



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

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

USBC News

THREE YEARS AGO

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Do you know where you were November 1, 2015? I certainly do. It was a highlight of my life. It was on this date when I stood before **Upper Seneca Baptist Church** and was selected by this gracious congregation to become your next Pastor. It was an emotional day for me as you affirmed me as your new shepherd. A lot has happened in these three years. We have celebrated together, we have

grieved together, we have laughed together, we have grown together, but most of all we have been faithful to our calling together.

I just want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for such a loving church and caring people. Each one of you have expressed such great kindness to me and my family. You have laughed at my jokes when they were not very funny, you have been very patient with me as I have led the church into uncharted waters, but most of all, you have accepted my family and me with such wonderful love. My soul is always touched by your warm-heartedness and encouraging words. Your support has been unwavering and for this I am forever grateful.

These last three years have been a testimony about how God's people can do the impossible. As I survey the last three years at **USBC**, it is amazing what God has accomplished through our service and commitment. It has been a thrilling and, at times, an unpredictable ride. However, these new steps have allowed us to step out of our comfort zones to learn something new about each other and something wonderful about our Savior. I am glad that our exhilarating ride did not come to a screeching end. As a matter of fact, it is just beginning. So, hold on tight because we are just getting started.

You see, the rewarding journey will never cease if we stay focused, committed, and faithful to our task. Paul reminds us in **Hebrews 12:1-2a**, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. ..."*

I am eagerly awaiting what God has in store for us in the next three years, the next 20 years, and beyond. So, like the famous words in NASCAR, *"Put on those seatbelts, pull them straps tight, and boogity, boogity, boogity, let's go racing!"*

If you have not yet completed a **Spiritual Inventory**, there is still time to do so. The **Spiritual Inventory** is available for pickup at the church or you can print it from the church's website. If you need help in completing the **Spiritual Inventory**, please let me know. The desire is to make this important task easy, rewarding, and beneficial to yourself and the kingdom of God.



By Pastor Dennis Felder

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FOREVER YOUNG

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Our last *Forever Young Luncheon* was mission accomplished compared to last month. Last month, our hungry crew showed up at the IHOP in Mt. Airy to discover that it was closed for remodeling. However, with a *no quit* attitude, we showed up again this month at the Mt. Airy IHOP and was successful.

Our next *Forever Young Luncheon* on November 13th, we will gather at the *Golden Corral* in Frederick, MD at 12 noon. See you there.



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



One thing that I enjoy about Thanksgiving is getting together with friends and family, sharing our blessings, and eating good food. Well, USBC's *Thanksgiving Eve Service* this year will not only fulfill these three Thanksgiving traditions, it will exceed them.

On Wednesday, November 21, 2017, from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m., our USBC family will be creating new memories to share with others. For our *Thanksgiving Eve Service*, like last year, we will gather in the church's Fellowship Hall. During this hour of reflection and celebration, we will create yummy desserts to share with one another, share Thanksgiving memories, sing festive music, and express our thankfulness for one another and for our Lord and Savior.

The church will be providing all food/dessert supplies for each person to create a crafty dessert. All the recipes will be simple to make. Once completed, we will share the sweet treats with one another. As we are making our tasty treats, everyone will have the opportunity to share stories involving Thanksgiving memories. We will sing songs and read Scriptures that will help to develop and maintain a heart of Thanksgiving during this special season. The only thing that you will need to bring is yourself. Everyone one is invited!

DIVE DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On November 18th, you are invited to attend our *Dive Deeper Bible Study*. The title of our discussion is "*Music – Its Spiritual Impact*". During our study time, we will discuss the history of music in the Bible and how music can impact us negatively and positively.

USBC NEWS
Upper Seneca Baptist Church
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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
November 18, 2018

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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DAMASCUS HARVEST FESTIVAL

By Lana Felder



On October 20th, USBC participated in the **Damascus Harvest Festival**. Very similar to the Damascus Community Fair, we had our own designated spot to converse with people about our church and give out freebies. The

Damascus Harvest Festival was from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Damascus Fire Department Activities Center.

Thank you to Adele Stokes, Sharon Moone, Wayne Soles, Pastor Dennis & Lana who helped with our booth. This was a great opportunity for us to reach our community for Christ.

213th HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On June 28, 1805, (38) thirty-eight Christians signed a document to create our church. The guiding hand of the Holy Spirit was

surely there that day. Many important events have happened in the history of our church. We grew and we built new church buildings. Many pastors blessed us with their service. We planted other churches in the area. We cared for each other and for those in our community.

On Sunday October 14, 2018 we celebrated our church's history with a special worship service, touching testimonies, and a wonderful potluck dinner. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we came together to glorify God in worship and service. Through the faithful service of many over 213 years, countless lives have been changed by the gracious love of Jesus Christ.

USBC HARVEST FESTIVAL

By Lana Felder



The **USBC** Annual Harvest Festival at Richard and Mary Doody's farm was a smashing good time! On Saturday, October 20th, the Doody's graciously opened their property up for our church family to enjoy together.

There was a bonfire to cook hot dogs, roast marshmallows for s'mores, and to gather chairs around for warmth. The kids played on the swing set until it was too dark to see and then Richard turned on the flood lights so they could go back for more. Mary made her delicious hot apple cider which I look forward to each year! Richard also drove the tractor as everyone bounced along in the hay wagon he was pulling.

I cannot adequately describe the atmosphere to you in words. There was a spirit of togetherness and love that can only be experienced by the family of God. We shared stories, experiences, and of course lots of laughter! The kids ran and played in the open, grassy yard only stopping to wolf down a hot dog and chips so that they could go back and play again. Of course, no one had to call them over when it was time for s'mores or for the hayride!

The adults enjoyed sharing food while watching the gorgeous sun setting behind Sugarloaf Mountain. We laughed at Pastor Dennis and Richard as they tried to pop Jiffy Pop popcorn on a grate on the bonfire. The first batch was BURNT, the second batch was better, and the third time was the charm! I'm not sure if Richard's shirt sleeve survived since he used it to cover his hand while shaking the popcorn. I think his description of his cuff was "it's a little crispy."

We are thankful to the Doody's for opening their home and property to the church. We are even more thankful to the Lord for His beautiful creation and bringing this loving group of people together at **USBC**.

IS is HERE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



After a full month of anticipation, **IS is Here!** **IS** stands for **I SERVE**. On October 28th, we launched a new ministry in our church that encourages everyone to find a special place of service at **USBC**. In **Isaiah**

6:8, Isaiah was asked a very penetrating question, “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” We too, are also asked this same question of service.

God has equipped everyone of us with unique gifts. Therefore, we are called to use them for His glory. It is through our service that we honor our Savior and receive a wonderful blessing in return. As we bring a close to 2018 and start a fresh year in 2019, I want to invite you to become a part of **IS, I SERVE**. Be in prayer as you respond to God’s call, discover how you can use your gifts, and find a place to serve at **USBC**.

THE MENORAH

By Pastor Dennis Felder



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 8th 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**.

MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On Sunday, December 2nd, 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.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

By Pastor Dennis Felder



It is that wonderful time of year again – CHRISTMAS! As we prepare for the all the Christmas activities at the church, we will be decorating our church building for this festive

season. On Saturday, November 24th at 10 a.m., we need your help in putting up our Christmas decorations. If you can help with our Christmas decorating, please sign-up in the church’s foyer.



If you enjoy sleep, then Sunday, November 4th is a day made especially for you. 2:00 a.m. on November 4th is **Daylight Savings Time**. So, don’t forget to set your clock back one hour on Saturday night and enjoy an extra hour of sleep.