday people. After worship, grab some **coffee** and **donuts**, enjoy some fellowship, and get ready-because the celebration continues!

FALL FESTIVAL: LET'S GO CARNIVAL STYLE!

11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | FREE & OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

We've worshipped together and heard what it means to be Grounded in Love. Now it's time to live it! This year's Fall Festival has a carnival theme with games, candy, prizes, food trucks, activities for all ages, a Pet Blessing, pet treats, and more! Festival activities are FREE, and food trucks are pay as you go. And we know what some of you are wondering: "What about Willy Woo Woo?" Don't worry-Willy Woo Woo will be here too! Bring the kids. Bring your friends. Invite your neighbors. And yes, bring your pets! For everyone's safety, all pets must be leashed or safely secured.

FROM WORSHIP TO COMMUNITY

Laity Sunday reminds us that ministry belongs to all of us. At the Fall Festival, we get to put that ministry into action! We encourage each ministry to join the fun by sponsoring a carnival game or activity. It's a great way to participate, meet our neighbors, and help make the day special. **READY TO JUMP IN?** There's a place for you! Have a question, want to volunteer, or have something to contribute? Connect with:

Bob — Laity Sunday Coordinator

Andrea — Carnival Games, Tickets & Prizes

Alice — Festival Logistics

Leslie — Community Outreach & Church Communications

Meg — Donations

Pastor Lynn — Pet Blessing & Pet Activities

Whether you host a game, donate supplies, welcome our guests, help with activities, spread the word, or lend a hand behind the scenes, there's a place for you. Pick your spot. Bring your gifts. Invite someone. Join the fun!

Grounded in Love – and sharing that love with our community!!

Donut and Coffee Fellowship returns September 13th!!



Thanks Meg and crew for delicious cookies and cool drinks this summer!

Farm Fair Fun

A very dedicated group of volunteers served dinner Friday and lunch Saturday to the nearly 100 judges of the Harford Farm Fair again this year!



Welcome, Care, Connect



Do you love to smile and welcome people? Then we'd love to have you on our Welcome, Care, Connect greeting team!

If you've been looking for a fun way to serve at BAUMC and can give your time one Sunday a month, please contact the church office.

Reservoir District

Be Part of Something Special!

On Saturday, October 24, Bel Air UMC has the wonderful opportunity to welcome churches from across our district as we host the Reservoir District Church Conference. We invite Greeters and Guides of all ages to help us offer a warm Bel Air welcome! Whether you're greeting guests at the door, helping someone find a meeting room, or simply sharing a smile, you'll be one of the first faces people see. Your hospitality can help make our church feel like home from the moment our guests arrive. Volunteer shifts are available between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., so you can serve part of the day. We'll provide a brief orientation and everything you'll need to feel prepared. This is a wonderful opportunity for youth, adults, families, and friends to serve together. If you'd like to be part of our Greeters and Guides team, and would be willing to serve, please click on this link <https://belairumc.com/ChurchConferenceVolunteers> or please contact Lisa Wolf or Pastor Lynn by Monday, September 14. Let's come together to share the warmth, hospitality, and love of Christ with our neighbors from across the district!

October is... Pastor Appreciation Month!!!

**Let's show our
pastors some well
deserved
appreciation for all
they do!
Drop an uplifting
card, note, or gift in
the basket on the
Narthex podium!**



Meet and greet with the Director of the Chancel Choir for any interested members after the service on August 30th. Meet and greet and first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 27th 7:00 pm in the choir room. All rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:15 pm

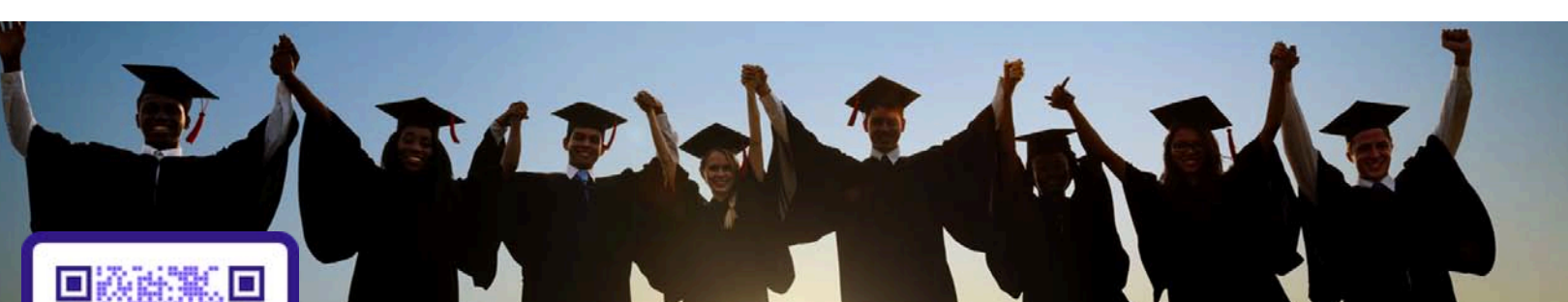
BAUMC Altar Guild!



Looking for a way to get to know your new church family?
The Altar Guild may be the answer!

We are a group of ladies who serve on teams of two or three with no particular requirements other than being mobile, willing and able to follow very simple directions (that is, everything is clearly explained, written down, even pictured) and interested in making worship at BAUMC meaningful. Of course, a desire to serve God and His people is first! Our duties require us to spend one hour or so, once every 4-5 weeks, three or so hours twice a year and an occasional meeting to connect and organize.

If you think you would like to know more and to meet these "mobile" ladies, please email Kathy Frawley at ka.frawley1@gmail.com or call 410-746-7417 for more information anytime. Hope Hear from you!



Give 2 Seminary Scholarship

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To donate please go to

<https://belairumc.com/Give2SeminaryScholarship>



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR OCTOBER CONGREGATIONAL RELIEF FUND

To donate please go to

<https://belairumc.com/Give2CongregationalRelief>



Give 2 Congregational Relief

RINGERS WANTED



Looking for a way to serve our church and make music? Handbell ringing is a fantastic way to fellowship, challenge your brain, share your gifts, and praise God! Our Adult Handbell Choir is looking for additional ringers for the upcoming season. No prior handbell experience is necessary. You don't need a degree in music – just some music-reading experience. Practices are held weekly, on Mondays. Our first rehearsal is September 14th. We typically participate in worship on the third Sunday of the month. To join or learn more, please contact Mark Miller at mmiller467@aol.com or 301-873-2351.

Let's make a joyful noise together!



Griefshare at Bel Air United Methodist Church begins in person on Tuesday, September 8th from 1:30 - 3:00 pm in the Parlor – If you are interested, please register on the Griefshare website www.griefshare.org

Lay Servant Academy: Fall Registration is Open.

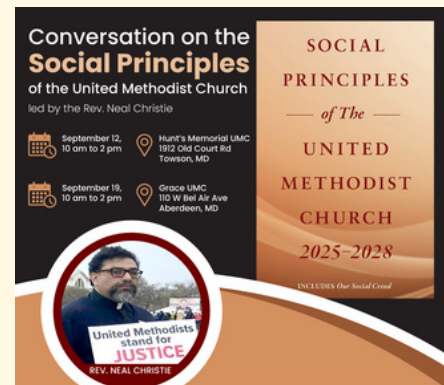
The Baltimore-Washington Conference Lay Servant Academy offers engaging courses that equip laity to lead with confidence in their churches and communities. Whether you're pursuing Lay Servant certification, continuing your education, or simply seeking to deepen your discipleship, these courses provide practical tools, biblical insight, and meaningful connections with fellow learners.

This session's offerings include:

Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course
Loving People and Planet in God's Name (Advanced Course)
Public Prayer (Advanced Course)
Called To Preach (Advanced Course)
Leading Worship (Advanced Course)
Learn more and register.



Conversation on the Social Principles



Registration now open for a Conversation on the Social Principles. Deepen your understanding of The United Methodist Church's Social Principles during a conversation led by the Rev. Neal Christie. Choose from two Saturday sessions, Sept. 12 at Hunt's Memorial UMC in Towson or Sept. 19 at Grace UMC in Aberdeen, both from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and join others in exploring how our faith informs our witness in the world. Though these are being held in the Reservoir District, this conversation is open for all to attend. Please feel encouraged to click the image to download the graphic to share with your congregations and networks.

**Get
Connected
with Your
Church
Family**



**To Sign Up for Realm please go to
<https://onrealm.org/BelAirUnitedMet/Account/Start>
or scan the QR code**



Realm Sign-Up

You Control Who and What can be Seen by Other Congregants

Just go to Setting - Privacy



Scan the QR Code to download the Connect App.

**Update your personal information
Mobile Check-In (Worship Service &/or Class)**

**Give Online - one time & /or recurring gifts
View giving history & Print giving statement
Make & Keep track of pledges**

**Download
Connect
App
Today!**



Bel Air UMC Volunteer Opportunities

**Serving - Let us know what days you are available and
what volunteer opportunity you are interested in.**

**Stay
Connected
with Your
Church
Family**



**Look up members in your group
Communicate with your groups and teams
Follow church announcements
Register for Events and make your event payment.**



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 stearnk@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

Administrative/Congregational Care Asst. - Kathy Stearn

Administrative Assistant - Theresa Eaton

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

Welcome One Homeless Shelter 2 more Volunteers Needed to Cook & Serve in September & October 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 wolfl@baumc.com.
We will have a support staff for volunteers who are volunteering for the first time.

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 November

Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in the November edition of the SPIRE?

Send them to wolfl@baumc.com and stearnk@baumc.com by 12 noon,
Monday, October 19th

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.