

THE SPIRE

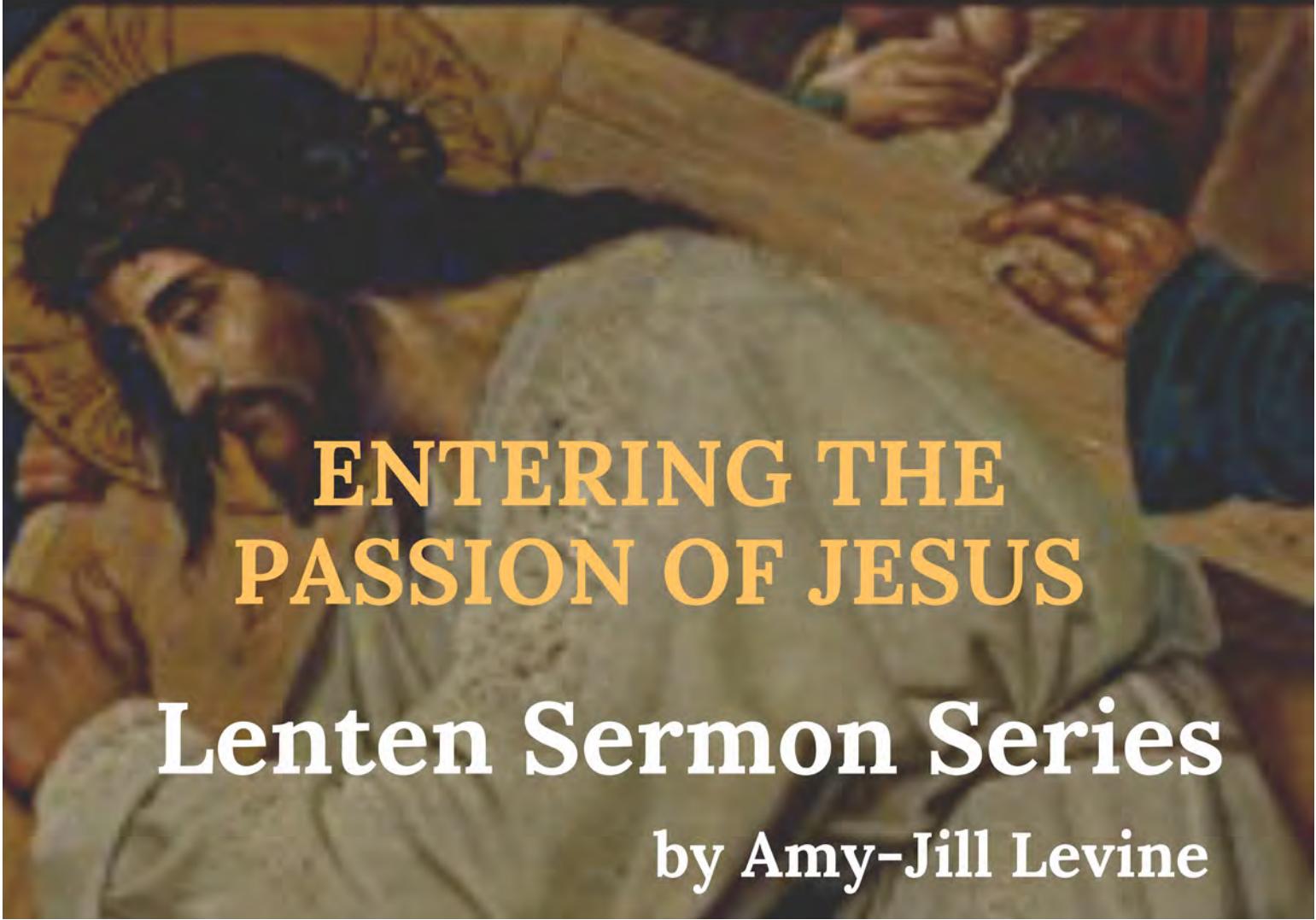


BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

A painting of Jesus carrying the cross, shown from the side, looking down with a weary expression. The background is dark and textured.

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS

Lenten Sermon Series

by Amy-Jill Levine

Dear Friends: You're invited to come join us as we celebrate a holy season of Lent. Our sermon series for the six weeks of Lent will follow a book called, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, by Jewish scholar, Amy-Jill Levine. What can Christians learn about Jesus from someone who's Jewish? Quite a lot; and in the words of Jesus himself, "Come and see!"

In addition to our Sunday morning sermon series, we're also inviting you to come to weekly gatherings on Thursday nights for "Soup and Study," where we can discuss these themes more in depth.

One of the unique features of the book is that it begins where Lent typically ends. It begins with Palm Sunday, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Then, over the rest of the Lenten season, the book will explore this final week of Jesus' earthly life. Books are not required, but they will certainly be helpful. They can be ordered through Amazon, or Christianbook.com, or Cokesbury. We'll also have a small order here in the church office.

MARCH 2022

Lenten Soup & Study

*Thursdays, March 3 - April 7th
5:30 pm - 6 pm Soup and Bread
6 pm - 7 pm Lenten Study*



Please indicate if you might be interested by going to <https://bit.ly/BelAirUMCLentenSoupandStudy> and registering. We need a count for the amount of food

Questions, please contact Pastor Deb lamptond@baumc.com

Lenten Soup & Study – Thursdays in Lent – Begins Thursday, March 3rd

Join us each Thursday evening in Lent (March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7) for soup, singing and discussion. As a church family we will gather in McComas Hall at 5:30-6:00 for soup & bread (and a cookie; sshhh).

We will have a time of musical worship, then study together. Our babies through elementary will go to fun and adventurous classes during the study portion. We'll conclude by 7 p.m. so that our young friends can be home in time for bedtime rituals.

The soup du jour will be published the week before so the decision can be made to eat. For example, Split Pea Soup? Nope; not on the menu. Or you may also stop at Chick-fil-A, or another fine-dining restaurant and bring your own to eat and fellowship with your Church Family. We will be studying from the book of our sermon series, "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by Amy Jill Levine – a chance to ask questions, make friends and gather with a meal.

The Thursday evening gatherings will take the place of an Ash Wednesday service, however, drive-thru ashes will be available on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, from 12:00-1:00 PM, and the sanctuary will be open for prayer, and ashes available, from 7:00-8:00 PM.

MARCH 2022

EVENSONG

THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM
BAUMC FACEBOOK LIVE

A SPECIAL TIME OF REST FROM OUR
DAY AND WEEK. A TIME TO PRAY
AND RELAX IN GOD'S PRESENCE

BAUMC 2022 Lent Challenge

MARCH

2	Gather	17	Poor
3	Entry	18	Greatest
4	Belong	19	Trap
5	Coming	20	Celebrate
6	Celebrate	21	Love
7	House	22	Service
8	Anger	23	Rejected
9	Stop	24	Anoint
10	Teach	25	Fragrance
11	Temple	26	Gift
12	Marketplace	27	Celebrate
13	Celebrate	28	Feast
14	Treasure	29	Bread
15	Sacrifice	30	Together
16	Precious	31	Surround

APRIL

1	Kindness	10	Celebrate
2	Friends	11	Passion
3	Celebrate	12	Belong
4	Waiting	13	Betrayal
5	Removed	14	Humble
6	Silence	15	Why
7	Faithful	16	Rest
8	Rested	17	Celebrate
9	Prayer		

For each day, take a photo or create a work of art inspired by the day's word, look up a scripture verse relating to or using the word, or simply talk about the word with your family and friends!

Send photos of your creativity to info@baumc.com for us to share.

Finance Update



From time-to-time, folks ask me how we're doing financially. My go-to answer is usually, "We're doing ok." What does doing ok mean? It means that there is always some room for improvement. One of the highlights in recent years has been that we've seen an increase in the number of people who are actively pledging, and actively giving. Through the pandemic, we've also continued to fund 100% of our staff salaries, 100% of our Missions and Ministries, and 100% of our mission shares to the Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission Center. Those mission shares go to support retired pastors, missions around the world, and administrative costs at the mission center. All this is wonderful news.

One of the areas of concern is that in recent years, our overall giving has been declining. Here's a brief summary.

2018 – We finished with a surplus of funds.

2019 – We finished the year by reaching into our surplus funds.

2020 – We received PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) "loan," which allowed us to finish "In the black."

2021 – We again received a PPP "loan," which allowed us to finish "In the black."

Those government "loans" were actually gifts, which do not need to be paid back. Without the recent help from these government loans, we would have come up short meeting our financial goals. How short? This past year, approximately \$38K. What does this mean? It means that we are beginning the conversation about making cuts to the budget in 2022 and possibly beyond.

While this can be discouraging, we are by no means discouraged. I believe in our church mission: **"Love God, Love One Another, and Make Disciples for Jesus Christ."** I believe in our church vision, to: **"Love As Jesus Loves!"** I believe that God is with us. I believe that God is behind us, and I believe that God is absolutely not done with us yet. God has been faithful to us, and we are faithful to God in return. For those of you who have remained faithful to God through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness, I can't begin to thank you enough, and I can't begin to tell you how inspiring this is for me. Faithfulness inspires me to be a better person and a better Christian!

To the God, who takes two fish and five loaves and feeds 5,000+, thanks be to you, O LORD. To the God, who will multiplies the work of our hands, and our feet, and our hearts, and our lives... thanks be to you, O LORD. 2022 will be a good year!

Grace and Peace,
Byron

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES



VBS is all about FOOD! The daily bread that God provides!

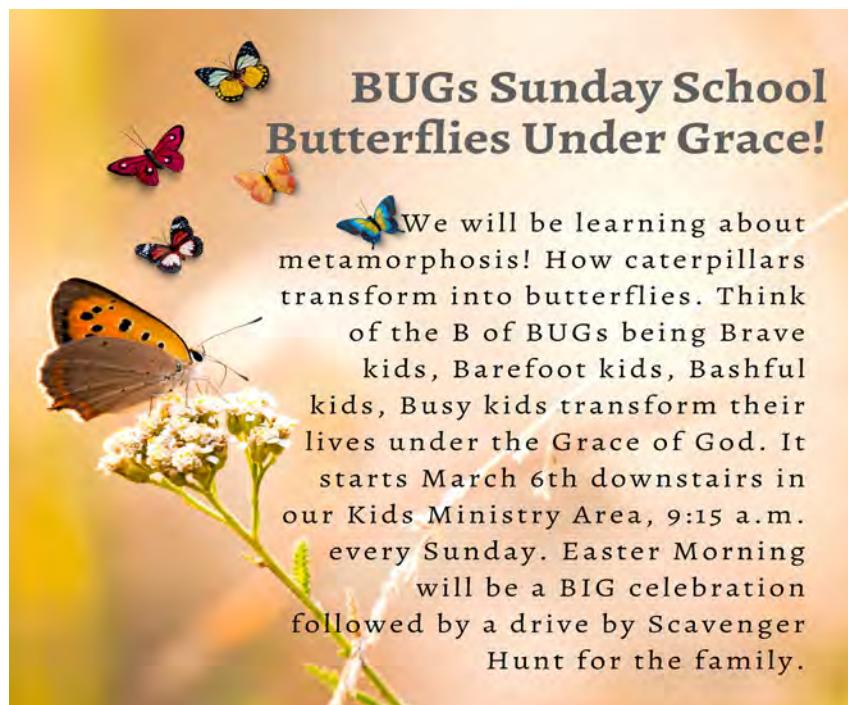
God Is Great!
God Is Good!
Let Us Thank God For Our Food!
By God's Hands We All Are Fed!
Give Us, Lord, Our Daily Bread!

God provides Manna and Quail
Elijah and the Endless Oil
Daniel & Friends Eating the Good Stuff
Jesus Feeds The 5,000 Plus
Jesus Cooks the Catch of the Day

Your Family will gather at our "Dining Table" in the Parking Lot. There will be a Food Truck on Monday (you will pay for what you want for your family). Tuesday through Thursday we will provide dinner in Food Truck Style (Free). Friday is for EVERYONE (friends, the whole church, extended family etc.) Once again, you will pay for what you want. Food will be served from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Now we are calling this a FAMILY VBS. Thus, you don't drop off your 10 children and go have coffee. There will be special things for the adults. Also, we will have Line Cooks (crew leaders) that will accompany several families. We will be outside for our activities. Let's Roll!

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

Confirmation

Sundays, 4:30 pm - 6 pm - Youth Center



Check out a video showing some of our events from our February Winter Olympics

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CZrWnhvrKe9/>





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 is available on Bel Air UMC web-site <https://belairumc.org/college-scholarship-opportunities/>

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 (cwsheym@verizon.net).

MARCH 2022

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



“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.

Prayer Team



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

HELLO FROM THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

OUR MINISTRY GROUP MEETS THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 1:00 IN ROOM 202. WE WORK TO PROVIDE PRAYER SHAWLS, COMFORT BLANKETS, PRAYER SQUARES, AND POCKET PRAYER SQUARES, TO THOSE IN NEED IN OUR CONGREGATION OR FROM THE COMMUNITY. THEY ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND OFFERED TO ANY AND ALL WANTING TO BE PRAYED FOR AND REMINDED OF GOD'S LOVE AND CARE. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US AT ONE OF OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS. EVERYONE IS INVITED- BEGINNERS TO KNITTING AND CROCHETING, AS WELL AS THOSE WANTING TO LEARN OR REFRESH THEIR SKILLS. WHY NOT TRY A NEW HOBBY, AS YOU HELP THOSE IN NEED OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND PRAYERS. OUR MEETINGS INCLUDE PRAYER, AN INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE, TIME TO WORK AND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL CATHY BOWDEN AT:

CATBOWDEN@COMCAST.NET. THANKS.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS SPRING FORWARD

March 13

Daylight Savings Time Begins. Turn your clock ahead
1 hour before retiring on Saturday night.

MARCH MILESTONES

Happy Birthday

03/02 - Dottie G
03/05 - Barbara Wooddell
03/06 - Bertha Walker
03/09 - Garner Jones
03/09 - Jack Bowman
03/10 - Bobbie Whitlock
03/11 - Jean Hightower
03/15 - Art Benson



03/15 - Glenys Rigney
03/18 - Jennie Garrison
03/20 - Warren Pardo
03/21 - Les Goodwin
03/24 - Jean Moore
03/26 - Lee Lederer
03/26 - Sue Rouzer

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

Happy Anniversary

Art & Gloria Benson Sr - 60th anniversary on 3/3
Rusty & Linda Hawes – 32nd anniversary on 3/3
Steve & Tara Sams - 10th anniversary on 3/3
Dave & Jory Fisher – 23rd anniversary on 3/5
Dick & Sally Moen - 56th anniversary on 3/5
Isaya & Michelle Mutombo - 12th anniversary on 3/6
Jim & Stephanie Shrake - 30th anniversary on 3/6
Dean & Debbie Mayer - 37th anniversary on 3/9
Jeff & Katie Tracey - 9th anniversary on 3/9
Wayne & Mollie Goddard – 21st anniversary on 3/10
Doug & Amy Pratt – 33rd anniversary on 3/11
Mike & Lisa Rogers - 27th anniversary on 3/11
Butch & Sharon Langenfelder – 33rd anniversary on 3/12
Demetrius & Jane Anderson - 35th anniversary on 3/13
Steve & Dana Kraus - 40th anniversary on 3/14
Al & Ila Dukes - 50th anniversary on 3/18
Eric & Peggy Schumann Sr - 58th anniversary on 3/21
Geordy & Heather Rupprecht, III – 31st anniversary on 3/23
Bill & Pat Thal - 49th anniversary on 3/24
John & Beth Happick - 44th anniversary on 3/25



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

MARCH 2022



**SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MARCH
NEIGHBORS IN NEED**
To donate please go to
[http://bit.ly/BAUMCGive2FamilyFood-
NeighborsInNeed](http://bit.ly/BAUMCGive2FamilyFood-NeighborsInNeed)



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



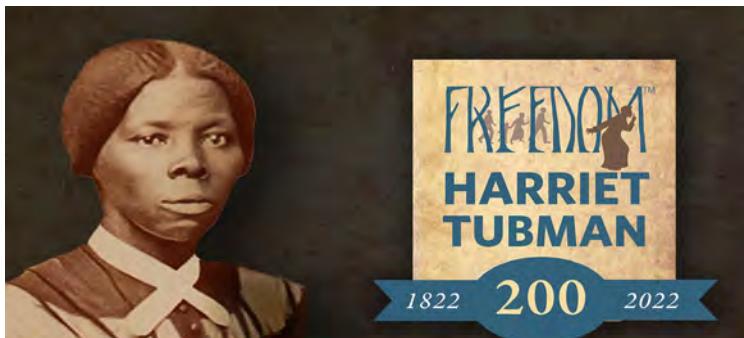
SUNDAY COUNTER

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



FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE

Family Food Distribution is Saturday, March 5th and Saturday, April 2nd 9 am - 11:45am
Volunteers 7:30 am to 12 pm
New volunteers please contact Greg at food.services@baumc.com



Railroad from Cambridge to Denton, Maryland.

A stop at the Harriet Tubman Museum and Visitor Center will enhance the tour and engage in the bicentennial celebration of this historic woman who is often referred to as Black Moses for helping many slaves escape to freedom. Read more at <https://harriettubmanbyway.org/>

Join us on the church bus or follow in a car caravan either as a driver or passenger. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Ministry Team. Contact Beth at bhappick@gmail.com or Bev at bev.talbot@verizon.net to register & learn more.

Underground Railroad Road Trip Saturday, March 19, 8AM -5PM

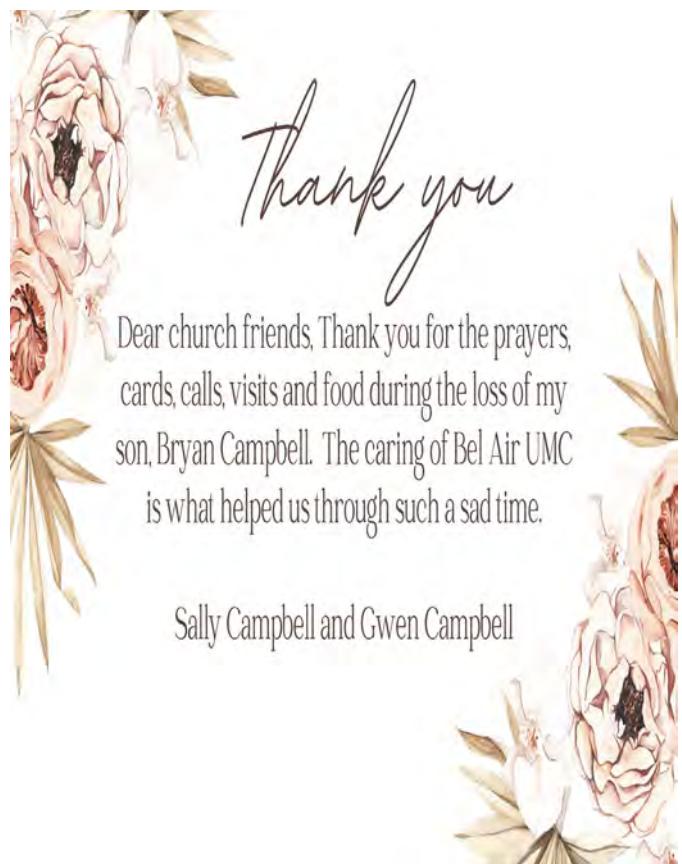
The Harriet Tubman Byway is a driving tour that winds through beautiful landscapes and waterscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore and Delaware. Our trip will visit historically significant sites related to the Underground



Over the past two years there has been a significant amount of work considering the future of The Homestead house and property. On February 7, a Church Conference was held at 6:30 p.m. to present to the congregation the findings and recommendations of the Board of Trustees and Administrative Council. Following the presentation and discussion there was a vote taken and approved to sell the Homestead and surrounding property, additionally apportioning four building lots at the far corner of the property.

The meeting was held under a unique situation due to COVID, but enabled through technology. The Baltimore Washington Conference District Superintendent, Rev. Ann LePrade presided over and facilitated the meeting via zoom. Our membership attended both live in the sanctuary and through zoom, with in person and virtual voting occurring to tally the vote.

While a lot of work has occurred leading up to this point, we now will embark on the process to prepare the property for sale including relocating storage sites. It is expected to take three to four months before the property is put up for sale.





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: broughtba@baumc.com)

Current addressee or

<<LA_LABEL_NAME>>
<<AD_COMPANY>>
<<AD_ADDRESS_1>>
<<AD_ADDRESS_2>>
<<AD_CITY>>, <<AD_STATE>> <<AD_ZIP_5>>



SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL's NEWSLETTER

Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in **APRIL'S** edition of the SPIRE? Send them to wolf@baumc.com and carmenc@baumc.com by **12 noon, Tuesday, MARCH 22nd**.



IT'S OK TO ASK FOR HELP

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

Attention Blood Drive Donors

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.

March 14 :30 AM to 8 PM McComas Hall