

THE SPARE



BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Drawing by Asleigh Schmidt

A Season of Deliverance

Lent is a 40-day period of preparation before Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday and it ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with God, by creating time and space to focus on our spiritual disciplines: prayer, quiet meditation, worship, Bible study, fasting, self-denial and sacrifice. It's scripturally based on the 40 days that Jesus was tested in the wilderness, see Mark 1:12-13. Jesus' time in the wilderness was, in turn, based on the 40 years of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness before they entered the Promised Land.

Our sermon series throughout this season will be based on the animated musical *The Prince of Egypt*, by DreamWorks. While the movie takes some artistic and historical license, it beautifully honors the spirit, values, and essence of the story of the Exodus. Some artistic and historical license is not only expected, but welcome.

Lent is forever linked to the Exodus. Jesus' wilderness is forever linked to the Israelites' wandering in the wilderness. The Passion of the Christ, and specifically Good Friday, is forever linked to the Passover. In this sense, the background story of Lent and Easter, can be found in the story of the Exodus, the deliverance of God's people out of Egypt, into the wilderness, and eventually into the Promised Land. It's a rich story of faith, and when we enter into the spirit of it, we find that we, ourselves, can't help but become enriched and transformed by it. I pray that you have a blessed and hope-filled Lent.

Peace,
Byron

Evensong

Thursdays 7 p.m. on Facebook Live

3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

Half hour of Scripture, Music, Prayer & Devotional

Deliver Us From...

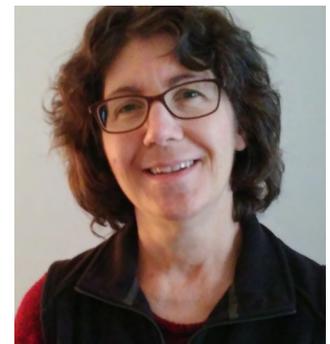
An attempt to include ancient practices with future intentions. Evensong (vesper) services date back as far as 1549 and traditionally began with The Lord's Prayer. We all need a little centering of our thoughts on God during this Lenten season. Let us create a sacred space to say: Help Us, Show Us, Forgive Us and Move Us.



Originally from Western Maryland, I moved to the Baltimore area to attend Towson University and have been here since. I now live in Forest Hill with my husband Paul and dog Lucy. We have one son named Justice and he lives and works in the Northern Virginia area. I love music, gardening, being outdoors and spending time with family. I'm very happy to be part of the BAUMC team!

Angie Coughlin has stepped up to fill Jeanne Smith's position as the head of our Pass It On ministry. Welcome, Angie!

Pass It On is our ministry that responds to emergency needs for folks in the community, who are dealing with evictions or unpaid utility bills. This is front line ministry and front line outreach. Thank you for Loving as Jesus Loves.



BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STAY CONNECTED!



In-Person Service in the Sanctuary on Sunday or watch us on Facebook LIVE at 9:15 am
Please sign up for the in-person worship in the sanctuary by clicking
<http://bit.ly/BAUMCSunday9-15amWorship>
or by using the ChurchLife app on your phone.
Walk-ins are welcome.



Sermon By Phone 410-800-4472

We are happy to announce that we now have a way for those of our congregation who are not electronically-connected to hear Sunday sermons. "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.



Join Pastor Lynn 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

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

C4 Kids Ministry

Kids have Sunday School every Sunday @ 11 a.m.

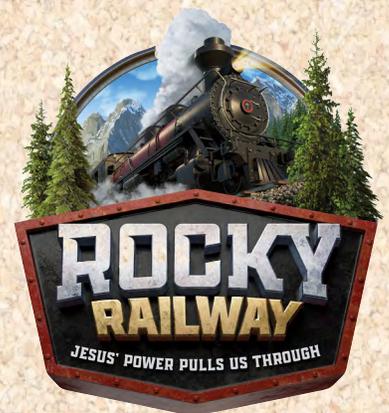
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83803087522?pwd=N2tkWHEvbmExUC9jOWJteTZET3ZnZz09>
838 0308 7522 Password. C4Kids



Family Scavenger Hunt - April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday!

Save the date: VBS August 2 - 6. Outside 9 am - 12 Noon.



C4 Kids QR Codes



YOUTH MINISTRIES

WEEKLY EVENTS

High School Bible Study

Youth Center

Sundays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Bring your favorite Bible and Wear a mask!

Youth Group (Grades 6 -12)

Benches By Gaga Pit and 9 Square

Sundays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28

4:30 pm - 6 pm

Wear a mask! Fellowship and games are outside. Small groups meet inside and practice social distancing.

Summer Mission

It's the time of year to start planning the 2021 Summer Mission Trip. While I'm sure many families aren't ready to make any type of commitment, I'm sharing some possible opportunities for Summer 2021. These opportunities are through Jeremiah Project. Both options #1 and #2 will be located in Romney, WV. Projects will be engaging in basic construction projects such as building wheelchair ramps, constructing handrails and stairs, painting, yardwork, and other construction.

Multi-Church Camp

Youth who have completed 6th grade and older are invited to attend. Youth in 6th and 7th grade are encouraged to have a parent attend the week.

- July 11-17
- Scholarships are available. Payments will be spread out between now and June.
- Regular Pricing (\$50 deposit): \$395.00 per person. Refunds available through April 31

To register for Multi-Church Camp please go to <http://bit.ly/BelAirUMC2021MultiChurchCamp>

Local Mission Week

Youth will work on various service projects around our church and within our local community. Dates TBD.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS SPRING FORWARD

March 14

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

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 2021. The second is for individuals who are seeking education after high school, but are not 2021 graduating seniors.

Applications for each scholarship are available on our web-site <https://belairumc.org/college-scholarship-opportunities/>

Details below describe each scholarship:

- **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 their first year of college in Fall 2021. 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, and donations from members and friends of BAUMC fund the scholarships awarded each spring.

- **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:

- o high school graduates;
- o GED completers;
- o individuals currently in the workforce;
- o unemployed individuals.

While the items listed below are not requirements, preference is given to:

- o Individuals attending Bel Air United Methodist Church.
- o Individuals unable to continue schooling without financial assistance.
- o 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.

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 (cwsherm@verizon.net).

MARCH MILESTONES

Colton Michel Drake & Piper Rose Morrow
Children of Tyler and Brittany Morrow



Happy Anniversary



Art & Gloria Benson, Sr - 59th anniversary on 03/3
Rusty & Linda Hawes – 31st anniversary on 03/3
Steve & Tara Sams - 9th anniversary on 03/3
Dave & Jory Fisher – 22nd anniversary on 03/5
Dick & Sally Moen - 55th anniversary on 03/5
Isaya & Michelle Mutombo - 11th anniversary on 03/6
Jim & Stephanie Shrake - 29th anniversary on 03/6

Dean & Debbie Mayer - 36th anniversary on 03/9
Jeff & Katie Tracey - 8th anniversary on 03/9
Wayne & Mollie Goddard - 20th anniversary on 03/10
Doug & Amy Pratt – 32nd anniversary on 03/11
Mike & Lisa Rogers - 26th anniversary on 03/11
Butch & Sharon Langenfelder – 32nd anniversary on 03/12
Demetrius & Jane Anderson - 34th anniversary on 03/13
Steve & Dana Kraus - 39th anniversary on 03/14
Dan & Carla Babcock - 27th anniversary on 03/17
Al & Ila Dukes - 49th anniversary on 03/18
Eric & Peggy Schumann Sr - 57th anniversary on 03/21
Geordy & Heather Rupprecht, III - 30th anniversary on 03/23
Bill & Pat Thal - 48th anniversary on 03/24
John & Beth Happick – 43rd anniversary on 03/25

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



03/06 - Bertha Walker
03/09 - Garner Jones
03/09 - Jack Bowman
03/10 - Bobbie Whitlock
03/11 - Jean Hightower
03/15 - Art Benson

03/18 - Jennie Garrison
03/20 - Warren Pardo
03/21 - Les Goodwin
03/24 - Jean Moore
03/26 - Lee Lederer

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

MARCH 2021

Bel Air United Methodist Church is open on a limited basis.

The church office is open for visitors on Wednesdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
Masks are required. 410-838-5181

Manna House will distribute non-perishable groceries on a drive-thru basis Wednesdays from 10:00am to 12 noon.

The next Family Food distribution will be held on a drive-thru basis on Saturday, MARCH 20 from 9:00 – 11:45am.

Furniture donations/requests are no longer accepted at the church.
Please call Found in Faith at 443-519-2464.

The Pass It On (Financial Assistance) Ministry is not seeing clients in person. They are working remotely due to COVID 19. To apply, please go to the church website: www.belairumc.org.

FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE

Family Food Distribution is
Saturday, March 20th and
Saturday, April 17th
9 am - 11:45am

Volunteers 7:30 am to 12 pm
New volunteers please contact Greg at food.services@baumc.com



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MARCH NEIGHBORS IN NEED

To donate please go to

<http://bit.ly/BAUMCGive2FamilyFood-NeighborsInNeed>

Toy Workshop 2020

We thank all those very generous people who donated new toys this year. We had an amazing amount of toys of all kinds and for all ages, and also gift cards for the teens.

While we couldn't work together in the hall, we filled stockings, baskets, baby sets and books with characters in our homes. Special thanks to Kathy Frawley and Katherine Ziegler Heinz who helped so much with the organizing, planning, set up and made the toy workshop possible this year.

We gave out toys and baskets to 100 children and their parents (baskets) in our adopt-a-child program. Then we gave to over 100 children at the Judy Center at Joppa Magnolia School to help their families. We were very disappointed that we couldn't help more families in the community.

Next year we will do the workshop (we pray) with church and community members working together in our hall. Then we can also follow our mission of a huge recycling project.

The Adopt a Child program provided Christmas to 101 children from 39 families. Thank you to everyone who helped by being a coordinator, a sponsor, a delivery driver, food helper and the Toy Workshop team. We have received many thank you notes from the families whom we served. Social Services also thanks each one of you. You are a fabulous group of people who dedicated your time to help others have a great Christmas. God Bless all of you. Thanks so much.

Courageous Steps toward Racial Justice

A Racial Justice Ministry Team believes that the church should be a sanctuary for difficult conversations. The Bible encourages us to “speak the truth in love” to one another. We can learn from Jesus himself what it looks like to speak words of truth, no matter how much it may hurt to hear, and to do it all while loving other people so much that he would die for them. The Racial Justice Team offers the following note to bring awareness to an essential understanding about race with our goal being to simply speak the truth in love.

Is Race Real or Not? The idea of race is just that, an idea — a social construct, a recent invention several hundred years old in an attempt to classify nature. Before that time, people divided themselves in categories including religion, tribal group, and language. But for most of human history, people had no notion of race. Though race is not real; racism is very real. Racism didn't start with a misunderstanding, it started with a lie.

Who invented race and why? Today, science deems race biologically meaningless. What we call race is merely an indication of the amount of melanin in one's skin: 99.9% of our DNA is identical from one person to the next. Who then, invented race as we know it, and why?

John Biewan, Program Director for the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, presents an insightful video that discusses the idea that invented racism.

https://www.ted.com/talks/john_biewen_the_lie_that_invented_racism/up-next

Join the Racial Justice Ministry Team. Heal the past, form the future. When people care enough, change will happen. Learn more on racial matters so that we can love as Jesus loves.

Contact bev.talbot@verizon.net or bhappick@gmail.com

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ - Matthew 25:40

Some Facts about Single-use Plastic Bags (from The Center for Biological Diversity)

Did you know...???

1. The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year.
2. Plastic bags are used for an average of only 12 minutes.
3. According to Waste Management, only 1 percent of plastic bags are returned for recycling. That means that the average family only recycles 15 bags a year; the rest end up in landfills or as litter.
4. It's estimated that it takes 500 (or more) years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.
5. 100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags annually. 1 in 3 leatherback sea turtles have been found with plastic in their stomachs.



(In 2020, Baltimore City passed a ban on plastic bags at the checkout. However, due to the pandemic, it has been delayed until at least July 2021. A statewide bill, Plastic Bag Reduction Act (HB314/SB223), is currently being reviewed by the MD House and Senate. If passed, a plastic bag ban in MD could begin as early as July 2022.)

Plastic-free Challenge

Not all plastics are bad. But in this fast-paced, disposable world that we live in, one-time-use, throw-away plastics are very bad. This includes plastic shopping bags, bottled water, straws and carryout utensils. Many of us may not see a direct impact of plastic pollution in our neighborhoods because most of our trash and recycling often ends up in and primarily affects disadvantaged, marginalized communities and their residents – “the least of these”.

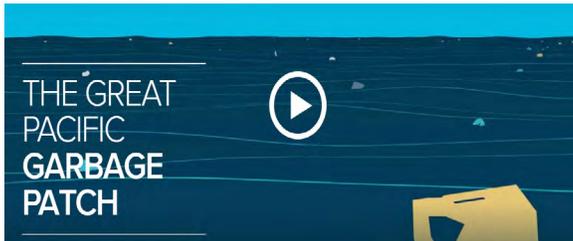
During this time of Lent, and beyond, the Creation Care Team would like to challenge you to use less of these one-time-use plastics. Recycling is not the answer to these plastics because the current world-wide recycling system is "broken". Re-using or, better yet, reducing your use of plastics is the way to go. So, next time you leave the house, fill that re-useable bottle with tap water. Grab those re-useable shopping bags from your car trunk and refuse plastic straws and utensils when picking up carryout, especially if you're headed home to eat. You can do it! The health of your family, your neighbor and God's earth is at stake.



Check out these brief, eye-opening videos about where our plastics go.

Where Your "Recycled" Plastic Ends Up (4 minutes)

<https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/plastic/where-your-recycled-plastic-ends-up/>



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (2 ½ minutes)

<https://theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

Water Bottle Filler

Next time you're in the church building be sure to check out our new water bottle filler located the restrooms across from the church office. This was a gift from our 2020 Confirmation class. They raised the funds to help cut down on single use plastic in our building.

Use the touchless sensor to fill up your favorite reusable water bottle. The water bottle station keeps track of how many single use water bottles we've saved. Watch the number grow!





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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 wolfi@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: broughtb@baumc.com)

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 wolfi@baumc.com **and** carmenc@baumc.com by **12 noon, Tuesday, MARCH 23RD.**

If you are receiving the Spire by mail but would like to receive the SPIRE newsletter by e-mail, please send Lisa Wolf your e-mail address to wolfi@baumc.com or visit our web-site

www.belairumc.org

and click on the **red** tab on the left labeled "SPIRE Newsletter."

Current addressee or



- ♥ Pre-registration for Blood Drives... Because the church remains closed, making our sign-up sheet inaccessible, those wishing to donate blood at the drive on March 8 are encouraged to sign up by calling 1-800-733-2767 or online at www.redcross.org.
- ♥ Remember that signing up for Easy Pass will make the donation process faster and easier.

Thank you.
Pat Potter
Blood Drive Committee