



OUR MISSION: “To Re-Present Jesus Christ
In Our Community And Beyond”

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

USBC News

WHEN IS EASTER?

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Have you ever wondered why each year, Easter falls on a different date? Unlike Christmas, which occurs on the same date every year, December 25th. Well, let me walk you through a historical and Biblical journey as we solve this profound mystery of differing dates for Easter.

In the early New Testament time period, the historian Eusebius, documented and recorded the celebration of Easter as observed by Jesus’ apostles. Once such verse that points

to this celebration of Easter is found in **1 Corinthians 5:6-8** which reads, “*Your boasting is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*”

As one continues to search the historical records, we see that early Christians celebrated Easter at the time of the Passover. It was during the Jewish observance of Passover, that Christ was crucified upon the cross. Therefore, these early Christians preserved the observance of Christ’s death and resurrection that corresponded to the Jewish Passover. However, as time progressed and Christianity began to flourish around the world, the specific observance date for Easter began to shift and became inconsistent and was celebrated at different times throughout the year.

The Catholic Church in A.D. 325, at the Council of Nicea, decided to bring some uniformity to the date that churches should observe Easter. This Council declared that all churches should celebrate Easter on the same Sunday. However, the Council did not specify which Sunday and once again, this led to confusion. By the seventh century, it was uniform for churches to celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon that comes on or after the vernal equinox. The vernal equinox occurs on March 21st.

This new method to calculate the date for Easter, means that Easter can occur on any Sunday from March 22nd through April 25th. Therefore, here is how the date is calculated. The vernal equinox is March 21, 2017, the first full moon after March 21, 2017 is April 11, 2017, and the first Sunday following the first full moon after March 21, 2107 will be April 16, 2017. There you have it!

Although Christian churches will be celebrating Easter on April 16th, Easter should never be a one-time event to reflect upon the ultimate sacrifice that Christ paid upon the cross. **Psalm 34:1** reminds the believer that God’s praise should be continuous. It reads, “*I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.*” **Happy Easter!**

SISTERS IN FAITH CONFERENCE



Several women from *USBC* had the privilege of attending the *Spring Sisters in Faith Conference* at Montgomery Methodist Church in Damascus on Saturday, March 18th. The topic was “*The Secret of the Lord*” and the speaker was

Dannah Gresh, Christian author and speaker.

We were blessed with amazing songs of praise, learning sessions, and praise dancing. Lunch was provided and Dannah’s books were available for purchase.

I think I can speak for all who attended when I say that we were filled with God’s spirit and blessed beyond measure when we left that afternoon.



April 2, 2017

Sermon Title: “*Decision Time*”

Scripture: Genesis 37-39

April 9, 2017

Easter Musical: “*In Christ Alone*”

April 16, 2017

Sermon Title: “*From Grief to Joy*”

Scripture: John 16:19-22

April 23, 2017

Sermon Title: “*Nailing It Down*”

Scripture: James 1:13-18

April 30, 2017

Sermon Title: “*The Rest of Your Life*”

Scripture: Exodus 20:8

SUPER SENIOR SUNDAY

By Pastor Dennis Felder

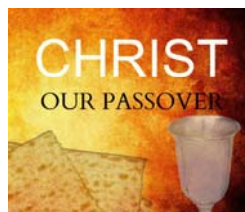


Put this special date on your calendar: **SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017**. On April 30th, *USBC* will be acknowledging and honoring all of our seniors during our Sunday morning, 11am worship service.

During this celebration, our church family will take the time to get to know our seniors better and to present each one with a special gift. Therefore, come and honor us with your presence and please bring a friend and/or family member to participate on this special day.

THAT’S GREEK TO ME!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Our celebration of Easter is connected with the Jewish observance of Passover. In the book of Exodus, the Death Angel passed over only if the Israelites had the blood of the lamb on their doorframe. Therefore, Passover became an annual observance within the Jewish faith. It was during the Jewish Passover observance, that Christ sat with His disciples in the upper room. Today, Christians refer to this moment as the Last Supper. Jesus became that Passover lamb by shedding His blood.

The English word *Passover* comes from the Greek word *pascha*. Christ is very clear in stating that He became the Passover lamb for us. The Bible, in **1 Corinthians 5:7**, states this fact by saying, “*Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover (pascha/πάσχα) lamb, has been sacrificed.*”



Scan this QR code which points to our Church’s Main Web Page (<http://www.USBChurch.org>)

THANK YOU

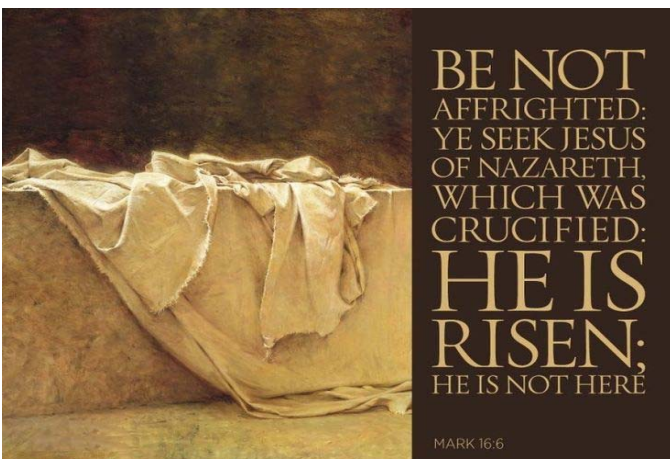
By Larry & Mary Harris

Thank You 

Mary and I want to thank you for the support and prayers after Mary's mom, Helen Peterson, passed away. It meant a great deal. Even at this time of loss we can be thankful for having them as our family, for knowing God has provided for them in eternity, and for knowing that because of a personal Savior, we'll see them again.

I wished you could have known Mary's mom and dad. They were two of the nicest people you could meet and dedicated Christians. Their witness led to more people being saved than any other lay people I've known. Mary's mom was a rock solid foundation. She was ahead of the times as a career woman back in the 40's and 50's working as a chemist. However, she knew her family and church needed her more. She taught Sunday school, mentored young women, comforted the sick and elderly; all while caring for her family. To paraphrase, she ran her race and fought the good fight never complaining.

She and her husband Howard proved by their witness that truth and love are eternal. This witness is recalled through multiple generations in the community. By so doing, they proved the existence of a God who said, in part, "I am the Truth and a Living Savior that said love of God and neighbors are the two great commandments." No doubt the halls of heaven ring with the call, "well done."



CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEEDS YOU

By Lana Felder



Our Children's Church ministry is going to start a new curriculum beginning in March. The curriculum is called *Noah's Park Children's Church*. Here is a short description of the material from David Cook's

website: "*Kids will love these 'adventure trails' that lead to a better understanding of Jesus. The Bible stories and puppets, music and prayer, snacks, crafts, and games all give kids a glimpse into God's love!*" This is another description from Christianbook.com: "*A 60-minute adventure takes your kids through the Discovery Trails to learn about the Bible story, Worship Trails to sing praises, share and pray, Wildlife Trails for the fun and creative craft and games related to the Bible story, and Happy Trails to review the Bible story, memory verse and songs.*"

This curriculum comes in a kit which provides lessons, games, puppets, skits, music, and snack ideas for an entire year of Children's Church! It is very simple to use and teaches our children about God's love for them. It can be adapted for small or large groups as well and has lessons for both preschool and elementary aged children.

Our Children's Church is so important to the future of USBC. These children absorb God's word like a sponge and need teachers and helpers who are willing to invest in the future of our church. Those of us who have worked with these children can tell you what a great group of kids we are building!

On Sunday, April 9th, there will be a short meeting in the Children's Church room following the worship service. Anyone who is interested in teaching, helping, or praying for our children's ministry is invited to attend. We will introduce the new curriculum and begin to create a schedule for each age group – Pre-K through K and 1st through 3rd Grade.



God's Plan Of Salvation

Trust Jesus Christ today! Here's what you must do:

1. Admit you are a sinner.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Romans 3:23)

2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent).

Jesus said: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:5)

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Savior.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

What to pray:

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His **precious blood** and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Savior.

Next Newsletter Deadline
April 16, 2017

Editor's Note:

Included in this newsletter is the **USBC Church Birthday Calendar** showing the dates of birthdays of our church family, but we don't always have the information to include. So, if we miss YOUR date, we are sorry! Why not fill out a connect card and place it in the offering plate with your name and birthday noted so that it can be included in our calendar.

Also, if you have something to be included in the newsletter, an announcement, an article, a cartoon....we are always looking for information and new ideas!

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Coffee & Praise Night

By Lana Felder



On Saturday, March 18th *USBC* held our first “*Coffee and Praise*” in the Fellowship Hall. We had coffee (of course), snacks, and lots of music!

The *USBC Praise Team* played and sang special music and hymns requested by the audience. Bill Tj played the drums and his wife Shu Fang played her keyboard along with Adam on keyboard and Rick on guitar. Richard, Priscilla, and yours truly provided the vocals. It was truly a wonderful evening of praise and worship!

Youth Bowling February 26th, 2017



VBS IS COMING!



Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! This year it will be July 17th – 21st. This year’s theme is **Galactic Starveyors!**

From Lifeway.com – “*Turn your kids into Galactic Starveyors! As kids focus their telescopes on the marvels painted in the sky by the Creator, they will discover the wonder among all wonders - that the God who created everything there is - the knowable and the unknowable, the visible and the invisible - wants a personal relationship with them! Invite your kids into the clubhouse and show them the God who is over the moon in love with them.*”

In order to make this wonderful experience available for the children in our community, we need LOTS of help! Help is needed for teaching, assistants, crafts, snacks, recreation, music, registration, and more! If you are available to help, please see Donna Limparis.

Begin praying now for the teachers & every volunteer. Also, pray for the children that come to be open to the message of God’s love and salvation.

Announcements April



USBC THEME FOR 2017 – *Prayer, Praise, and Participation!*

Dive Deeper Bible Study – Due to all the Easter activities, there will be no **Dive Deeper Bible Study** in the month of April. However, do not fear! Our **Dive Deeper Bible Study** will resume in May with an exciting topic.

Children’s Church Meeting – On April 9th at 7 pm.

Church Council – On April 10th at 7 pm.

Super Senior Luncheon – On April 11th at **Bob Evans** in Germantown, MD.

Children & Youth Easter Party – On April 12th at 6:30 pm at *USBC*.

Easter Skit Rehearsal – On April 12th at 7:30 pm at *USBC*.

EASTER IS COMING!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



It is hard to believe, but we will be celebrating Easter on April 16th. Therefore, I want to share with you some exciting events that will be taking place at USBC during the Easter season.

1. **Palm Sunday Service**: Sunday, April 9th at 11 am. This service will prepare your heart as we focus on the life of Christ a week before His crucifixion. This worship service will lift your spirit as our church choir presents the Easter musical entitled, “*In Christ Alone*.”
2. **Good Friday Easter Service**: Friday, April 14th at 7 pm. This interactive service will take you on a vivid journey at to what Christ was experiencing prior to His crucifixion. If you are interested in participating in our short Easter play on this Friday night, please let the Pastor know. We will conclude the evening by observing the Lord’s Supper.
3. **Easter Sunrise Service**: Sunday, April 16th at 6:30 am. Like the followers of Christ did on that very first early Easter morning, we too will rise early to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This service will awaken your heart as we reflect upon the miracle of life over death. We will commemorate Jesus’ resurrection through song and praise.
4. **Easter Service**: Sunday, April 16th at 11 am. Once again, we will celebrate our risen Savior through congregational worship. We will sing His praises, share His Word, proclaim His name, and respond with a faithful heart.
5. **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**: USBC will be collecting for our *Annie Armstrong Easter Offering* during the month of April. This offering is named for a faithful missionary who dedicated her life to sharing the Gospel of Jesus. 100% of the offering will go to support our local missionaries as they too carry out the Great Commission. Our church-wide goal is \$1,000.

