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



Lenten Soup & Study

Wednesday, February 25 - March 25

5:30 pm - 7:00pm

Room 202

Join us for Soup then Study

No book purchase



Lent & Soup Study 2026

Please scan the QR Code to Register for the Lent & Soup Study

Pastor's Message



Lent begins in winter and ends in spring. I always like to say that, but when you look at the calendar it's true. And when you look outside, you'll see that it's true as well. There are still piles of snow all around Bel Air. The sidewalks and driveways can still be treacherous. It's been a long, cold winter. Just know that that's coming to an end.

Oh yes, I know that March can still be cold. But the resurrection of the earth is underway. Within the next 6 weeks, there will be signs of springtime all around us. The world will be surrounded by flowers that are either blooming or getting ready to bloom. The trees will be budding, and all the springtime birds will return to the area. The resurrection of the earth is one of those great spiritual moments for me. I look forward to it unfolding each year.

Just as the earth is resurrected, so may we. We cast off the winter of our souls – the bad habits, the things that we'd like to change, and the ways we want to be deeper followers of Christ. Lent is a pilgrimage. We walk "The Way" toward the cross, toward being Jesus' disciples, in this season. During this entire time, we anticipate the resurrection of the earth, the resurrection of our souls, and the resurrection of Jesus. A wonderful season is unfolding. Let's use this time to rediscover our faith and the things that bind us most closely to God.

See you soon on the journey!

Byron

News and Notes from the Ad Council 2026

Greetings church family,

Well, we're already three months into another year...and another opportunity to "Love as Jesus loves". When you attend worship service this week, ask yourself, "If I were a stranger attending this church for the very first time, would I feel welcome?"

Did anyone say hello to me? Say, "good to see you!" Smile and move over in the pew for me? Address a need I might have had? Did anyone introduce themselves to me? Did anyone invite me to fellowship in room 202, and then walk along with me to show me the way? Did anyone smile and say, "have a good week, hope to see you again", as I was leaving?

Such simple ways to help a new guest feel welcome! As faithful members of BAUMC, we are not only stewards, but also ambassadors. Sharing our mission to love as Jesus loves sometimes requires us to step out of our comfort zone.

So, this Sunday, consider these two simple ideas to get you started:

1. The 3-minute rule- Spend just 3 minutes before or after a worship service or event greeting people you don't know.
2. The 10-foot rule- Be attentive to the people and environment within 10 feet of you.

This year, one goal of the Ad Council is to re-energize and re-institute our Welcome Ministry. Be on the look-out for more information in the E-Spire to find out ways you can help or join this ministry. After all, it only takes 30 seconds to make a first impression. If we are truly committed to helping make disciples for Jesus Christ, we'll be most successful if folks want to come back to our church again and again to worship, minister, study and pray with us.

Thanks for listening, and remember, Be the Good,

Leslie and Tom Bonomo, Ad Council Co-Chairs

Lenten Evensong

Thursdays @ 7 pm with Pastor Deb
Bel Air UMC Facebook Live



Our Sunday Worship Services



Traditional Service - 9:15am
In-person & Online (Facebook Live)

**This is our traditional service held in our
Sanctuary at Bel Air United Methodist Church**

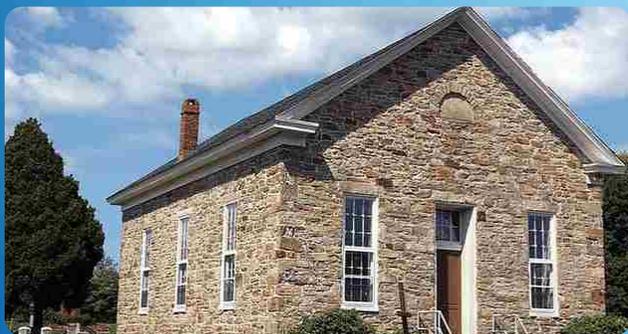
**Sermon by Phone enables people to call in and
hear the scripture reading and sermon.**

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!**

P R A Y E R

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

Spotlight on Lisa Wolf



Hi, I am Lisa Wolf, the Administrative Specialist / Manager at Bel Air United Methodist Church. I will be celebrating my 20th work anniversary in the church office in April. I began my employment here by maintaining members records and the Church Management System, and since then I've taken on more responsibility which includes facility scheduling, newsletters, computer troubleshooting, website maintenance, human resources, and much more.

Over the years, I have been able to put all church membership information in an electronic format, improve administrative workflow and learned the ins and outs of working on a website.

I also enjoy volunteering with Volunteers in Mission and making soup for their fundraisers. On Sundays, I work from for a few hours, monitoring the website and our Facebook worship service. I also prepare the Sermon by Phone and post it on our website. Yes, to me, this work is fun! I love change and learning new things.

It is important to me to have an open-door policy and to let my church family and co-workers know that they can talk to me about any concerns, ideas or feedback. The church office is open from 8 am to 4 pm on weekdays, so please feel free to stop by and say hello.

I am also thrilled to announce the birth of my grandson, Michael Lee Barnhart Jr.



*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 9 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm in McComas Hall

To View Bel Air United Methodist Church Calendar go to

https://belairumc.com/Events_Calendar

Add it to your Home screen on your phone!



You are invited to a Harry Potter Party
RESCHEDULED to Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 10:30 in room 101

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.



BAUMC Kid's Ministry is going on a Journey

Every child receives a passport to get weekly stamps on THE WAY.
We will also be painting rocks to form a labyrinth we can walk every week.
On the Saturday before Easter the kid's will be hosting a food labyrinth.
Folks brings canned goods and dry products to go along the path.
This will benefit our Food Ministry and allow us to walk on behalf of our
friends and neighbors.



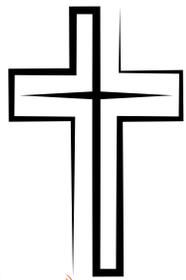
Tiny Tot School

Preschool Prep

Offering 2 and 3 year olds and their caregivers an opportunity to socialize and explore, enjoy interactive stories and songs, and engage in creative art activities. Enroll today!

Tuesdays, 11:00 AM -12:15 PM

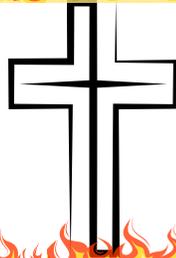
* Registration for the 2026-27 school year is OPEN! *



**BAUMC YOUTH
MINISTRY**
6TH THRU 8TH GRADE

REIGNITE
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15-10:15AM

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY IN THE YOUTH ROOM



**BAUMC YOUTH
GROUP**
6TH THRU 12TH GRADE

**REIGNITING YOUTH'S
FAITH IN JESUS**
1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS

4:30-6:30 PM - 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.

Digital Disciples

Wednesday nights w/ Ms. Andrea

-For Youth Grades 6th thru 12th-

Wednesday, March 11th & 25th

Zoom call - 7:30-8:00 pm



Serving as a mid week check-in including a quick Devotional, all of our youth ministry members are welcome to join the call.

Please ensure you have an active account on Realm and your email is up-to-date!

TRUTHFUL PURSUERS

Serving Up One Cup of Jesus At a time!

****FOR: 9TH-12TH
GRADE ONLY****

ALL HIGH SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN MS. ANDREA AT 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.



REGISTER NOW TO SEE OUR MEET UP LOCATION

**FEBRUARY MEETING:
MONDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2026
TIME: 4:00-5:00PM**

**HOPE
YOU CAN
MAKE IT!**



BAUMC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE!

BAUMC High School Graduating Senior Scholarship

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 2026. 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.

TO APPLY:
[HTTPS://BELAIRUMC.ORG/COLLEGE-SCHOLARSHIP-OPPORTUNITIES/](https://belairumc.org/college-scholarship-opportunities/)
QUESTIONS: [INFO@BAUMC.COM](mailto:info@baumc.com)

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.

**ALL SCHOLARSHIP MATERIALS ARE DUE BY
APRIL 23 AT 3PM**



Grief & Share

Tuesdays, February 17 - May 12
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Library

Calling all Girl Scouts - Please join us as we participate in the church service on March 8th, Girl Scout Sunday. We invite all levels of Girl Scouts to join us. Please contact Laura Barcena at 443.528.5591 (calls or text) for more information.



BEL AIR

Mobile Spirit Night

Children's Christian Center
Wednesday, March 4th
4 - 8 pm

Step 1: Place a mobile order: choose mobile dine-in, mobile carry-out or mobile drive-thru.
Step 2: **Enter your organization code: BAUMC (case sensitive) when the Community Cares screen appears. Click the toggle switch to "yes" to support your organization.**



Step 3: Enjoy your meal!



Chick-fil-A Bel Air
408 Baltimore Pike
Bel Air, MD 21014



Spring Ahead March 8



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

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

We need volunteers to answer phones, greet people and help with general office work.

Monday Afternoons 12 pm - 4pm

Wednesdays & Fridays 9 am - 12pm

Wednesdays & Fridays 12pm - 4 pm

Please check your calendars to see if you can help the church office once a week.

To volunteer, contact wolfl@baumc.com

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 - 11:30 am. 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!



**Short Film Fest & Appetizer Brunch
presented by the Creation Care Team
Sunday, March 1 / 10:45am - 12:15 pm**

Meet in the Youth Room (donut/coffee fellowship here today, as well)

Come celebrate nature and God's wonderful world through a time of fellowship, fun and learning. View about a dozen short films ranging from 1 1/2 to 8 minutes which present themes that are informative, humorous, heart-warming, beautiful and inspiring. Enjoy a delicious variety of appetizers and desserts during the intermission. 30 minutes of films, 30 minutes of food/fellowship, 30 minutes of more films.

Stay for all or part of the time. Free and open to all.

For questions and/or interest in providing your favorite appetizer, contact Sheryl Pedrick at sherylpedrick@hotmail.com.

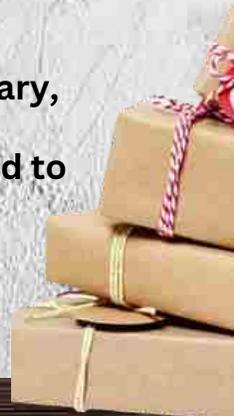
College Box Ministry

"Please help us support our college students!! We will be collecting donations of packaged snacks and treats thru Sunday, April 12th in a bin next to the Information desk. We will be assembling the care packages the evening of Tuesday, April 14th to get them sent out in time for final exams. If you would like to help, please contact Cathy Kogler at 410-322-9361 or cathy.kogler@verizon.net. Thank you!!"

COLLEGE ADDRESSES – We know people move, young adults go into the military, go away to school or move out of Mom and Dad's house. We would like your young adult/college student's address and e-mail in order to keep in touch and to update our database.

Do you have a student graduating from high school or college?
Please click on the link to update.

<https://belairumc.org/update-your-contact-information/>



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 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
 Interim Administration/Congregational Care Asst. - Kathy Stearn
 Hospitality Coordinator - Alice Archer
aaarcher@comcast.net

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

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 wolf@baumc.com.

We will have a support staff for volunteers who are volunteering for the first time.

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 wolf@baumc.com and carmenc@baumc.com by 12 noon, Tuesday, February 17.