



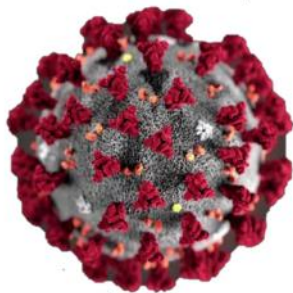
OUR MISSION: Impacting The Kingdom Of  
God One Person At A Time

USBC NEWS

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

## UNCERTAIN TIMES

By Pastor Dennis Felder



As we are faced with the repercussions of the coronavirus, a lot of uncertainty and anxiety has gripped this nation and world. These uncertain times have led people to question nearly every aspect of our survival. When will our economy recover? Will I lose my job? When will school open its doors again? What type of impact will this have on the church? How long will this virus create fear? This is a very short list of concerns in a list of thousands.

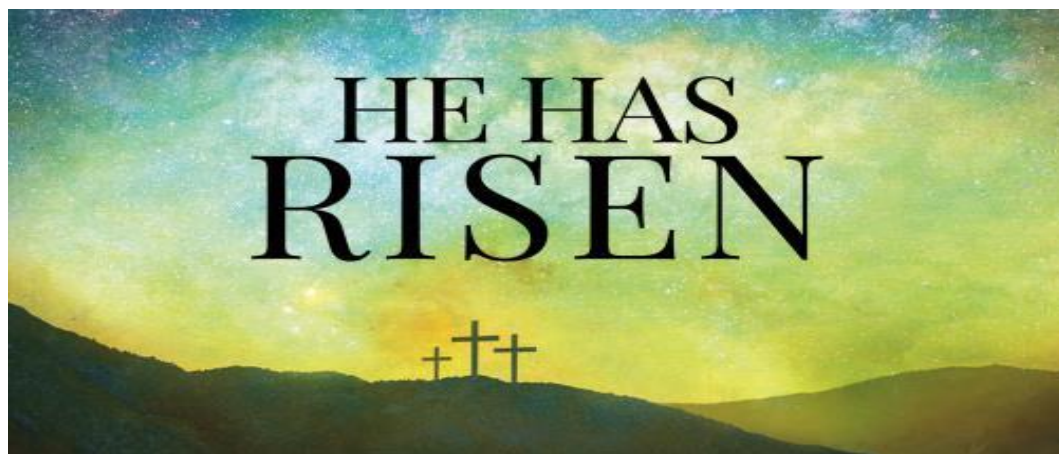
When uncertain times strike our world, it always leads to an abundant of questions. This is a normal response in such circumstances. Even so, in these next few days, weeks, and even months, a feeling of uncertainty may dominate our thoughts and actions. People are searching for direction and answers to help calm their stressful souls. A wonderful place to look to help find answers in such times as these, is the Word of God.

In the Bible, David faced such fears and anxieties that were robbing him of his hope. When David cried out to the Lord, the Lord placed an encouraging word of victory in his heart. Fortunately for us, David penned these wonderful words of comfort in what is referred today as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Yes, David, the man after God's own heart, faced uncertain times in his life, but he overcame this oppression when he boldly proclaimed the Word of God. Today, we also need to be reminded of this lesson of how God works through uncertain times. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

As we walk through these unknown and uncharted waters during this coronavirus outbreak, let us also be reminded that we need not fear because our Lord is with us.



# UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Due to the recommendations of the CDC and the State of Maryland, *Upper Seneca Baptist Church* has decided to suspend all church activities until further notice. This will include worship services, Sunday School, all Wednesday night Bible Studies, and all additional church sponsored activities.

The purpose of taking this step is to adhere to the recommendations of the CDC and other governmental agencies, to follow the recommendations of the medical community, and to help minimize the risk and exposure of the coronavirus for ourselves, for our church family, and for our community.

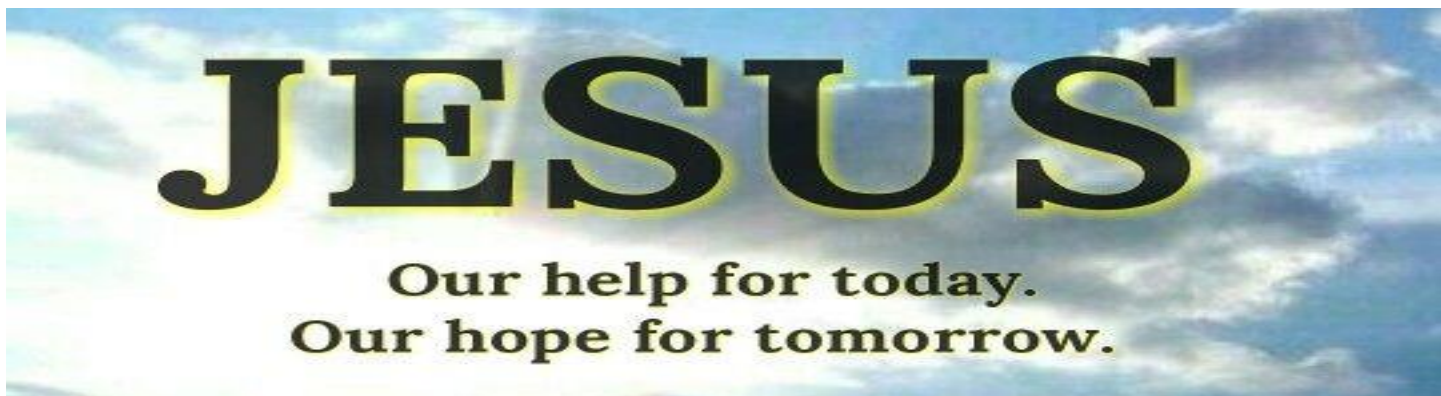
**So, what does this mean for the church?** Although we are making this shift in how we do ministry at USBC, we will also be providing some great opportunities to connect with each other during this transition. Since we want to adhere to “*social distancing*” protocols, the church will be implementing new methods to connect with each other.

- **Keep Connected by Phone**
- **Social Media** – Video devotions, informational videos, and miscellaneous videos will be created and posted on the church’s website ([www.usbchurch.org](http://www.usbchurch.org)), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/usbchurch/>), and other media platforms such as YouTube.
- **Reading Club** – A list of books and articles dealing with the Christian faith will be shared on the various media platforms that are listed above. These materials will be easy to download or we will provide a site where a book or article can be purchased or viewed. In addition, the weekly Sunday School lessons will be electronically sent to your email. Also, the Children’s Lessons will be mailed to each home that has children so that the family can learn these together.

As you can see, USBC will be making some significant adjustments in how we do ministry during this period. Although such changes may be challenging, they can also provide us with a wonderful opportunity to think outside the box. If we accomplish the goals as set forth above, we will connect and reconnect with each other like no time in the life of our church. Think about this! We will be talking, praying, and reaching out to every member of our church family like never before. Although the coronavirus has caused us to change how we do ministry, these changes are affording us a wonderful opportunity to provide care, love, and support in ways that we have never done at USBC. This new structure may be God’s way in opening our hearts and minds to what is really important.

However, if we want our church to remain strong during this time, it will take everyone doing their part. During these unusual times, the church will need volunteers to meet specific needs, we will need to continue to be a praying group of people, and we will need to continue to faithfully support the church financially. This can be done by dropping off your offering, mailing it in, or through online giving (<http://www.usbchurch.org/Online%20Giving>). We all can make a difference in the lives of others by showing the love of Christ.

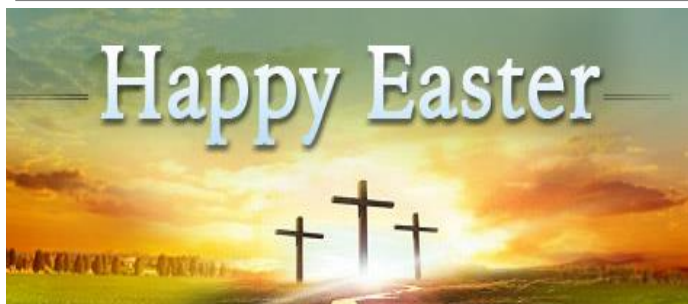
**Please keep checking the church’s website, emails, mailers, and phone calls for immediate updates and opportunities to participate in future church activities as we conform to “*social distancing*”.**





## WHAT ABOUT EASTER

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Due to the potential restrictions that may be placed upon public gatherings during the Easter season, USBC will implement creative and meaningful ways to celebrate Easter without social gatherings.

To help bring some clarity as to how USBC will move forward during this time of uncertainty, the following Easter events will work as follows:

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt:** Originally scheduled for Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> will be postponed to a later date (TBD).

**Palm Sunday Service:** Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. (This will be a Drive-Thru Service and it will be livestreamed).

**Special Easter Service/Celebration:** Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (Canceled).

**Easter Communion Observance:** Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. (Canceled).

**Easter Service:** Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. (Livestreamed).

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering:** The *Annie Armstrong Easter Offering* will be collected at a later date.

If all "social gathering" restrictions are removed before April 5<sup>th</sup>, then all Sunday morning worship services will resume as normal (Sunday's at 11 a.m.) and will continue to be livestreamed for your convenience. However, the Children's Easter Egg Hunt will still be postponed. Updates will be provided through the church's website, emails, mailers, or phone calls.



## DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION

By Pastor Dennis Felder



The *Drive-Thru Communion* on March 22<sup>nd</sup> was a great success. We had about a dozen cars filled with people who came to experience the *Drive-Thru Communion*.

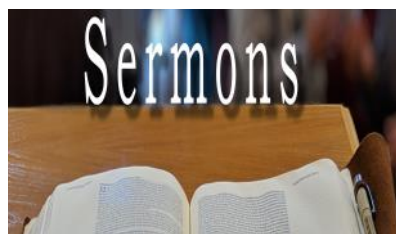
A new family of four also attended the *Drive-Thru Communion*. They had heard about this unique ministry through Facebook. This ministry event was also being streamed live on USBC's Facebook. Many people who were watching it live on Facebook made many positive and encouraging comments.

If you would like to receive communion at home, please contact the church office or email your Pastor ([pastordennis@usbchurch.org](mailto:pastordennis@usbchurch.org)). In doing so, you will be mailed a factory sealed wafer and communion cup for everyone in your family. In addition, you will receive the Scriptures to read when you take communion.



## SERMON SCHEDULE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



During the month of April, our focus will be on the Easter season. Since there is uncertainty in how and when these services will be carried out, I will not be providing a Sermon Schedule because of the flexibility that is needed at this time. However, I can assure you that your spiritual needs will be met by creative and informative messages that will celebrate Easter and encourage you during this uncertain time.

## USBC NEWS

Upper Seneca Baptist Church

23401 Davis Mill Rd.

Germantown, MD 20876



Next Newsletter Deadline

April 19, 2020

### 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.

#### 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!

**Church Office: 301-972-3686**

**E-mail: Church@USBChurch.org**

**Web Site: www.USBChurch.org**

**Facebook: www.facebook.com/usbchurch/**

## DO YOU KNOW ME?

By Pastor Dennis Felder



USBC has been in the process of starting our new ministry, *Do You Know Me?* Since the church has had to make multiple changes during this coronavirus crisis, *Do You Know Me* will take on a different form during this time.

Due to the fact that we cannot meet face to face, we are accomplishing *Do You Know Me* through interactive phone calls. Although this virus has pushed us in a direction to do church differently, it is also providing us with a wonderful opportunity to know each other in ways that we have never imagined just by talking to each other. This is a blessing.

During this time, please share with me some creative ways in how we can get to know each other better while we are sheltering in our homes. For example, who would be willing to send me a baby picture and let me post it to see if everyone can figure who it is? Or, who would be willing to send me a list of their top three favorite songs or movies to share with others? Or better yet, let us have everyone share their favorite Bible verse. The possibilities are unlimited.



We can all do a little to help others in need. This is the purpose of *Benevolence Offering*. This special offering has been a foundation of how USBC helps to meet the financial needs of our church family. The *Benevolence Offering* is a blessing to so many people who need a little extra income in time of need. Such needs may include food, utility bills, mortgage/rent, medical expenses, car repairs, or basic needs to help stabilize one's financial picture.

The Bible teaches us in **Philippians 2:4**, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." As a church family, this verse guides us in how we support one another. So next time when you are giving your regular tithes and offerings, please consider giving a little more to help support the *Benevolence Offering*.

## MISSION TO MISSION

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 16 members of our church family ventured to Mission BBQ to indulge in some delicious BBQ. The atmosphere was very inviting and friendly. Mission BBQ celebrates the service of our military, police officers, and first responders. At the end of our meal, the manager gave Rick Johnston, Skip Shifflet, and Vic Stokes a free dessert for their military service. I, Pastor Dennis, also received a free dessert for my service as a Police Officer. In the future, we will certainly plan another visit to Mission BBQ.

## IN THE KNOW!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Each month, USBC will be highlighting different aspects in the life of the church. In doing so, you will have the opportunity to learn something new that you may not have known before. It will be called, *In the Know!*

**The Pastor's sermons can be heard online** – (If you would like to hear the audio message of the Pastor's sermon, please visit the church's website <http://www.usbchurch.org/> and click on *Sermon Recordings*).

**Coffee Shop** – We have 5 main people who help with the Coffee Shop (*Terry Shuggars* who serves, cleans, and sanitizes the coffee shop, *Linda and Angelique Hoover* who serves, and *Barbara and Les Yeatts* who serve and brings the refreshments).

**Financial Giving** – The operating budget for February 2020 was \$14,167. During the month of January, the church collected \$12,152. The church fell short by 14% in the month of February.



## SO FAR!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Since our church has been practicing 'social distancing', we have met many needs that have existed in our church. So far, we have delivered eight rolls of toilet paper, a bag of

sugar, and a couple of bags to dried pinto beans. In such times, you never know what is important when you don't have it.

In addition, we have been making phone to everyone in our church family by asking five important questions during this time.

- Do you need for us to pick up any food or household items to deliver to your home?
- Do you need for us to pick up and deliver medications to your home?
- Do you need any financial assistance during this time?
- Do you have a prayer request or praise?
- Do you need to have the Pastor contact you?

If you are not receiving a regular phone call during this time, it may be due to the fact that we do not have your phone number. So, please contact the church and provide us with your phone number and other important information so that we can stay in touch with you. We do not want to leave anyone out.

## FOREVER YOUNG

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, the **Forever Young Luncheon** met at the Golden Corral in Frederick at 12:30 p.m. with 11 in attendance. It was a great time for food, fun, and fellowship.

Since it is unknown about the possible restrictions that may be placed upon social gatherings, we will postpone all future meetings of the **Forever Young Luncheon**.

## TERRY AND BEVERLY IRWIN

By Pastor Dennis Felder



For about 2 years, **Terry and Beverly Irwin** have been faithful members of USBC. Now that Beverly has retired, they will be moving back to Florida to spend more time with their children and grandchildren. We are excited that God has put in place the opportunity for Terry and Beverly to move back home to be with friends and family. Although we celebrate this move, we are saddened because we will certainly miss them. It is hard to say, "Goodbye" to such a special couple, but we were blessed to have gotten to know them.

As a church, we now consider Terry and Beverly our missionaries that we are sending out. God will use them in a mighty way to share the gospel. Thanks, Terry and Beverly! You will certainly be missed, but we know that God has His hand in this. You both will remain in our prayers.

Below is Terry's and Beverly's new address:

**Terry and Beverly Irwin**  
**6411 North Lois Avenue**  
**Tampa, FL 33614**



Now you can make your tithe or financial donation to the church by means of online giving. As always, you can give your tithe or financial donation with a check or cash, but now electronic giving is another convenient option.

### The Benefits of Online Giving

- You can give when away from church
- You have access to your giving records at all times
- You can make auto reoccurring gifts
- You can give at your convenience
- It is quick and easy

### Two Ways to Participate in Online Giving:

- Download the Tithe.ly mobile app (Apple Store or Google Play) **-or-**
- Go to the church's website ([usbchurch.org](http://usbchurch.org)) and click on **Online Giving** (After downloading the app or clicking on the Online Giving tab, follow the instructions.)