

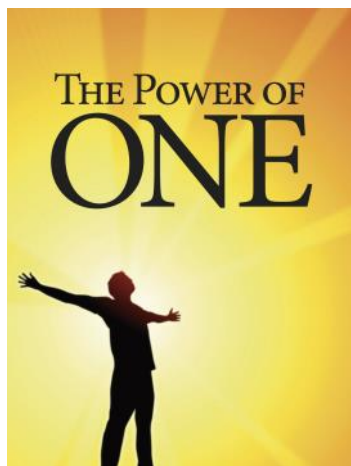


OUR MISSION: Impacting The Kingdom Of God One Person At A Time

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

THE POWER OF "1"

By Pastor Dennis Felder



In 2019, USBC is launching *The Power of "1"*. The number "1" is key to setting and accomplishing strategic goals for the church in this coming year.

The number "1" in the Bible is very significant. This stand-alone number has two unique characteristics in the Bible. First, the number "1" is a testimony to the uniqueness of God and the Christian life. In Ephesians 4:4-6 it reads, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Second, the number "1" is a vivid description of the importance and value of Christian unity. In 1 Corinthians

12:12 it says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

Therefore, the goals that our church will set for 2019 will begin with the number "1". In addition, we as a church body will become one in spirit and service to accomplish such goals. List below is the structure for *The Power of "1"*.

Structure/Goals for The Power of "1"

1 = USBC will have at least one baptism in 2019.

10 = USBC will add at least 10 new people who will be active participants in 2019.

100 = USBC will have at least 100 new people visit our church in 2019.

1000 = USBC will have at least 1000 new contacts in 2019.

As we reflect upon the goals listed above, it is important to note that these goals range from easy to challenging. However, each one can be accomplished if we give our best to the Lord. Below is listed a simple, but effective approach for how we can meet these worthy goals.

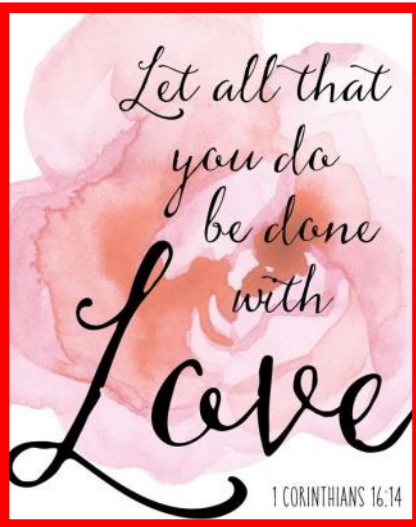
How to Accomplish These Goals

- Through prayer.
- Through unity.
- Through service.
- Through sharing.
- Through commitment.
- Through faith.
- Through fellowship.
- Through inclusion.
- Through planning.
- Through dreaming God's dream.

For *The Power of "1"* to become meaningful, real, and effective, each one of us must do our part. Our *Ministry Teams* will work in concert to help achieve these goals. When such ministry activities are being planned, it is imperative that the *Ministry Teams* keep in mind the goals that are laid out in *The Power of "1"*.

ENDURING LOVE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



I like going around singing the song, *Love is in the Air*. I know that just me singing is a scary thought for some, but let us look beyond that problem and look at the real point. We all know that February is the month that we celebrate Valentine's Day. It is to be a day of love, romance, and expression. Spouses usually get each other gifts, children exchange cards with classmates, and some wed in marriage on this special day. Certainly, cupid will be making his rounds on February 14th. Love will certainly be in the air.

Think about this for a moment. On Valentine's Day we use many methods to communicate our love to our one and only. The gifts that we give our loved ones are nice, but they are always temporal. We give flowers, but flowers will only last a few days and they will die. We give cards, but cards will ultimately decay or get misplaced or thrown away. Some give chocolates, but chocolates will not last long because we eat them. You see, all these gifts are just temporary.

So, on Valentine's Day, I encourage you to give your loved one a gift that will never fade and last forever. It is a gift that keeps on giving and that gift is Jesus Christ. If your spouse is not saved, tell them about the sacrificial love that Christ has for them. If a friend is a non-believer, tell them how your love fails in comparison with that of the love of Christ Jesus. If the person that you love is spiritually lost, give them a road map (the *Roman Road*) to lead them to the loving arms of Christ. Assure them that love is not only in the air, but it can be found in the heart.

For a Christian, Valentine's Day takes place 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Do not be afraid to share with others about the enduring love of our Lord and Savior. Let **John 3:16** ring in your heart all year long and not just on February 14th.

HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

By Pastor Dennis Felder

I was surfing the internet about the history of Valentine's Day and came across this article found on Gotquestions.org. Enjoy the history lesson.



The first Valentine was posted around 1806. Almost one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year on or near February 14 with females purchasing 85% of the cards. This is second only to the number of Christmas cards sent. The history is somewhat murky as to how Valentine's Day has come to be what we now know and celebrate. Saint Valentine served in third-century Rome. Emperor Claudius decided that single men made better soldiers. Therefore, Claudius banned soldiers from being married. One version of the story is that Valentine continued to perform the weddings of young soldiers who were in love, and Claudius had Valentine imprisoned. While imprisoned, Valentine reportedly fell in love with the jailer's daughter. Valentine sent her a card and signed it, "Love, your Valentine." Another version is that Valentine defied Claudius by helping Christians escape the torture of the Romans.

Valentine died in approximately A.D. 270. Others claim the church may have decided to celebrate in mid-February to "Christianize" the pagan Roman celebration Lupercalia. The first Valentine sent in the United States was in the 1840's by Esther Howgald. Most of us enjoy "spoiling" a loved one on Valentine's Day. Sending gifts and cards conveys love, affection, and friendship.

SPECIAL VALENTINE'S SERVICE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On February 10th, USBC will be having a very special *Valentine's Worship Service* during our 11 a.m. worship hour. I will be asking various couples in our church to share

how they met. It will be interesting to hear these love stories. It will certainly be a time that you will not want to miss. If you would like to share your love story on February 10th, please let me know and I would be honored to add you to the list.

Also, we will celebrate our one true love who is Jesus Christ. His wonderful and gracious love was given to us unconditionally. The Bible says in **Romans 5:8**, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

FOREVER YOUNG

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On January 8th, our wonderful group of *Forever Young* gathered at the *Golden Corral* in Frederick for our monthly luncheon. We had a total of 14 people in attendance. As usual, the food was great, but the fellowship was even better.

Our next *Forever Young Luncheon* will be on February 12th and we will gather at the *IHOP* in Mt. Airy at 12 noon. See you there!

CHURCH CHAT

By Pastor Dennis Felder



We have started 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 in the life of 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.

Our next *Church Chat* will be on February 24th. So, following our worship service, grab a donut and coffee and join us for a 10-minute *Church Chat*.

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

By Pastor Dennis Felder



It is that time again to have *Pizza with the Pastor*. On Sunday, February 10th, immediately following our Sunday morning worship, we will meet at J&P Pizza

in Damascus for some good food, fun, and fellowship. J&P Pizza is located in the Weis shopping center complex.

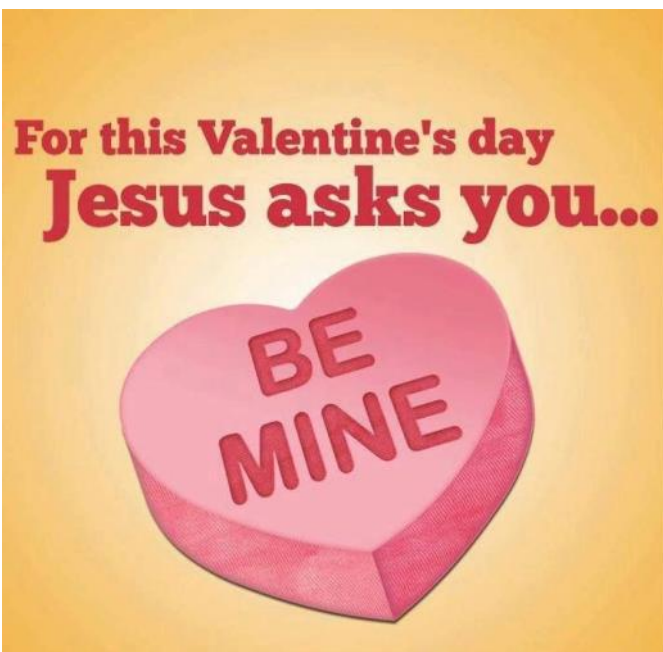
If you are planning on attending, please sign-up so that we can give an accurate count to J&P Pizza. Like before, each person or family will be responsible for their portion of the bill. See you there!

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
February 17, 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 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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2018 CHRISTMAS RECAP

By Pastor Dennis Felder



In our January Newsletter, we were not able to highlight all the Christmas events that took place in the life of USBC during December 2018. So, here is a recap of how USBC celebrated the birth of Christ.

Christmas Cheer – *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.*

Christmas 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 which represents Christ, the Bread of Life. At the opposite end of the table was a cross. At the foot of 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.

Children/Youth Christmas Party – *The 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.*

Children's Christmas Play – *Our children and youth presented a memorable play entitled, "Just a Little Christmas". Decked out in full costumes, they vividly portrayed the birth of Christ.*

Christmas Musical – *USBC Choir presented a cantata entitled, "Good News From Home". It was a beautiful musical arrangement that celebrate the birth of Christ.*

Christmas Eve Service – *During our Christmas Eve Service we honored the birth of Christ through song, Scripture reading, and prayer. The service was concluded with a beautiful ceremony by everyone lighting a candle.*

Christmas Memorial Tree – *The purpose of this tree was to give everyone an opportunity to remember a loved one during the Christmas season who has since passed. Everyone was invited to take a Christmas ball and write their loved one's name on it and hang it on the tree.*

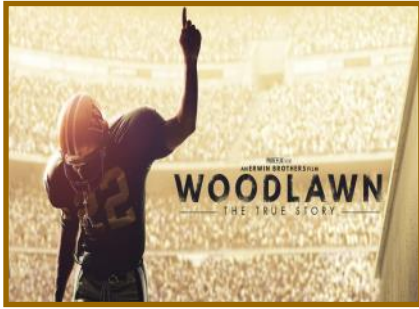
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering – *Each year, our church collects for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. 100% of this offering goes to help our missionaries around the world to help share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our goal for this special offering was \$1,000. We exceeded our goal and collected \$2,120.*

For God so loved the
World that he gave his
only Son, that whoever
believes in him should
not perish but have
eternal life.

Jesus Christ

MOVIE NIGHT

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On Friday, February 22nd, USBC will be hosting a very special **Movie Night** that will start at 6:30 p.m. The church will be showing the

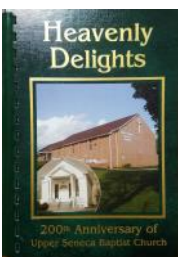
Christian movie entitled, *Woodlawn*. Below is a synopsis of this real-life based movie.

Following government-mandated desegregation in 1973, Tony Nathan (Caleb Castille) joins fellow African-American students at Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Ala. As violence and anger erupt in the city, Woodlawn football coach Tandy Gerelds (Nic Bishop) allows an outsider (Sean Astin) to speak to his players. His message of hope and love leads to a spiritual awakening that inspires star athlete Nathan, his teammates and other members of the community to overcome the hate that surrounds them.

This movie is rated PG and is an inspirational movie for all ages. So, join us for **Movie Night** on Feb. 22nd at 6:30 pm to watch how God works in the midst of life's struggles. Also, during our movie time, we will have popcorn, hot dogs, light refreshments, and cold drinks. If you are planning to attend, please sign up in the church's foyer.

CHURCH COOKBOOK

By Pastor Dennis Felder



For the church's 200th anniversary that took place 11 years ago, USBC commissioned a **Church Cookbook** that contains the delicious recipes submitted by our church family. As we were cleaning, we discovered that we had about 50 copies still available. If you would like to have

one of these historical **USBC's Cookbooks**, they will be available in the church's foyer for free.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

By Pastor Dennis Felder

Finally, after our snow delay, we were blessed to hear our own Tom Shuggars share the Word of God. On Sunday, January 20th, Tom shared a powerful message about the power of God's spoken Word. His message was entitled, "*In the Beginning Part 1 – The Word*" and its focal passage was **John 1:1-4, 10-14**. If you missed it, I encourage you to listen to it on our website.



By Pastor Dennis Felder



It is now time to put our volunteer core into action. On February 3rd, I will be asking for the ones who are signed up for the following Ministry Teams to meet with me immediately following our worship service. During our meeting, assignments and instructions will be given to the Ministry Teams so that we can plan and implement activities, projects, and ministries. Listed below are the Ministry Teams that I would like to meet with on February 3rd.

Ministry Teams

Barnabas Team
Building and Grounds Team
Greeters/Ushers Team
Kitchen Ministry Team
Prayer Ministry Team

In the next few weeks, I will be scheduling additional meetings with different Ministry Teams.

Valentine's Day

SHARE THE ETERNAL LOVE OF JESUS

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 ESV