

SUNDAY, December 16, 2018

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
12 Noon Children/Youth Christmas Party

WEDNESDAY, December 19, 2018

6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
6:30 pm After the Sermon
7:30 pm Choir Practice

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:

Mon., Dec. 17 9:30 am – 1 pm	Tues., Dec. 18 9:30 am – 1 pm	Wed., Dec. 19 9:30 am – 1 pm	Thurs., Dec. 20 9:30 am – 1 pm
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How Do I Join Upper Seneca Baptist Church

- **By Salvation** ~ By professing faith in Jesus Christ and following Him in believer's baptism.
- **By Transfer of Letter** ~ By transferring your membership from another Baptist Church.
- **By Statement of Faith** ~ By statement of **faith in Jesus Christ**.

If you have not been baptized by immersion since your conversion, you will need to follow the Lord in believer's baptism.

When Do I Join?

At the close of every worship service as we sing the "Invitation Hymn", the pastor stands facing the congregation. Walk to him and tell him you want to join the church or make some other decision.

Pastor Dennis Felder

pastordennis@usbchurch.org

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Nursery & Children's Church available
Church Office 301-972-3686

E-Mail – Church@USBChurch.org
Web Site – www.USBChurch.org



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

Weather Policy

If the church cancels any service or activity due to inclement weather or wintery conditions, a message will be placed on the church's voice recorder to inform you of such changes or cancellations. If you are in doubt if a particular service or activity is canceled, please call the church before you travel to the event. If no message is stated notifying you of any changes, this means the service or activity remains as scheduled. We will only post a cancellation message if a service or activity is canceled or postponed.

Upper Seneca Baptist Church



**Impacting The Kingdom Of God
One Person At A Time**

Upper Seneca Baptist Church

11:00 am Sunday Worship
December 16, 2018

*Hymn #192 *“Hark! The Herald Angel Sing”* Congregation

Prayer/Welcome Pastor Dennis

*Hymn *“Joy to the World”* Congregation
(Unspeakable Joy)

Offertory

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

*Special *“Bethlehem”* Choir

**Message Pastor Dennis
“THE FIRST CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT”
Matthew 2:1-12

*Hymn of Commitment #189 Congregation
“Child in the Manger”

*Closing Hymn #199 Congregation
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Denotes Congregation standing

**Children will be dismissed to their classrooms following the Sermon Video (prior to the Message).

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Sunday, December 16, Children/Youth Christmas Party
Sunday, December 23, Christmas Cantata “Good News from Home”
Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve Service

Children/Youth Christmas Party



Today immediately following our Worship Service, we invite all of our children and youth to gather in the Fellowship Hall for a special *Christmas Party*. The *Christmas Party* will be filled with plenty of food, games, and prizes.

Poinsettias

There is still time to order a poinsettia. Sign-up and help make the church decorated attractively for Christmas with a red poinsettia. The cost this year is \$8.00 for a 6-inch pot.



Cancellations



During the Christmas season, there are two very important cancellations that you need to be aware of. **Sunday School** will be canceled on **December 23**. However, we will still have our regular 11 a.m. Sunday worship with the Christmas musical entitled, “*Good News From Home*”. **All Wednesday Night Activities** will be canceled on **December 26**. Also, the church office will be closed on **December 25** and **January 1** to celebrate the holiday season.

Year End

If you would like to make a year-end charitable tax contribution to *USBC*, please make sure that your financial gift is received by the church, no later than **December 31, 2018**.



“The First Christmas Ornament”

By Pastor Dennis Felder

December 16, 2018

Sermon Title: “The First Christmas Ornament”

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

Synopsis: It is a joy to hang Christmas decorations on the tree. However, it was God who displayed the very first Christmas ornament. This first Christmas ornament was a star that was hung in the sky to point others to the birth of Christ. Today, the Christmas star can be used to share the Good News and to point others to Jesus Christ.

The Christmas Star represents:

I. God’s _____.

Matthew 2:1-2 – *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

Luke 2:9 – *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*

Luke 2:14 – *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

Exodus 24:15-17 – *When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the*

seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

Revelation 22:16 – *“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”*

Christians shine because God’s Glory is reflecting on them.

Are you allowing God’s glory to be reflected through you?

Like the star, God wants to use each of us as an instrument to display His glory and His grace.

II. God’s _____.

Matthew 2:1-9 – *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.*

When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

What is the guiding light in your life?

John 8:12 – When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

God's plan should take priority over our plans.

The Guiding Light leads us to worship Him.

III. God's _____.

Matthew 2:10-12 – When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

It is Jesus who puts the joy in Christmas.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus came as the gift to all of us who will receive Him.

What gift will you honor Christ with this Christmas season?

Sermon Notes:

If you would like to listen to the sermon on-line, please visit our website at www.USBChurch.org.

Christmas Cheer!



This Christmas season, USBC will be launching a very special outreach ministry entitled, *Christmas Cheer!* *Christmas Cheer* involves financial donations, gift cards, and the distribution of the *Christmas Cheer* packet.

Below is how Christmas Cheer works:

- During the month of December, the church will be collecting financial donations. These donations will be used to purchase \$10 gift cards from Safeway.
- These gift cards will be placed in a package like our *Share Packets*, but with a Christmas emphasis.
- Then you are invited to take a *Christmas Cheer Packet* and give it to someone else. This person can be a family member, a friend, or a total stranger. The purpose of the *Christmas Cheer Packet* is to share the true meaning of Christmas with others.

In participating in the *Christmas Cheer*, you will accomplish two very important things. First, you will experience a blessing spreading a little Christmas Cheer. Second, you will bless someone else with the Good News along with a gift card that can be used. Your participate in the *Christmas Cheer* will produce a lasting impression in your life and in the life of the person who receives it.

Once you give the *Christmas Cheer Packet* to someone, please come back to the church and share your story of spreading a little *Christmas Cheer!*



Christmas Musical



On **December 23**, the *USBC Choir* will be presenting a cantata entitled “*Good News From Home*” (Arranged by Russell Mauldin). The choir has practiced long and hard in order to sing praises to God for sending His Son to be born in Bethlehem. Come and hear the Christmas message in music. You will be reminded that the best gift of all is Jesus!

Christmas Eve Service

On **December 24** at 6:30 p.m., we invite you to attend our *Christmas Eve Service*. During this special service, we will honor the birth of Christ through song, Scripture reading, and prayer. The service will conclude with a beautiful ceremony of everyone lighting a candle. The lit candles will symbolize the Light coming into the world who is Jesus Christ.



Christmas Memorial Tree



Christmas is considered to be a joyous time of year. However, for some who had a loved that has died, it can be a time of loneliness and grief. So, to help keep their wonderful memory alive during the Christmas season, we will have a *Christmas Memorial Tree* in the church foyer. If you have a loved one who has passed, we invite you to place a Christmas ball on the *Christmas Memorial Tree* to remember them.

When you walk into the church’s foyer the *Christmas Memorial Tree* will be standing in place. Beside the tree will be colorful Christmas balls. If you would like to honor or remember your loved one(s), take one of the Christmas balls and write their name(s) on it with markers provided. Then hang it on the *Christmas Memorial Tree*.

On Sunday, **December 23**, following our worship service, we will gather in the foyer for a special remembrance prayer. Then on Sunday, December 30th, we ask that you take home your Remembrance Christmas Ball and place them in safe keeping.

Christmas Cards



If you would like to give *Christmas Cards* to members of your church family, we invite you to bring them to church for distribution and collection. Church directories will be available at church so that you can label your cards appropriately.

Pastor’s Christmas Love Offering

It has been USBC’s custom to give our pastor a Christmas love offering. As a special thanks for all of the work and sacrifice given by them and their families as they minister to us in our times of need and times of joy. This gives each person an opportunity to give from their own hearts and share their love in a very personal and meaningful way and our means to remember Pastor Dennis, and his wife, Lana, their son Lucas and daughter Lanny for all the love they share with us.



If you wish to contribute to this special offering, please make sure to identify the purpose of your gift on your envelope or check. You may place it in the offering plate on Sunday or send it in the mail to the church. If you need an envelope for a cash gift, please see one of the ushers. Please try to have your gift in place by Sunday, **December 31**.

Poinsettia’s Given by the Following:



Connie Harding, in honor of my new Great-grandsons.

Dick & Sandy Rogers, in memory & honor of our parents Paul & Hazel Woodfield, Dick Sr. & Grace Rogers.

Les Yeatts, in memory of his Father