Bel Air United Methodist Church January / February 2026

THE SPIRE

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!!!

www.belairumc.org
info@baumc.com

21 Linwood Ave Bel Air, MD 21014
410-838-5181

Pastor's Message

Is it too early to think about Lent? It is for me. I'm still in Christmas cookie mode as I put these thoughts together. It's only the middle of December, but the Spire newsletter deadline is inviting me to think ahead.

I trust that you've had a wonderful Christmas, and I pray that you have a happy and joyful New Year. As I mentioned in my sermon from last week, joy is resistance. Joy is pushing against the things of the world that are broken and refusing to participate in them or let them define us. Joy ushers in the light, when all around is darkness. We are people of joy! We are people of resistance. Goodness will overcome all wrongs.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We'll have a pancake dinner the day before. Whether you prepare for Easter with ashes, or pancake batter, or both, let us use this season as an opportunity to draw close to God, and understand more fully how we can be holier people, and how this might be a holier world. May Christ's peace dwell in our hearts.

See you soon,

Byron

Ash Wednesday
February 18

11:00 am Manna House

12 - 1 pm Drive-Thru Ashes at Linwood Circle

Ash Wednesday Service
7:30 pm

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!

PRAYER

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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper

February 17 5pm - 7pm

$10 Adult / $5 for Ages 5 -11
/ Free for Age 4 and Under

Ash Wednesday February 18

Labyrinth Walk to receive ashes in McComas Hall 7 pm

Lenten Evensong

Starting February 19 Every Thursday at 7 p.m. on BAUMC Facebook we will have a Vesper time of Prayer and Music led by Pastor Deb. May we take this time to prepare our hearts through prayer and repentance for the celebration of Easter.

January **sees** our Kid's Ministry not **seeing**

The Invisible String that connects us is Love. Twitch and the Invisible Wind will teach us about the Holy Spirit. The Invisible Leash will help us when we have to say goodbye to a pet. And we will finish with what every kid wishes they had in their closet – An Invisibility Cloak. .

You are invited to a Harry Potter Party on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 10:30 in room 101 (The Big Room).

There will be snacks, crafts, potions, games and more. We hope you will join us.

You can send an "owl" text to 504-386-3996 to let us know that you can make it.

BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Confirmation

CLASS OF 2026 - MEET & GREET

We welcome all registered confirmands, their parents/guardians & shepherds for a simple MEET & GREET on Sunday, January 11th, 2026
From: 10:30-10:45am
Location: Youth Room

Receive your calendar of events folder, additional info regarding our confirmands group trip (March), etc. This will also provide an opportunity to have any last minute questions/concerns answered before classes commence on Sunday, January 18th at 4:30pm.

BAUMC CONFIRMATION

CLASS OF 2026

Classes commence on

Sunday, January 18th, 2026

TIME: 4:30-6:30PM

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY
6TH THRU 8TH GRADE

REIGNITE MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15-10:15AM
MEET IN THE YOUTH ROOM

BAUMC YOUTH GROUP
6TH THRU 12TH GRADE

REIGNITING YOUTHS FAITH IN JESUS

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY
FROM: 4:30-6:30PM
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.

STAY A-FLOAT THIS NEW YEAR!

YOUTH GROUP WILL RECOMMENCE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 2026
TIME: 4:30-6:30PM
MEET IN THE YOUTH ROOM

THIS NIGHT WE WILL DISCUSS PERSONAL, EDUCATIONAL, EXTRA CURRICULAR & FAMILY GOALS, ETC. WHILE REFOCUSING OUR ATTENTION TO HOW JESUS CAN HELP US STAY A-FLOAT SO THAT WE MAY ACHIEVE OUR GOALS!

GRADES: 6TH-12TH

CASSEROLE CREATIONS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH FEBRUARY 12
FROM: 6-7:30PM

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

CASSEROLES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 9:15AM SERVICE BY THE WELCOME DESK

REGISTER TODAY!!

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

Youth Ministry- Grades: 6th- 12th

Casserole Creations 1/8/26

TRUTHFUL PURSUERS

Serving Up One Cup of Jesus At a time!

ALL HIGH SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN MS. ANDREA ONCE A MONTH @ 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.

FOR: 9TH-12TH GRADE ONLY

REGISTER NOW

First Meeting:
Monday, January 12, 2026
Time: 4:00-5:00pm

HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT!

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY
FAMILY ICE SKATING EVENT

ICE WORLD
1300 Governor Court
Abingdon, MD 21009

REGISTER TODAY:

DATE:
SAT., JAN 31ST, 2026 4:10-6:00PM

COST: $14/PER PERSON
SKATE RENTAL: $5/ PER PAIR
GLIDER BAR: $5/ EACH

FOR: 6TH-12TH GRADERS & THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

ICE WORLD YOUTH MIN 1/31/26

COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

FOR: 6TH THROUGH 12 GRADERS

REQUESTING ALL COOKIE BAKERS ASSISTANCE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28TH FROM 4:30-7:30PM.

MS. ANDREA WILL NEED YOUR HELP WITH ROLLING OUT COOKIE DOUGH, CUTTING AND BAKING MULTIPLE SETS OF SUGAR COOKIES FOR FUTURE FUNDRAISING.

Valentines Cookie Bake 1/28/26

IF YOU CAN HELP OUT PLEASE REGISTER TODAY!

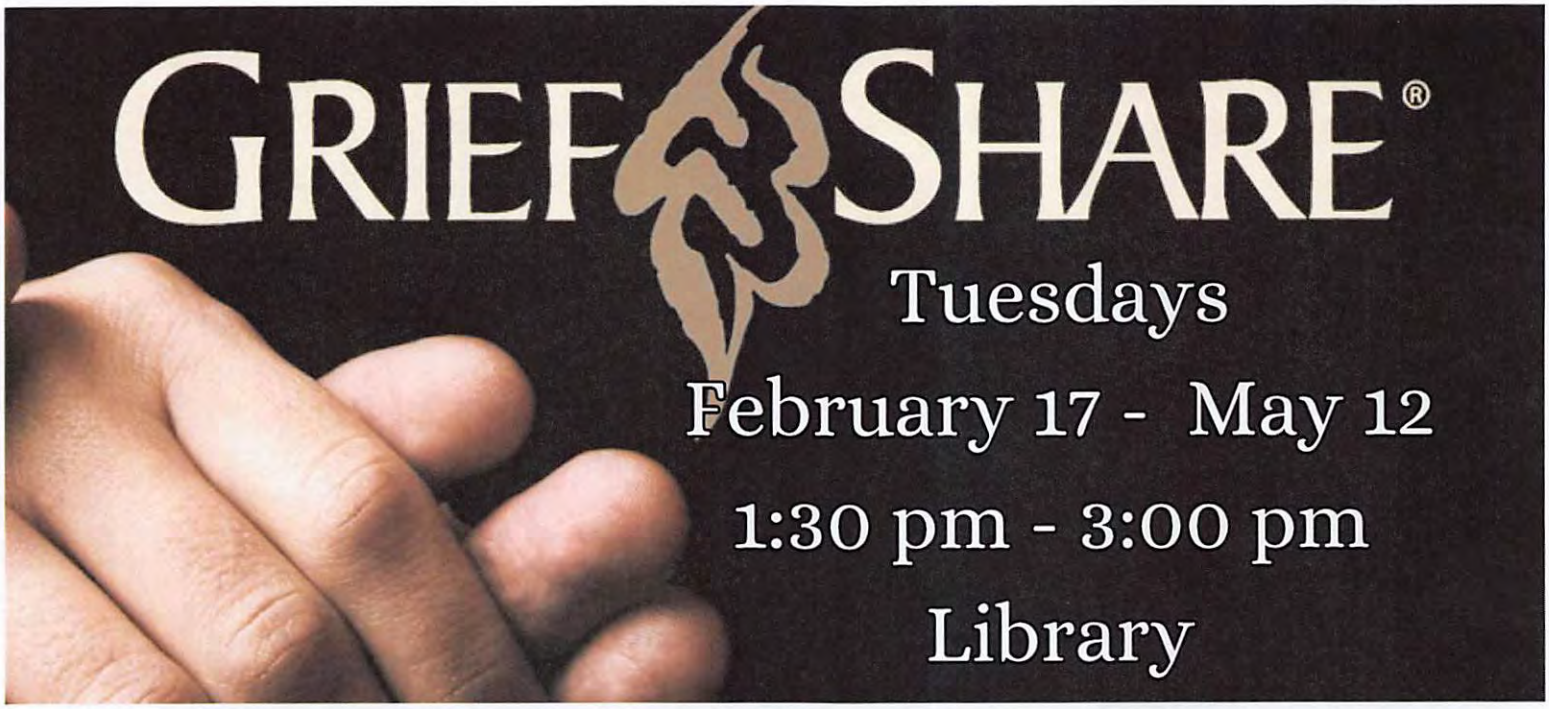
VALENTINES DAY COOKIE KITS

BAUMC YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

Our Youth Ministry will be selling: Valentines Day Cookie Kits on Sunday, February 1st at 10:15am!!!!

Kit comes with: Delicious Sugar Cookies, Frosting & Sprinkles for decorating.

"WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US." - 1 JOHN 4:19



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

THIS IS A TURN - OFF NOTICE

BGE
An Exelon Company

Account #
Name
Service
Address

DOCUMENT MUST DISPLAY THAT IT IS
A TURN OFF OR DISCONNECT NOTICE

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JANUARY
PASS IT ON MINISTRY

Helps Harford County Residents once every 24months with BGE or Delmarva turn off notices. To donate please go to
https://belairumc.com/Give2PassItOn

Give 2 Pass It On

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY
ZIMBABWE MEDICAL CENTER

To donate please go to
https://belairumc.com/Give2Zimbabwe

Give 2 Zimbabwe

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.

January 12 from 9:30 am to 8 pm in McComas Hall

Inclement Weather Policy

Ways to Stay informed:
The fastest way to get weather closing information is through social media sites, Facebook and by opting in to our texting service.
Text "join" to 410-210-4363 to opt in to our texting service.

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:
If schools close early or cancel weekday evening activities, Bel Air UMC will cancel evening activities. For weekend activities, please check the BAUMC website or Facebook .

Sunday Worship Services:
Sunday worship services are generally not canceled, however, in the event of severe weather, please check the BAUMC website or Facebook page for the latest information.

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

CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir practice is at 7 pm in room 103 on Wednesdays. We will also practice on Sundays at 8:15 am. You do not have to attend both to sing! All are welcome!

PASS IT ON LEADER NEEDED

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

They ministry will be available to Harford County residents only on Mondays, from 9 am - 12 noon. 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!

TO ALL THE HELPFUL "BASKET ELVES"

Many thanks to all those that gave their time to make the "basket ministry" a great success. Your generous donations of personal care items, handmade knit hats (made with love) and so many other thoughtful filler items allowed us to create a special gift for many individuals this Christmas.

These baskets were used to supplement the fantastic efforts of the Toy Workshop in its 53rd year, led by our own Elaine Ziegler.

Thank you, Cindy and Doug Graham

Tiny Tot School

"I learned a lot as a Tiny Tot!"

* Registration begins in January for the 2026-27 school year *

Open House!

Thursday, January 22nd 9:30am - 11:00am

Come see classrooms, meet teachers,

and learn what makes Tiny Tot School a wonderful place to learn and grow.

All are welcome!

Preschool Prep

Do you know a 2-3 year old child who turned two before November 1, 2025? Preschool Prep offers the tiniest tots and their caregivers. an opportunity to socialize and explore, enjoy interactive stories and songs, and engage in creative art activities.

Tuesdays, February 10 - May 5

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM or 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Twelve week session ~ $255

Contact us to enroll today!

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

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.

Mobile Check-In

Mobile Check-In - Worship Service
Instead of signing the attendance pads, you can check-in
using the Realm Connect App

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 wolfl@baumc.com.
E-spire articles are due by Wednesdays. at noon.
E-mail to carmenc@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
Administration/Congregational Care Asst. - Cheryl Carmen
Hospitality Coordinator - Alice Archer
aaarcher@comcast.net

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

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 MARCH
Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in the MARCH edition of the SPIRE? Send them to wolfl@baumc.com and carmenc@baumc.com by 12 noon, Tuesday, February 17.

Current addressee or

Body

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.

Church Office Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm
Church Building is Closed on Thursday, January 1
Church Office is Closed on Friday, January 2
in observance of New Year's Day
Church Building is closed on Monday, January 19 and February 16 in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day & Presidents' Day