

July / August 2023

THE SPiRE



BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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



***BEL AIR UMC INVITES YOU
TO WATCH THE JULY 4TH
PARADE FROM OUR LAWN!
BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
21 LINWOOD AVE***

***FREE COMMUNITY EVENT BEGINS AT 3:30PM
GIVEAWAYS, CRAFTS, GAMES, FOOD TRUCKS AND
MORE!***

FOR MORE INFORMATION: BELAIRUMC.ORG



Can you sing, or play an instrument or lead a choral group? Please consider sharing some special music at our 9:15 am worship service in July and August. Contact Dave Tramontana at tramontanad@baumc.com. We appreciate you; thank you.



Bel Air UMC will be providing school supplies to low-income families in Harford County. We will be collecting school supplies in a marked bin by McComas and Armstrong Entrance through August 20th. If you prefer, you can donate \$10.00 for the purchase of a bundle school kit. The kits are:

- Elementary School Kit which includes a 15" back pack, pencil case, pencil sharpener, glue stick, crayons, eraser and (6) #2 pencils
- Middle/High School Kit which includes a 17" back pack, pencil pouch, (2) yellow highlighters, (5) blue and black pens, eraser and (6) #2 pencils

To donate please go to

<https://belairumc.com/Give2FamilyFood-NeighborsInNeed>

with a notation in the memo line that reads "School Supplies".



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=U3J4WU5tZHhvNytHV1J4Ym5FNjJlQT09>

Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: BAUMC

To Dial In: 253 215 8782 or 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: 242531

Summer Fellowship at the Welcome Desk

Sunday Morning Fellowship Team will be serving cookies & lemonade at the Welcome Area on Sunday from 10-11:00 am.

We invite you to please bring your own coffee and feel welcome to bring it to worship.

C4 Kids Ministry

Sunday School is taking a break for the Summer

BAUMC Kid's Ministry wants to stay in touch this summer!
We have the following events scheduled:

Sunday, July 16th, WATER DAY!

Games with water, sprinklers with water,
snacks with water, fun with water, cool off
with water, laugh with friends in water!
Bring bathing suits and towels.



Vacation Bible School

July 24 - 27; 9 am - 12 Noon

STELLAR!!!



Registration for Vacation Bible School has begun!
Please go to belairumc.com/VBS to register
or use the QR code



Family Picnic

Sunday, August 20th - 10:45am

You bring a side dish; we provide chicken
and hot dogs.

Family games and fellowship!

Bring your family and food at 10:45 am to room 101
and we will start the festivities at 11:00 am.



Sunday School resumes at 9:15 am on September 10th

Youth Summer Events

College and Senior High Summer Study – Sunday evenings 7-8 pm, July 9 & 23, and August 6 & 13. Location to be determined.

Please reach out to Pastor Byron if you'd like to come

broughtb@baumc.com.



July

Tuesday, July 4

3:30-6pm

Attend our Community
Event!



August

Sunday, August 20

4:30-6pm

Meet at Churchville Golf
\$6 per person (pay on site)
Bring extra \$ for Arctic Circle
Ice Cream after golfing!



Sunday, July 9

10:30am-5:30pm

Guppy Gulch

\$27 per person

*Deadline to sign-up is July

3



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Follow us on Instagram @baumc_youth

Facebook: BAUMC Youth Ministry

Text "YOUTH" to 410-210-4363 for
updates

Email info@baumc.com

July / August 2023

Unlocking the Power of Realm

If you would like to create an account, please contact Lisa Wolf at wolf@baumc.com with your e-mail address.

Once you receive an invitation, you can create an account to Realm.

To sign in please go to <https://onrealm.org/BelAirUnitedMet> or scan the Qr Code

Concerned about your privacy? You control who and what can be seen by other congregants. Just go to the Setting - Privacy.

Download Connect App today



Update your personal information
Look up members in your group
Communicate with groups & teams
Follow church announcements
Event Registration & Payments
Mobile Check-In (Worship Service &/or Class)
Give Online - one time &/or recurring gifts
View giving history & print giving statements
Make & keep track of pledges



Is it time for a NEW Church Directory?!

YES!!

Photo Dates: September 18 - 20

2 pm - 8:30 pm in Room 202

All participating families will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and directory and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits during your photography appointment.

On-line signup dates will be announced in our summer bulletins and e-spire.



July / August 2023



**SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JULY
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

To donate please go to

<https://belairumc.com/Give2Habitat4Humanity>



**SPECIAL OFFERING FOR AUGUST
YOUTH EVENT SCHOLARSHIP**

To donate please go to

<https://belairumc.com/Give2UthEventScholarship>

Russia Outreach Committee Presentation to Ad Council Bel Air UMC - March 27, 2023

First, we would like to thank Leslie and Tom for giving us the opportunity to update you on the activities of the Russia Outreach Committee (ROC).

Next, we would like to give you a brief history of Methodism in Russia and the ROC here at Bel Air United Methodist Church (BAUMC). Methodism was established in Russia over 100 years ago. However, Communism forced the faith underground. When the Soviet Union crumbled, Methodism emerged ready to share the faith.

In 1991, The General Board of Global Ministries established a new ministry in the former Soviet Union, to be known as the Russia Initiative. The Board initiated a system whereby American congregations would adopt a specific church and provide ongoing support for it.

The Russia Initiative and the rebirth of Methodism began with five congregations in 1992. With this initiative, partnerships began between United Methodist churches in the United States and Eurasia. The countries included in the term Eurasia are Russia and Belarus. By 2002, 127 Pastors, were assigned to 110 congregations and special appointments.

In 1994, BAUMC adopted God's Field UMC, a small congregation in Moscow, Russia. The Pastor of God's Field was Rev. Feodor Droshin. Russia Outreach Committee members and interested persons from our church met and worshiped with Rev. Droshin and the congregation in Moscow in 1998, 1999, and 2001. During this time, BAUMC supplemented Rev. Droshin's salary (\$6,000 per year). This money came from our church's operating budget.

After Rev. Droshin retired in 2006, the God's Field congregation unfortunately disbanded and the ROC had to seek a new pastor and congregation to support. From 2008-2013, we funded Rev. Lev Mikhailov and the Millenium UMC, located in Oryol, Russia. Again, supplemental money for Rev. Lev's salary was provided with money from the BAUMC operating budget. In addition, money from BAUMC congregant's donations and ROC fund raisers were used to purchase property in Oryol on which to build the Millenium UMC. You may remember, in 2011, we hosted Rev. Lev and his wife, Nadia, here at our church. In 2008, we spent \$20,665 for this property. The property is owned by the General Board of Global Ministries Russia Initiative. Members of the ROC visited Rev. Lev, his congregation and the property in Oryol in 2010 and 2012. Unfortunately, Rev. Lev could not raise his family (wife and two children) on his pastor's salary and he left the ministry in 2013. His dream to build Millennium UMC left with him and the property has remained vacant. We have instructed Rev. Khegay, UMC Bishop for Eurasia, who we hosted at BAUMC in 2010, to sell the property and use the money to support Russia Initiative Projects.

As of 2014, the ROC has not received any money from the BAUMC operating budget. Rather we have raised funds to support our mission through donations and fund raisers (Easter Flower sales, Pentecost Geranium sale, Turkey/Roast Beef Dinners, Cookie Cupboard, Christmas Poinsettia sales, and Bus trips).

Once Rev. Lev left the ministry, the ROC needed to find a new project to support. We chose Camp Crystal. Camp Crystal is located deep in a Russian state forest outside of Voronezh on the banks of the Usmanka River. The land and buildings were once a camp for workers at a state-owned factory in nearby Voronezh. When it became available for sale in the 1990's, donations gathered by Sunday school children of German United Methodist churches enabled its purchase by the Eurasia conference. Each summer Camp Crystal offered a variety of camp programs. There was a youth camp whose purpose was to introduce campers to Christian

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discipleship, a camp for children with physical disabilities called “Camp Trinity”, an annual women’s conference, and “Tres Dias” faith renewal seminar. For several years, the ROC supported Camp Crystal by donating money for much needed building renovations and a new water filtration system. We sent teams from BAUMC to the Camp to assist with building renovations. Unfortunately, we were saddened when we learned in 2022 that the Russia Initiative could no longer maintain Camp Crystal and that it was to be sold. Since then, the ROC has been looking for new projects to support.

Since the beginning of the ROC, we have spent over \$138,000 on our support of the Russia Initiative. Currently, we have a balance of \$46,739.00. We have provided copies of our most recent committee minutes and financial spreadsheet to Meg Kolarik, Leah Clague, and Janet Dorer.

The Russia Outreach Committee met on February 23, 2023, to decide how to obligate the remaining funds. After reviewing viable Russia projects, the committee decided to send \$10,000 each to the following three Advance projects:

1. Moscow Seminary – Scholarship and Academic Support. Advance #12174A

The Russia UMC Seminary was founded in 1995 and the first group graduated in 1998, having studied in a two-room second floor seminary space in Moscow. The current Seminary building and a former kindergarten building was purchased in 1999. You should know that BAUMC contributed \$10,000 toward the renovation of that building. The \$10,000 we now plan to send will provide financial support so that a student can respond to the call from God for pastoral ministry.

2. Christian Leadership for Young Adults. Advance #14278A

Young adults in Russia are often first generation Christians with little or no Christian leadership experience. If the Russian Methodist church is to make an impact within and outside the church, then congregational leadership will be essential to make this happen. The project will build on existing projects and also create new programs of practical learning that will equip young people on how Christian leaders can be serve as change agents in the church and society.

3. Publishing Christian Literature. Advance #14275A

This project focuses on translating and adapting UMC written resources from English to Russian. There are only a few Christian publishers currently in Russia. The people in Russian Methodist churches need good quality Christian books and materials that will help them study the Bible, teach Sunday school classes and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

In addition, the ROC unanimously agreed to send \$10,000 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for Ukraine. This will provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people.

The ROC members agreed that the remainder of the ROC money (\$6,739.00) should be returned to BAUMC for use, as needed. This money will be donated back to our church in memory of those ROC members who have passed away. These members include Joe Boone, John Packard, Sharon and Dave Arnett, Wanda Meredith, Gloria Baker, and Elsie Kaste.

Since the inception of the ROC, we have had a number of members. These members have all had a significant impact on the growth of the Russian Methodist Church. And, equally, we all have had experiences with our

Russia Outreach Committee Presentation to Ad Council Bel Air UMC - March 27, 2023

Russian Methodist brothers and sisters that have given us lasting memories of the power of God's love and grace and have enabled Methodists from Russia and the United States to cross language, cultural and spiritual differences in pursuit of forging deeper relationships. We have made many long-lasting friendships that have greatly enriched our lives.

Sadly, however, the ROC has agreed to disband the committee here at BAUMC. This decision was made after considerable prayers and discussions. This is primarily due to the decreasing number of members and the inability to attract new and younger members. This decision was not made because of the current war between Russia and Ukraine. The establishment of the ROC here at BAUMC was to help the fledgling Methodist denomination to gain a foothold in Russia. And this was right after the Cold War began to thaw. And regardless of the political situation in Russia, the Methodist Church remains and is continuing to bring Russian brothers and sisters to Christ and to Methodism. We ask for your prayers for the Russian people, especially the Russia Initiative, whose members are working so hard to keep the Methodist faith alive.

Finally, The ROC members want to express our gratitude to the pastors, staff, and congregation of our church for the spiritual, administrative, and financial support provided to our committee. We truly appreciate the support we have received over the years.

Libby Horn, Chairperson, Russia Outreach Committee
Ed Evans, Secretary, Russia Outreach Committee



Have you seen these three needlepoint tapestries that hang in Room 202?

They are of Russian buildings:

- The Cathedral of Christ the Savior (sometimes referred to as Christ the Redeemer) in Moscow. Built between 1839 and 1883, razed by the Soviets in 1931 and then reconstructed between 1995 and 2000.
- The Resurrection Gate at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.
- The Church of the Virgin of Kazan, dating from the 17th Century. Located in Kolomenskoye, a park museum in Moscow.

These tapestries were purchased in Moscow and given to Bel Air United Methodist Church by the Russian Outreach Team, following their trip to Russia in 1999. The frames were made by the late Joe Boone.



BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVE AS JESUS LOVES

21 LINWOOD AVENUE | BEL AIR, MD 21014 | 410.838.5181

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

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Bel Air, MD 21014

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 wolfi@baumc.com.

E-spire articles are due by 12 noon on Wednesdays.

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
Bookkeeper - Meg Kolarik
Administration Specialist - Lisa Wong Wolf
Administration/Congregational Care Asst. - Cheryl Carmen
Hospitality Coordinator - Alice Archer
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cherylfrith@gmail.com

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

Current addressee or

<<Label>>

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Sunset Canoe Trip

Thursday, July 27, 2023 5:45 - 8:00 pm

\$15 per person

To register:

<https://belairumc.com/SunsetCanoeTrip>

Join BAUMC's Creation Care Team for a canoe trip along Deer Creek. Enjoy the beautiful sights, sounds and inspiration of God's Creation at Eden Mill Park in northern Harford County.

No experience necessary.

For more info contact Sheryl Pedrick at sherylpedrick@hotmail.com or 410-458-4998.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm

SUBMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in **SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER** edition of the SPIRE? Send them to wolfi@baumc.com and carmenc@baumc.com by **12 noon, Tuesday, August 22nd**.

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

- Ages 6 yrs. and up
- 2 to 4 people per canoe; up to 3 adults (ages 16 yrs. & up); or 2 adults and 2 small children in middle;
- ages 6-8 years need a child to adult ratio of 1 to 1;
- ages 9-15 can have a ratio of 2 kids to 1 adult