

Volume 24 Issue 2

February 2020



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

USBC NEWS

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

## NO LOVE, NO LIFE

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Imagine for a moment if there was no such thing as love. If so, relationships would have no purpose, the joy of life would have no value, and this world would feel empty. You see, if there was no love, life would not be worth living. It is love that gives purpose, it is love that adds value, and it is love that fills an empty void.

The world understands the hurt and pain that is felt when life is void of love. A person who feels that no

one loves them will often feel worthless. When love is absent, people may express a desire to end their life. How heartbreaking it is to hear such stories. The reason why so many people contemplate suicide is because they feel that no one loves them. You see, when there is no love, there is no life.

Thankfully our heavenly Father understood the reality of *“no love, no life”*. Through His grace and mercy, He made it a priority to fill this world with love so that we all could enjoy an abundant life (**John 10:10**). This gift of unconditional love that God gave to the world was His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. It reads in **John 3:16**, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

So, as we celebrate Valentine’s Day, let us not forget the greatest display of unconditional love was when God spared not His only Son upon the cross. Through this ultimate sacrifice, we are assured today that with His great love, we can enjoy the wonderful blessings of life. Let’s enjoy it to the fullest.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**John 3:16**



## DO YOU KNOW ME?

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On January 19<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to share with the church about the exciting opportunity we have in participating in *Do You Know Me?* I am encouraging everyone to commit to serving in one of the three divisions listed below.

Below, is the structure in how *Do You Know Me* will take place in our church. Each one in attendance was challenged to become part of this new focus in order to impact the lives of our people, impact the viability of our church, impact our community, and how Christ can impact them all for His glory and our blessing.

The purpose of *Do You Know Me?* will be threefold.

**First**, it will focus on getting to know each other better. Our church has been blessed with new people and families. However, it has been challenging getting to know each other personally. Part of this new focus will create opportunities in how we can get to know each other better.

**Second**, it will focus on getting to know more about our church. It is important that everyone in our church family better understand the purpose and mission of the church. If we do not understand or know the direction in which the church is heading, it can be a challenge getting there.

**Third**, it will focus on getting to know our Lord and Savior better. This is the primary focus of what we are called to do. The more we know about Jesus, the more we can strengthen our relationship with others, the more we can grow in our personal faith, the more the church can better understand its purpose, and the more we can impact our community for Him.

So, this is how “*Do You Know Me?*” breaks down:

- Do you know me – personally?
- Do you know the church?
- Do you know Jesus?

## ITALIAN FEAST

By Pastor Dennis Felder



*Mama mia!* It's time for an *Italian Feast*. On Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, we are inviting everyone to join us after our worship service to partake in a tasty *Italian Feast*. Our meal will consist of spaghetti, fettuccini alfredo sauce, meatballs, bread, salad, and a sweet dessert. Following our delicious Italian extravaganza, we will officially launch, **Do You Know Me?**

During our time together, not only will we enjoy the food, but we will have a fun and enjoyable way of getting to know each other. In addition, an update will be given as to the next step in **Do You Know Me?**

If you are planning on attending, please complete the *Italian Feast* slip that is in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

## BIRTHDAY BASHES

By Pastor Dennis Felder



It is always a joy to celebrate a birthday. In December, we celebrated two very special birthdays. On

December 29<sup>th</sup>, the church was blessed to spend time in wishing Grace Rogers a very happy 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Richard Doody serenaded Grace with Happy Birthday Baby and it was followed with a delicious birthday cake.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, several from our church family were blessed to be able to join Herbert Watkins at Country Meadows to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. During our time together, we were able to reflect upon a century of living. It was a blessing to hear the wonderful stories of how Herbert not only lived his life, but how he impacted the lives of so many.





## 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](http://Gotquestions.org).

This article was published in the Newsletter a couple of years ago, but still an interesting read. 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.

## CHURCH CHAT

Don't forget to mark your calendar for February 23<sup>rd</sup> for our next **Church Chat**. As usual, immediately following our Sunday morning worship service, we will gather in the church foyer/coffee shop for a 10-minute informal meeting. 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** is a great way of keeping everyone informed about all the activities and church events that will be taking place.

## BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Can a bathroom be beautiful? Yes, it can. If you do not believe me, checkout the newly designed and decorated bathrooms at USBC. Thanks to Tammie Messer and Lana Felder, the church bathrooms came alive with creativity.

The women's bathroom was decorated with a delicate touch of feminine décor highlighting the beauty of women. The verse displayed in the women's bathroom reads, "Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; ..." (**Psalm 45:11**).

The men's bathroom was decorated with a fishing theme because Jesus has called us to be fishers of men. The verse displayed in the men's bathroom reads, "... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (**Matt. 4:19**).



## FOREVER YOUNG

By Pastor Dennis Felder

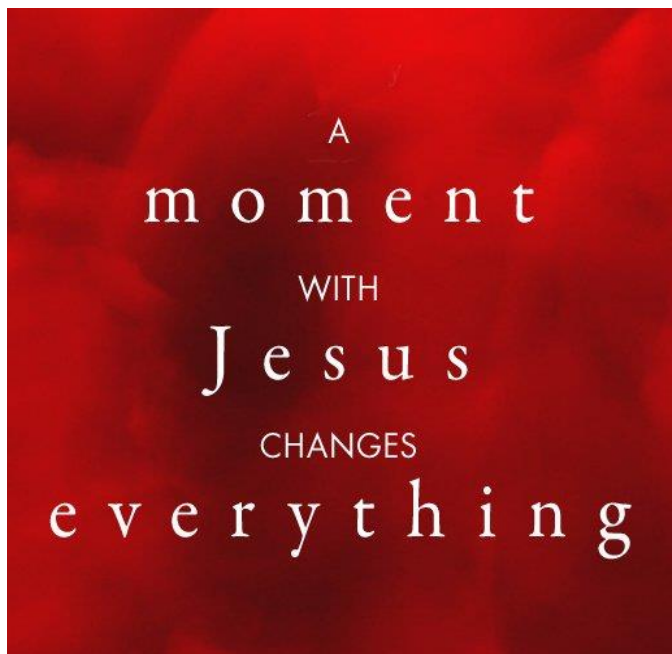


On Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, the **Forever Young Luncheon** met at the Golden Corral in Frederick at 12:30 p.m. with 18 in attendance. Did you hear that? We had 18 people to join us for a wonderful time of food, fun, and fellowship.

So, make certain that you are part of our next **Forever Young Luncheon** that will take place on February 11<sup>th</sup>. We will gather once again at the Golden Corral in Frederick at 12:30 p.m.



**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 16, 2020**

**Editor's Note:**

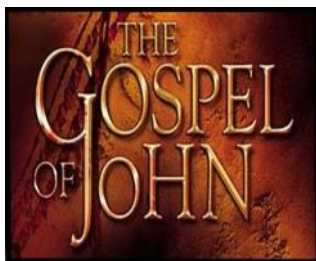
Included in this newsletter is the **USBC Church Birthday Calendar** showing the dates of birthdays of our church family, but we don't always have the information to include. So, if we miss YOUR date, we are sorry! Why not put a little slip of paper in the offering plate with your name and birthday noted 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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## WED. BIBLE STUDY

By Mary King

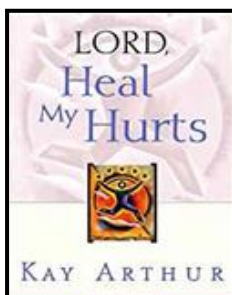


The Wednesday Night Ladies Class is just starting to read and study the Gospel of **John**. This book was written by a disciple of Jesus whom he loved proclaiming Jesus as the Great **I AM**.

Come and join in a wonderful study of this rich book as we see *“Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”* John 20:31. Connie Harding hosts this class.

## WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

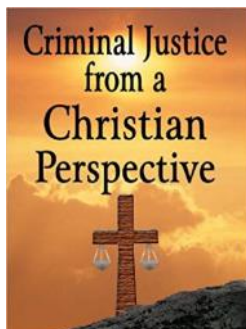
By Lana Felder



Join us here at **USBC** to study Kay Arthur’s book *“Lord, Heal My Hurts.”* The Bible Study will be held every other Saturday. In February the dates will be Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, and Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at **11:00 a.m.** and end at **12:30 p.m.** There will be a 30-minute refreshment time after the study for those who can stay. See *Mae Settles* if you have any questions.

## DIVE DEEPER

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, our *Dive Deeper Bible Study* topic will be *“Criminal Justice – Biblical Style”*. In our day and age, we have a very complex legal system to deal with criminal activity. However, in the Bible, especially in the early part of Old Testament days, there was no prison

system and sanctuary cities were permitted. So, the question that comes to mind is *“how did the cities not only deal with a law breaker, but how were they integrated back into the population?”*

So, join us Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> immediately following our worship service for this informative Bible study and for lunch.

## BUDGET TIME

By Pastor Dennis Felder



Each and every year, we mark an important milestone in the life of **USBC**. As each new year begins, we as a church have the important and

awesome responsibility to adopt a church budget that will be our guide in how we give and why we give. On Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the church membership will affirm the **2020 Proposed Church Budget**, by adopting it as our financial guide for this year.

This budget is more than a financial document. It is a statement of faith. The affirmation of this budget is a wonderful testimony and witness of how we as God’s family will support the financial needs of the church.

## AN EXTRA DAY

By Pastor Dennis Felder



What would you do with the time if you were given *an extra day*? For some, this extra day would provide them with an opportunity to catchup on projects that had been postponed. Others may use this

extra day to catchup on some well needed sleep. The list is unending on how a person could use this extra day to enhance their life.

Well, I tell you what! I am going to make your wish come true. I am going to grant you an extra day for you to enjoy. This special day that I am going to add to your calendar will be February 29<sup>th</sup>. If you haven’t figured it out, February 29<sup>th</sup> is the day added for Leap Year. As you know, I really don’t have anything to do with Leap Year, but I can certainly give you some advice in how to spend your time on this extra day.

I want to encourage you to spend some extra time with the Lord on February 29<sup>th</sup>. The Bible tells us in **James 4:8**, *“Come near to God and he will come near to you. ...”*. What a great way to have a great day.





# Love

is patient and is kind. Love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8