



Bel Air United Methodist Church
3rd Sunday after the Epiphany – January 21, 2024 – 9:15 AM

Prelude

Jeff Beyers, Organist

Ministry Opportunities

Opening Hymn*

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

UMH 126

Opening Prayer (Unison, Prayer by Alan Paton)

Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others; open my ears that I may hear their cries; open my heart so that they need not be without succor; let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

Show me where love, hope, and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places. Lord, open my eyes and ears that I may this coming day do some work of peace for you. Amen.

Act of Praise

Psalm 62:5-12 (Music Response)

UMH 787

Prayer of Confession

Deborah Englar

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance (Psalm 103: 11-12)

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Peace (Responsive; Philippians 4:7)

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you. Amen.**

Special Music

Our God Is Love

Chancel Choir, Directed by Dave Tramontana

Scripture Reading

Joshua 2: 1-14

Hymn Response**God Will Take Care of You*

UMH 130

Sermon

Hospitality Series – Rahab - Joshua 2

Rev. Byron E. Brought

Offering

This moment of reflection is an opportunity to consider your response to God. How will you demonstrate your love for God? How will you give of your time, your talents, and your treasures? Please consider giving electronically; ask us how. Thank you.

**Doxology****Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 95

Prayer of Dedication* (Unison, Mary J. Scifres)

God of steadfast love, we thank you for the abundant gifts in our lives: love and grace, friends and family, and clothing and belongings. Thank you for the signs of your loving presence in the world: wondrous works and awesome deeds. Receive these offerings as we rejoice in this opportunity to help bring about your presence here on earth. Amen.

Communion & The Lord's Prayer**Hymn****You Are Mine*

TFWS 2218

Benediction & Sending Forth

Adopt A Child –Thank you to everyone who participated as a coordinator, a sponsor or donated money to the Adopt a Child program. We were able to give Christmas to 29 families with 94 children referred to us by the Department of Social Services. We could not have completed this program without your help. You are greatly appreciated!

Creation Care Team – A big thanks to all of you who purchased tree ornaments from the Creation Care Team last month as part of our alternative Christmas gift project. You purchased all 58 of the team's handmade ornaments, which totaled a contribution of **\$932** to the Arbor Day Foundation. This amount will provide the planting of 466 trees for

the organization's Trees in Celebration/Forest in Greatest Need program. This designation helps restore forests recently devastated by natural disasters including wildfires, floods and hurricanes. Your generous support is greatly appreciated!

Creation Care Winter Hike - Save the Date! Sunday, February 4th at 10:45 am - carpool from church or meet at location TBD. More information to come.

Hospitality Sermon Series – January 14th – February 11th, 2024

January 14 – Old Testament Hospitality – Abraham and Sarah – Genesis 18:1-10

January 21 – Rahab - Joshua 2

January 28 – New Testament Hospitality - Acts 4:32-35 & Hebrews 13

February 4 – Paul and Silas in Philippi – Acts 16:31-34

February 11 – Who Is Invited? – Parable of the Great Supper – Luke 14:15-24

Annual Stewardship Campaign is here! Time to embrace our M&Ms! Each year we celebrate our M&Ms, our Ministries and Missions. Each year we give thanks to God that we can provide for our congregation, our community, and our world. Pledge cards will be mailed this month. We invite you to return them anytime this month. Thank you for your kindness and faithful generosity.

2023 Finance and Stewardship Report

We have so much for which to be thankful in 2023; we finished the year in the black financially. We gave generously to our church, paid all of our apportionments (aka - Mission Shares), paid all of our salaries, gave generously to designated funds, and met all of our financial obligations. Our net income for 2023 was almost 24K. WOW! That's unbelievably good. Pat yourself on the back and celebrate the good things that God has done.

As we move forward into the new year, please keep these things in mind:

- ❖ We underspent our budget by quite a bit again in 2023.
- ❖ We only had one weekend custodian throughout the summer.
- ❖ Two positions no longer exist at BAUMC
- ❖ We rely heavily on volunteers. Our missions and ministries wouldn't exist without our volunteers

Goals for 2024! Keep doing the wonderful things that God has called you to do. Keep up the excellent mission and ministry that we're doing and keep hoping that our congregation will be a warm and wonderful place to be. We are anticipating a fairly big jump in our budget. That's mainly due to the fact that insurance costs, the cost of living, and the cost of maintaining our aging building has increased. We're doing all of this while we no longer have a Church Administrator or a paid maintenance person. We're relying on volunteers to make that work.

In the meantime, please give thanks for the outstanding work of our Finance Team led by Leah Clague, our Board of Trustees led by Doug McCorkle, our SPRC led by Janet Dorer, and our Admin. Council led by Tom and Leslie Bonomo. Let's make 2024 a great year. I know that it will be. Blessings, Byron

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Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled: To God all praise and glory.

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing. As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band: To God all praise and glory.

Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises, that earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part: To God all praise and glory.

Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory; let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story! Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone: To God all praise and glory.

God Will Take Care of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you; beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you. God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way; he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you; when dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way; he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you; nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way; he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you; lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you. God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way; he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

You Are Mine

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here. Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me. Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name. Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk, and live! Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.