



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

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

USBC News

MAKE UP YOUR OWN HOLIDAY

By Pastor Dennis Felder



As I was perusing holidays that will occur in March, I discovered some very fascinating holidays and some downright weird observances. For example, *March 1st* is **National Pig Day**, *March 4th* is **Holy Experiment Day**, *March 6th* is **National Frozen Food Day**, *March, 11th* is **Johnny Appleseed Day**, *March 15th* is **Buzzard’s Day**, *March 20th* is **National Alien Abduction Day**, *March 22nd* is **International Goof off Day**, and *March 24th* is **National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day**. Although there were many more weird holidays in March, the one that grabbed my attention was March 26, 2017. *March 26th* is **Make Up Your Own Holiday Day**.

So, I want to offer you a unique challenge. Since *March 26th* is **Make Up Your Own Holiday Day**, spend some time thinking about the holiday that you would create. What would this holiday be named? Would it center around a person, place, or thing? What tradition or rituals would be included in your new personalized holiday? Be creative.

Now, I want to challenge you to create a holiday that would be Christ honoring. What would you name this new holiday? What would this new holiday look like? Would it focus on an individual practice or would it involve the entire body of believers? How often would this holiday be observed? What tradition or rituals would be associated with this new Christian holiday?



I would call my new Christian holiday, **Checkmate Day**. In chess, the term **checkmate** is used to notify your opponent that their king is under attack and there is no way out. When you are placed in **checkmate**, you lose the game.

Even as Christians, there are times we feel that we are self-sufficient. In other words, we are our own king. We go through life believing that we control our own destiny and fate. Then suddenly, we find ourselves in a desperate situation called **checkmate**. When placed in **checkmate**, one can accept the inevitable, or keep fighting a losing battle. The only viable option is to surrender. So often, we believe that surrendering is giving up or losing, but when we are placed in **checkmate** by Christ, we win. This mindset of losing to win, goes against conventional wisdom. However, in the Christian context, it makes perfect sense.

The Scripture that I would use for my **Checkmate Day** would be **Philippian 3:8** which states,

“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.” For me, this would be a personal holiday, but I would encourage other believers to observe it as well. I would practice this custom daily so that I would constantly remind myself that I am not the King, but my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is truly the King of Kings.

BLESSED BAPTISM

By Lana Felder



USBC was very blessed by the baptism of *Brian Altman* on Sunday, January 29th. Brian has been coming to USBC since December 2016. Upon sharing with Pastor Dennis, Brian felt led to accept Christ as his Savior.

It was very touching and beautiful service. Beth Horvat shared about her recent baptism and her love for the Lord. Pastor Gayle Clifton assisted Brian as he entered and exited the baptistery. Pastor Dennis was overjoyed to have the privilege of baptizing our new brother in Christ.

Brian has been a true blessing and his eagerness to learn about Jesus has been contagious. He is there for every study and service the church offers. His desire for God's word is insatiable and his love for God shows on his smiling face each time he talks about his Savior.

We are so thankful to have been a part of God's plan for Brian and pray that his love and desire for God's word will continue to energize us as we reach out to our community for Christ.

2017 SERMON SCHEDULE:

March 5, 2017

Sermon Title: "The Fingerprint of the Church"

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

March 12, 2017

Sermon Title: "Let's Make a Deal"

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

March 19, 2017

Sermon Title: "How to Spot a Fake"

Scripture: Matthew 7:15-19

March 26, 2017

Sermon Title: "Responding to God's Call"

Scripture: Isaiah 6:5-11

USBC LADIES HOST BABY SHOWER

By Lana Felder



The ladies of USBC, led by Donna Limparis, hosted a baby shower for Laura and Kevin Mayer on Saturday, February 18th. Many of you know Laura and Kevin and also knew Laura's mother, Beth Meier, who passed away one year ago. Although Laura and Kevin live in Virginia, they have been and will be a part of our USBC family.

There were 16 people in attendance to help the Mayer's prepare to welcome baby Noah into the world in early May, 2017. The ladies of USBC provided wonderful food and desserts as well as games and gifts. There was a group gift of a baby stroller and car seat combination as well as many other gifts of clothes, books, and other items.

I think I can speak for all the ladies by saying it was an honor and privilege to host this baby shower out of love for Laura and Kevin and in honor of Beth. We look forward to seeing baby Noah Mayer very soon!





USBC THEME FOR 2017

Prayer, Praise, and Participation!

Dive Deeper Bible Study – On March 19th at 1 pm at church, lunch will be served for all participants. (Topic: “*Is God Really Pro-life?*”). At our last **Dive Deeper Bible Study**, we had 14 people in attendance.

Church Council – March 13th at 7 pm.

Youth Group Event – March 17th at **Ledos Pizza** at 5:30 pm.

Coffee & Praise – March 18th from 5:30 - 6:30 pm in church’s Fellowship Hall.

Super Senior Luncheon – March 21st at **Bob Evans** at 12:00 Noon in Germantown, MD.

**IF YOU MISSED IT,
DON’T WORRY**

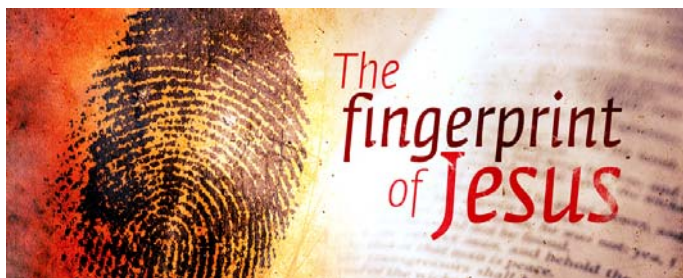
By Pastor Dennis Felder



In the month of February, our church was challenged to not only understand the Biblical concept of **WORSHIP**, but also to enhance one’s private and public **WORSHIP**. The sermon series was entitled the “*The Knowhow of Worship.*” The series included 4 dynamic sermons that helped one to reinforce the value and purpose of **WORSHIP**. If you were unable to attend, or if you missed one of the sermons, you still have the opportunity to listen to them. You can go to our church’s website at <http://www.usbchurch.org/Sermons> or select the tab (or the right) entitled *Sermon Archives* on our web site Also, I encourage you to share the sermon link with a family member, friend, co-worker, or an acquaintance.



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



VBS IS COMING!



Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! This year it will be July 10th through July 14th. 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 and every volunteer. Also, pray for the children that come to be open to the message of God’s love and salvation.

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, March 12th, 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.

SOUP & CHILI LUNCHEON

By Lana Felder



On Sunday, February 19th, USBC had a delicious soup and chili luncheon. Many members used their special culinary gifts to provide a wide variety of soup and chili choices as well as fruit, veggies, breads, sandwiches, and desserts. We truly enjoyed the time of food and fellowship! There was much laughter and sharing as we enjoyed the meal together.

We also had a giveaway of chocolates in honor of Valentine's Day. *Mary King* won the small box and *Bill Tj* won the huge 2+ pound box!

Acts 2:42 tells us, "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals ... and to prayer." We praise God that Upper Seneca is a church that is devoted to God's word, fellowship,

THAT'S GREEK TO ME!

By Pastor Dennis Felder

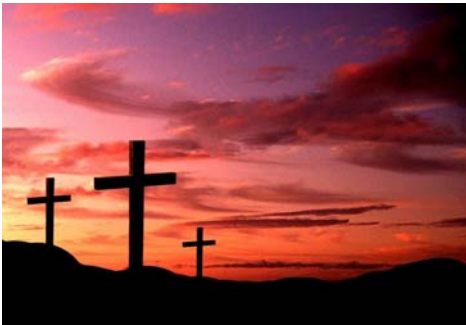


When a person masters a specific craft or trade, it means that they have acquired or developed a special technique to accomplish that task. A technique is often associated with a person's trade or skill.

In the Bible, the English word *skill*, *craft*, or *trade* comes from the Greek word *technos* (meaning, *technique*). The Bible says in Acts 17:29, *Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill (technos/τέχνης).*

EASTER IS COMING!

By Lana 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 11am. 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 7pm. 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 6:30am. 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 11am. Once again, we will celebrate our risen Savior through congregational worship. We will sing His praises, we share His Word, we will proclaim His name, and we 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.

COFFEE & PRAISE!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On Saturday, March 18, 2017, we will gather in the church’s Fellowship Hall for a wonderful evening of refreshments, songs, and praise. The festivities will start at 5:30pm and

will conclude at 6:30pm. During this time of celebration, we will sing your favorite hymns, share uplifting stories, and enjoy the fine taste of coffee, a sweet beverage, and a delicious dessert.

BIG SHOUT OUT!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On behalf of our church, we would like to give a **BIG SHOUT OUT** to *Les Yeatts, Chuck Limparis, and Lucas Felder*. These brave souls fearlessly climbed the scaffolding to replace our old projector with a new one.

Our **Audio/Visual Ministry** plays a very important part in enhancing our worship experience each and every time we gather at church. If you would like to become part of our **Audio/Visual Team**, please let me know.

USBC NEWS
Upper Seneca Baptist Church
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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
March 19, 2017

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 cancelations. 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.

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