

Volume 23 Issue 1

January 2019



**OUR MISSION: Impacting The Kingdom Of
God One Person At A Time**

USBC News

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

THE SMELL TEST

By Pastor Dennis Felder



I don't know about you, but I love that new car smell. When you go to the dealership to test drive a new vehicle, there is a sense of excitement when you buckle yourself into that comfy seat. You then grip your hands around that sturdy steering wheel, tilt your head back to gaze into the rearview mirror, and then you inhale. Your nostrils explode with that new car smell.

On January 1st, I encourage you to take a smell test. Not a literal smell test, but a spiritual smell test. Even in life, when we smell something that is rotten, spoiled, or old, we throw it out. This should also be true spiritually. There are areas in our life or things that we do that can harm us or have a negative impact on our Christian growth. When we discover such harmful things, we need to cast them out.

The Bible says in **Ephesians 4:21-24**, *"When you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*

Therefore, when the New Year rings in, be like a tenacious dog sniffing out a hot trail to discover something new. Like the Scripture tells us that we need to cast off the old self and to be made new again. You see, when this happens and your spirit inhales, you will smell something new and refreshing. It smells good!



MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On Sunday, December 2nd, a group of 21 from USBC visited the *Museum of the Bible* in Washington, D.C. Before we left the church to go on this exciting adventure, we treated ourselves to delicious pizza. After our tummies were full, we carpooled to the Shady Grove Metro Station. Upon our arrival, to the *Museum of the Bible*, we were captivated by a large display of Biblical artifacts and themed rooms that reflected the Biblical period. It was a great field trip for learning and fellowship.

I SERVE MEETING

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On January 6th, USBC will have a brief 30-minute meeting following our worship service for *I Serve*. This meeting will provide an update and guidance for all who seek to serve at USBC.

So, following our worship service on January 6th, please remain in the sanctuary for our *I Serve* meeting.



CHURCH CHAT

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Like the New Year, we are starting something brand new at USBC. It is called *Church Chat*. *Church Chat* is a wonderful way of providing a means to communicate what is happening at USBC.

How It Works – The last Sunday of each month, we will gather in the church foyer/coffee shop for a 10-minute informal meeting following our worship service. During this 10-minute time period, I will be sharing with everyone about upcoming events, areas where the church needs help, and to receive vital input from our church family. *Church Chat* will be a great way of keeping everyone informed about all the activities and church events that will be taking place.

January 27th will be our very first *Church Chat*. So, following our worship service, grab a donut and coffee and join us for our 10-minute *Church Chat*.

DIVE DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

By Pastor Dennis Felder



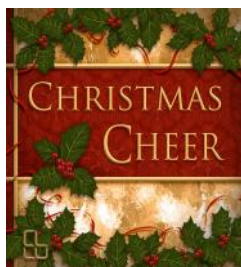
On January 20th, our *Dive Deeper Bible Study* will address the question, "Can the Bible be Trusted?"

The Bible is the bedrock of the Christian faith for understanding who

God is and how He works in the affairs of humanity. However, there are many people who discredit the Bible as fiction. They often support their point of view by claiming that the Bible is filled with many contradictions. In our study we will address such contradictions and equip ourselves with convincing proofs that the Word of God is true and still relevant for today.

CHRISTMAS CHEER!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



This past Christmas season, USBC launched a very special outreach ministry entitled, *Christmas Cheer!* *Christmas Cheer* involved financial donations, gift cards, and the distribution of the *Christmas Cheer* packet.

The *Christmas Cheer* packet consisted of a colorful card that reflected *Christmas Cheer*, information about the church, church Christmas activities, the plan of salvation, and a \$10 Safeway gift card. These cards were distributed to friends, family, associates, and even strangers to help bring a little *Christmas Cheer* to their life during this festive season.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On November 21st, USBC hosted a very creative *Thanksgiving Eve Service*. During our Thanksgiving celebration we thanked the Lord for His generous blessings, but we also did something very creative. We

created yummy desserts to share with one another. This relaxed environment gave us an opportunity to get to know each other better. It was truly a time that allowed all to reflect upon their blessings and to be thankful for what the Lord has done.

FOREVER YOUNG

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On December 11th, our wonderful group of *Forever Young* gathered at the IHOP in Mt. Airy for our monthly luncheon. We had a total of 16 people in attendance. As usual, the food was great, but the fellowship was even better.

Our next *Forever Young Luncheon* will be on January 8th and we will gather at the *Golden Corral* in Frederick. Since the Senior Lunch discount begins at 12:30 p.m., we will meet at the *Golden Corral* at 12:30 p.m. See you there!

CHILDREN/YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



On December 16th USBC had our *Children/Youth Christmas Party*. The *Children/Youth Christmas Party* was filled with food, fun, and some great crafts. It was a joy seeing the future generation of our church learning about the true meaning of Christmas in a fun and creative way.



USBC NEWS
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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 20, 2019

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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THE MENORAH & CHRISTMAS

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On December 8th, USBC held a very special presentation about the meaning of the **Menorah**. Brian and Kate Altman did a wonderful job in

sharing the Jewish tradition about the significance of the **Menorah** and its meaning to the Jewish faith. In addition to learning about the lighting of the **Menorah**, we also learned about another Light that transformed this world. That Light is Jesus Christ who brought us Christmas.

During our presentation we talked about the passage found **John 1:1-14** which reads, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. 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.”*

Following our discussion about the Menorah and Jesus Christ, the Light of world, we indulged ourselves with traditional foods of the season. This included Jewish potato cakes (Latkes), jelly filled donuts, cheeses, fried donuts, and delicious toppings.



CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On December 2nd, USBC observed a very special **Christmas Communion**. The sermon for that Sunday was entitled, *“From the Cradle to the Cross”*. The purpose of the message was to celebrate the birth of Christ, but to also

understand that Jesus was born to die. To observe these two very important events in Christianity, we participated in a very memorable communion.

A special table was placed in front of the church. The communion table was draped with purple and white cloths. On one side of the table the manger was displayed to represent the birth of Christ. The bread was placed at the foot of the manger who is Christ the Bread of Life. At the opposite end of the table was a cross. At the foot of the cross were placed the cups of red juice to represent the shedding of His blood. In addition, a lit candle was on the table to represent Jesus as being the light of the world.

This special **Christmas Communion** was very meaningful and powerful as we fully embraced the birth and death of Christ.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BOYS

By Pastor Dennis Felder



If you were not in church on December 9th, you missed a very special musical performance by the **Wednesday Evening Boys** with a lively rendition of **Go Tell It**

on the Mountain. Pastor Dennis and Tom Shuggars sang vocals, Brian Altman introduced the group, and Bill TJ provided the background music by playing the keyboard.

If you missed the Wednesday Evening Boys and would like to view them, they can be found on the church’s Facebook page.

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

