



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

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

USBC News

START FRESH IN 2017?

By Pastor Dennis Felder



In Italy, they have a unique custom of celebrating “New Year’s Eve”. As midnight on New Year’s Eve approaches, the streets are cleared. There is no traffic, there are no pedestrians; even the policemen take cover. Then, at the stroke of 12, the windows of the houses fly open. There is a sudden uproar of laughter, music is played loudly, and explosive fireworks light up the midnight sky. The people, while still in their homes, begin to throw out of their

windows items that are broken, possessions which they dislike, and unnecessary items they have collected in the past year that they wish to detach their lives from. The Italians want to start with a fresh New Year.

Spiritually speaking, this is a great way to start a new year. I encourage you to look deep into your heart and see what is holding you back from serving the Lord. If it is not beneficial to God’s kingdom, then it needs to be thrown out. **1 John 1:5** says, “*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*” There is no way you can have dark sin in your spiritual house when it is filled with the radiant Light. Throw it out!

ISRAELITES NEW YEAR

By Pastor Dennis Felder



When did the Israelites celebrate their “New Year”? To be honest, this is a difficult question to answer. As you begin to search the Scripture for the explanation, you will discover that different calendars were used in different periods of biblical time. There are at least three distinct methods of calendars that are seen in the Bible. Before Moses’ time, the Israelites adopted calendars from other nations, a new calendar was established after the Israelites were freed from Egypt which centered around their festivals, and many events in the New Testament operated by means of a Roman calendar.

In the Old Testament, it is widely debated if the New Year was in the fall or spring. Two basic points should be made concerning the New Year in Israel. First, from the time of Moses to today, it appears that the New Year, or Rosh Hashanah, has been in the fall, in conjunction with Yom Kippur and Sukkoth. Second, there is strong evidence that from the beginnings of Israel to the Pre-Mosaic era, the New Year was celebrated in the spring since the custom of the land they were living in viewed spring as offering a new life and a new beginning. Since we have such a great historical gap in time, it is difficult to say exactly when Israel first celebrated their New Year.

Today, the New Year is celebrated by Jews all around the world in the fall. Since the Jewish calendar does not correspond to our modern Western day calendar, the celebration of Rosh Hashanah changes from year to year. The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar rather than a solar calendar. A lunar year has 354 days whereas a solar year has 365 1/4 days. The Jewish calendar is therefore adjusted seven times every nineteen years by adding an extra month, Adar II.

MUSIC FILLS THE AIR

By Lana Felder



Christmas is a time of joy and celebration as we remember and sing about the birth of Christ. At USBC, we have been blessed with opportunities and volunteers who have

shared their time and talents in the area of music. We have a dedicated praise team, a talented pianist, and a wonderful choir.

But this year, we expanded our music to reach out to church members who cannot always come for the services. We took the Christmas music to them by going caroling! We had 11 people who met at the church and drove to several members' houses to celebrate the birth of Christ with them at home! It was a great blessing for all of us!

In addition, on December 18th, our choir presented the Christmas cantata entitled *"The Night Christ Was Born."* It was a beautiful musical reminder that we celebrate Christmas each year – not because of presents and toys – but because of God's gift to us through the birth of His Son.

THAT'S GREEK TO ME!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Have you ever heard the statement, "He or she is 'anti everything'?" The word *anti* means to be against something or in opposition to. In the English language, we will attach a word with the prefix *anti* to emphasize that we oppose it. Here is a word that many people embrace, *anti-aging*.

The English word *anti* comes from the Greek word *anti*. Within the Greek language, this prefix can be translated as *oppose*. We see this word occurring in **John 19:12** which reads, "From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, 'If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king *opposes* (*anti/ἀντιλέγει*) Caesar.'"

SERMON SCHEDULE

By Pastor Dennis Felder

January 1, 2017

Guest Speaker – Rev. Gayle Clifton
Retired USBC Pastor

January 8, 2017

Sermon Title: "Making a Difference"
Scripture: Acts 26:1-20

January 15, 2017

Sermon Title: "The Power of Prayer"
Scripture: James 5:13-16

January 22, 2017

Sermon Title: "When We Say Father"
(Part 1)
Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13



USBC carolers bringing joyful Christmas music



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..

JANUARY EVENTS



USBC Theme for 2017:

Prayer and Participation!



Proposed 2017 Church Budget:

The church will be voting to approve the 2017 Church Budget on January 15, 2017, immediately following our worship service.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available in the church's main lobby on January 1st and 8th.



Dive Deeper Bible Study:

On January 8th at 1pm after church, lunch will be served for all participants. The discussion topic Bible study will be "*Creationism: How and When!*"



Church Council:

January 9th at 7 pm



Super Senior Luncheon:

January 10th the seniors will meet at **Bob Evans** in Germantown, MD.



Pizza with the Pastor:

Sunday, January 22nd at 1pm, USBC will meet at **Pazzo Pomodoro** located at the *Clarksburg Village Center, 12051 Chestnut Branch Way, Clarksburg, MD*. Each person is responsible for their check.

- Take down Christmas decorations on January 7th at 10 am.
- The Church Office will be closed on January 2nd.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By Rev. Gayle Clifton

At the start of every year, we always hear a great deal about making "*New Year's Resolutions.*" I personally have never been much into making New Year's resolutions. But, at the beginning of each New Year, I have been led to do several things, concerning my Christian life and my relationship with Jesus Christ. I look back and reflect upon the year that is ending. I count my blessings. I remember the victories. I see where I fell short. I look ahead, and ask God to show me what He wants to do in my life, what He wants to do through my life and where He wants to take me in the year ahead for Jesus' sake. Then I claim a Scripture verse or passage as "mine", to guide me for the coming year. For 2017, I have chosen **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**. I especially have focused on the second half of verse 22: "*I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.*" I do not know yet where this coming year will take me; but, wherever the road of my life may lead, I want to be willing to do whatever it takes and to give whatever it takes so that others might be drawn to Him.

Thank you



USBC wants to thank everyone who gave so generously to make the Angel Tree and the Christmas Baskets a wonderful success. Blessings to all!

On behalf of my family and as your humble Pastor, I want to extend our thankfulness to our loving family at USBC for the generous gifts you gave us during the Christmas Season. Thank you! – Pastor



Super Seniors gathered at the Cracker Barrel in Frederick last month.



USBC NEWS
Upper Seneca Baptist Church
23401 Davis Mill Rd.
Germantown, MD 20876



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
January 15, 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 put a little slip of paper 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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