

SUNDAY, December 2, 2018

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
2:00 pm Museum of the Bible Trip

WEDNESDAY, December 5, 2018

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

SATURDAY, December 8, 2018

4:00 pm The Menorah

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:

Mon., Dec. 3	Tues., Dec. 4	Wed., Dec. 5	Thurs., Dec. 6
9:30 am – 1 pm	9:30 am – 1 pm	9:30 am – 1 pm	9:30 am – 1 pm

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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Germantown, MD 20876
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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>)

Upper Seneca Baptist Church

From the Cradle to the Cross



Matthew 1:18-21

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

Upper Seneca Baptist Church

11:00 am Sunday Worship

December 2, 2018

*Hymn #198 *“What Child Is This”* Congregation

Prayer/Welcome Pastor Dennis

*Hymn #180 *“The First Noel”* Congregation

Offertory

*Hymn #188 *“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”* Congregation

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Special *“Alleluia, Christ Has Come”* Choir

Message Pastor Dennis

“FROM THE CRADLE TO THE CROSS”

Matthew 1:18-21

*Hymn of Commitment #491 Congregation

“Shine, Jesus Shine”

Celebration of Communion

*Closing Hymn #491 Congregation

“Shine, Jesus Shine”



Sunday, December 2, Museum of the Bible trip
Saturday, December 8, The Menorah
Monday, December 10, Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, Forever Young @ IHop
Sunday, December 16, Children/Youth Christmas Party
Sunday, December 23, Christmas Cantata “Good News from Home”
Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve Service

Poinsettias



It's time to place your order for poinsettias. 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.

Forever Young

The Super Seniors will be having their monthly luncheon on Tuesday, **December 11**, at the IHop in Mt. Airy, MD at 12:00 noon. Please contact the office for more information.



Children/Youth Christmas Party



On **December 16** 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.

*Denotes Congregation standing

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

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“From the Cradle to the Cross”

By Pastor Dennis Felder

December 2, 2018

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-21 (NIV)

Synopsis: During the Christmas season we gleefully sing and reflect upon the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. However, Jesus was born for a specific purpose and that was to die upon the cross. During this Christmas message we will celebrate the birth of Christ, but we will also learn that Christmas came at a great cost.

Matthew 1:18-21 – *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

John 1:14 – *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

What changed the world?

I. The _____.

Luke 2:10-11 – *But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

God himself, stepped out from glorious heaven and willingly came to a sinful world.

Christmas begins with the cradle, but culminates with the cross.

II. The _____.

Matthew 1:21 – *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

Matthew 26:28 – *This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

Jesus was the only person in history who was born with the purpose of dying.

The only cure for sin is the blood that Christ shed on the cross. Christ came as the Lamb of God, born in a manger, to bleed and die upon a cross so that you and I could be forgiven of our sins.

John 3:16 – *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.*

So the next time, when you peer in the sacred cradle of Christ or when you sing *Away in Manger*, I pray that you will have a new perspective of Christmas and understand what it cost Christ to save you.

It is when you accept the precious gift of Jesus Christ, is when you will have a MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

Christmas Musical

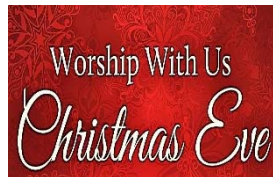


On **December 23**, the **USBC Choir** will be presenting a cantata entitled “*Good News From Home*” (Arranged by Russell Mauldin). The choir has practiced long and hard in order to sing praises to God for sending His Son to be born in Bethlehem.

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 one 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 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 participation 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!**



Museum of the Bible



On Sunday, **December 2**, we will be visiting the *Museum of the Bible* in Washington, D.C. Following our worship service, we will have a quick lunch, carpool to the Shady Grove Metro Station, and arrive at the museum around 2 p.m. The cost will be \$10 per person and you will be responsible for purchasing your fare to ride Metro. However, lunch will be provided by the church. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the church's foyer.

Here is a brief description of the museum: "Museum of the Bible aims to be among the most technologically advanced and engaging museums in the world. Showcasing rare artifacts spanning 3,500 years of history, the museum offers visitors an immersive and personalized experience with the Bible, and its ongoing impact on the world around us." If you would like more information about the *Museum of the Bible*, please visit their website at www.museumofthebible.org.

The Menorah

Within the Jewish faith, it is very common to light a *Menorah* during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. This Jewish holiday is observed during the Christian celebration of Christmas. Often, in certain public displays you will see a *Menorah* next to a Christmas Tree. For many Christians, we do not understand the purpose or meaning of the *Menorah*. On **December 8** at 4 p.m., our very own Brian Altman will be sharing with our church the history, the meaning, and the purpose of the *Menorah*. Brian will teach us the significance of the *Menorah* in the Jewish faith and how it has been observed and celebrated. In addition, we will learn how the Christian faith can embrace its meaning. To celebrate the lighting of the *Menorah*, we will observe this special occasion just like Jewish families will be doing. When lighting the *Menorah* they also celebrate by eating fried foods. So, we also will be serving up some delicious fried desserts to satisfy our taste buds following the lighting of our *Menorah*



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**.

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**.