

Volume 28 Issue 12

December 2024



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

USBC NEWS

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder





On Sunday, December 15th, our church will be having our special **Christmas Service** at 11 a.m. Our **Christmas Service** will include a special children's Christmas play, special Christmas music performed by our Praise Team, and will top it off by singing Christmas songs that have been enjoyed by generations. It is guaranteed to be an encouraging, uplifting, and memorable service as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Also on December 15th, we are inviting you to wear a festive Christmas outfit, sweater, or clothing that brings Christmas cheer.



I love a good **Christmas Party** and USBC will be having such a celebration. We invite all to attend the church's **Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 4:00 pm. This festive celebration will take place at the Golden Corral (5621 Spectrum Drive, Frederick, MD 21703). During our time together we will have some fun activities and prizes.

Everyone is invited and if you are planning on attending the **Christmas Party** at the Golden Corral, please sign up in the foyer. The cost is \$16.49 plus the cost of a drink; and children based upon their age will range from \$6.99 to \$7.99. Each one will be responsible for the purchase of their meal and tip.



On Sunday **December 8th**, I ask that you prepare your heart as we celebrate **communion** during our Sunday morning worship. Let this be a special time of self-reflection and change as you recall the great sacrifice that Christ made for you. He gave His all so that you could experience the true meaning of life.



Christmas caroling always has a way of making Christmas special. On December 22nd, the entire 11 a.m. worship service will consist of singing Christmas songs. As we prepare to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, we will lift up our joyous voices to sing Him praise. So, on December 22nd, let us warm up our voices and come ready to sing Christmas carols that will honor the birth of our Savior.



During the month of December, USBC will have special **Christmas Ornaments** available for a donation. All donations will be placed in the Benevolence Fund to help people in need throughout the year. The ornaments can be picked up from the table, located across from the church's office. There will also be a small box to put your donation in.



On Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m., the Women's Thursday Night Bible Study will be having their **Christmas Party** at the church. All women are invited to this special Christmas celebration for fun, food, and fellowship. This year, there is no need to bring gifts. Your presence is what we would really love to have. For more information, please contact Connie Harding.





In December, each message will center on the Christmas story surrounding Jesus' birth. Although Christmas should be a joyous occasion, for some however, it can bring about disappoint for various reasons. So, each Sunday, we will talk about Jesus' miraculous birth, but also how to keep the merry in Christmas.

Dec. 1st

Sermon Title: *"The First Christmas Ornament"*

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Synopsis: It is a joy to hang Christmas decorations on the tree. However, it was God who displayed the very first Christmas ornament. This first Christmas ornament was a star that was hung in the sky to point others to the birth of Christ. Today, the Christmas star can be used to share the Good News and to point others to Jesus Christ.

Dec. 8th

Sermon Title: *"From the Cradle to the Cross"*

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-21

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.

Dec. 15th – Special Christmas Service

Dec. 22nd – Christmas Caroling Sunday

Dec. 29th

Sermon Title: *"The Gift that Keeps on Giving"*

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6

Synopsis: The birth of Jesus was not just a one time gift, but a continuous and eternal blessing for all. Believers are encouraged to reflect on the enduring impact of Jesus' birth and to share this never-ending gift with others.

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
December 15, 2024

Weather Policy

If the church cancels or postpones any service or activity due to inclement weather or wintery conditions, a cancellation notice will appear on the church's Facebook page, church's website, through church email, and on the church's voice recorder. To access the church's voice recorder, please dial (301) 972-3686. The church will only post a cancellation message if a service or activity is canceled or postponed.

Also, if you have something to be included in the newsletter, an announcement, an article, a birthday, we are always looking for information and new ideas!

Church Office: 301-972-3686
E-mail: Church@USBChurch.org
Web Site: www.USBChurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/usbchurch/



Each year, USBC promotes the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*. This special mission offering is collected during the month of December. 100% of all funds that are collected will be given to help support our international missionaries that are faithfully sharing the gospel of Christ around the world.

If you would like to give to this worthy offering, there will be special envelopes provided each week in your Sunday's bulletin or it can be given online on the church's website (<http://www.usbchurch.org/Online%20Giving>).

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS



USBC has been active in spreading Christmas cheer to people in need. Below are listed the 3 mission events that our church family has participated in.

- **Gabriel Project of Montgomery County** (Collected items to assist pregnant/young mothers with baby needs).
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive** (Collected non-perishable foods and donated to “*Damascus Help*”).
- **Samaritan’s Purse** (Packed 50 shoeboxes for “*Operation Christmas Child*”).



In January 2025, USBC will start a new mission’s project called “*Blessing Bags*”. “*Blessing Bags*” are bags that contain personal necessities, toiletries, food, and some extras that you can hand out when you come across an individual dealing with poverty.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some wonderful events that happened in the life of USBC during the month of November;

- **Thanksgiving Balls** – During the month of November, our church family was able to write on orange balls stating what each person was thankful for. A jar was used to collect the balls and they were placed at the altar to express our gratitude.
- **“Thank You” Service** – On Nov. 10th, the church had a very special service in which the Pastor had an opportunity to express his thankfulness to each person in the worship service. Also, Rick Knicley was recognized for his faithful service to the Praise Team.
- **Thanksgiving Gathering** – On Nov. 26th, the church gathered to express our thankfulness in a fun and memorable way.
- **Christmas Decorating** – On Nov. 30th, the church was decorated beautifully to reflect the Christmas spirit and the birth of Jesus.



Be Part of
our Memorial
Christmas Tree

Christmas holiday is considered to be a joyous time of year. However, for some who have 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 there. 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 22nd, following our worship service, we will gather in the foyer for a special remembrance prayer. Then on Sunday, December 29th, we ask that you take home your **Remembrance Christmas Ball** and place them in safe keeping.



If you would like to give **Christmas Cards** to members of your church family, we invite you to bring them to church and to personally distributed them

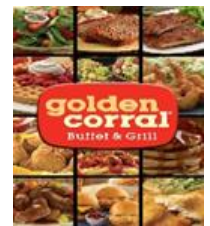
yourself. There will not be a designated Christmas box this year to place your cards in. You will be responsible for distributing and maintaining the cards yourself. However, the church will be providing new church directories so that you can label your cards appropriately.



Christmas trees, in all of their decorated beauty, are a pleasure to behold and this year we would like to see your Christmas tree in all of its splendor. So, here is the challenge. Everyone is encouraged to take a picture of your Christmas tree and email

it to pastordennisusbc@hotmail.com or text the picture to 843-957-5140. The picture of your Christmas tree will then be shared with your church family in the January 2024 Newsletter. All pictures must be received by December 17th.

The **Forever Young Luncheon** will take place on Tuesday, **December 10th** at 12:30 p.m. We will be meeting at the **Golden Corral** in Frederick, MD. Remember, anyone is welcome.



If you are planning on using **offering envelopes** for your tithes and offerings for 2025, the new offering envelopes will be available in the church's foyer. Upon picking

up your box of envelopes, please place your name next to the envelope box number on the signup sheet. If you have leftover envelopes from 2024, you can continue to use them in 2025.

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 Dec. 31st.



The following activities will be cancelled in December;

- Sunday School** (Dec. 15th & 22nd)
- After the Sermon Bible Study** (Dec. 24th & 31st)
- Prayer Meeting** (Dec. 24th & Dec. 31st)
- Thursday Night Women's Bible Study** (Dec. 26th)
- Church Office Closed** (Dec. 25th – 29th, Jan. 1st)
- Dive Deeper Bible Study** will start back in January.