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

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

USBC NEWS

THE FLAG STANDS FOR FREEDOM

By Pastor Dennis Felder



As we approach July 4th, American patriotism goes into overdrive and understandably so. This July 4th (2023), the United States of America will be celebrating its 247th birthday. During this patriotic celebration, fireworks will be bursting in air, festive parades will be marching in the streets, family cookouts will abound, Lee Greenwood will sing “*God Bless the USA*”, and America flags will proudly wave in the brisk summer breeze.

The American flag is a national symbol that represents our freedom. When one gazes upon the red, white, and blue, it is a somber reminder of the great sacrifice that others have made. Through their faithful commitment and the giving of their life, we can live a life of true freedom and prosperity. So, as we reflect upon the flag, it is a beautiful picture of the freedom that has been afforded to us.

However, there is another flag that is often overlooked that also stands for freedom; eternal freedom that came at a great sacrifice. It is not a country flag, it is not a state flag, nor it is a local flag. It is the Christian Flag. To be honest, many Christians are not even aware that there is a Christian Flag that represents our freedom in Christ.

In an article from Christianity Today, they share the history and meaning of the Christian Flag.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/do-you-know-history-of-christian-flag.html>

The Christian flag dates back to an impromptu speech given by Charles C. Overton, a Sunday school superintendent in New York, on September 26, 1897. The guest speaker for the Sunday school kick-off didn't show up, so Overton had to wing it. Spying an American flag near the podium, he started talking about flags and their symbolism. Along the way he proposed that Christians should have their own flag—an idea that stayed on his mind long after the speech. In 1907 Overton teamed up with Ralph Diffendorfer, secretary to the Methodist Young People's Missionary Movement, to produce and promote the flag.

The colors on the flag, not surprisingly, match those on the American flag. White represents purity and peace, blue indicates fidelity, and red stands for Christ's blood sacrifice.

So come July 4th, as you witness the display of the American Flag, remember that there is another flag that represents everlasting freedom that no one can take away; the Christian Flag. Yes, the American Flag represents the birth of a nation, but the Christian Flag represents of the birth of eternal life through Jesus Christ. And that my friend, is true freedom.

Romans 8:1-2 – *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*



As you are reading this Newsletter, **VBS** will be coming to a close. The excitement of learning for our children took place between June 26th thru June 30th. The theme for this year's **VBS** was entitled "**Pool Party – Make a Splash With Jesus**". This year, the kids learned what a difference Jesus can make in their lives, when they are willing to dive in with Him!

During our 11 a.m. worship service on July 2nd, the children will share with the church their Bible stories, their songs, their Bible verses, and their crafts. Please take the time to be in this special **VBS** service as we show our love and support for our children.



On Sunday, July 2nd, immediately following worship service, the church will be having an **Ice Cream Social**. There will be ice cream cups along with some sweet and delicious toppings. Once everyone fixes their ice cream sundae, all will gather around to **Soak the Pastor**.



To wrap up **VBS** in a fun and memorable way and to highlight the **VBS – Make A Splash With Jesus**, the Pastor will subject himself to a makeshift dunk tank. Yes, immediately following our worship service on July 2nd, everyone in the congregation will have an opportunity to soak the Pastor. So, come out for a special time of fun as we **Soak the Pastor**.



Do you like hot dogs and fun? Well, if you do, we have a special event just for you, **Hot dogs & Hangout Night** on Saturday, July 22nd from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Please join us for this special time for food, fun, and fellowship.

During our time together, we will have hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips, sweets, and drinks. Following the consumption of the hot dogs and goodies, we will have fun hanging out playing games and just spending time together. If you are planning to attend, please sign up in the church's foyer.



On Sunday, July 9th, our church family will gather at J&P Pizza in Damascus for some good food, fun, and fellowship with **Pizza with the Pastor**. J&P Pizza is located in the same shopping center as Weis Grocery Store. Please sign up in the church's foyer.





On June 18th, USBC had a special **Father's Day Service** to celebrate our fathers and the special men in our lives. On this special day, all the men in the church received a special gift from the children – a pocket size arrow. You might be thinking, “*Why a pocket size arrow?*” Well, if you were in attendance, the answer is very obvious. The sermon for Father's Day was entitled, “*Dads Who Shoot Straight.*” You see, a father can learn a lot from a skilled archer. No matter how fine the arrow and how strong the bow, it takes an incredible amount of skill to hit the target. A father also needs to develop a skill set to make sure their children hit a godly target. The pocket size arrow is a reminder of how fathers have a responsibility to be godly dads to their children.

Also, John Ingram and Mike Rickhoff shared powerful testimonies in how God has shaped their lives in being a father. In addition, Gary Palmer with guitar in hand, played and sang a song that he wrote about his son and father entitled, “*Jason's Song*”.

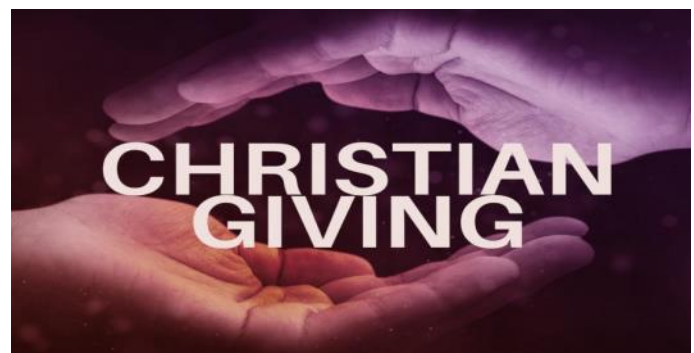
If you were not in attendance or have not yet watched this special **Father's Day Service**, please go to the church's website where this service and others can be viewed.



On Sunday, July 30th, immediately following our worship service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a **Special Communion Observance**. Dinner tables will be setup and you will be invited to sit at one of the tables and experience communion like you have never experienced before. This **Special Communion Service** will walk you through the Old Testament and into the New Testament. All your senses will be stimulated as you witness the events of the Last Supper coming to life before your very eyes.

This **Special Communion Observance** will take 30 minutes and it will have a lasting impression on you forever. All are invited to attend this unforgettable communion celebration.

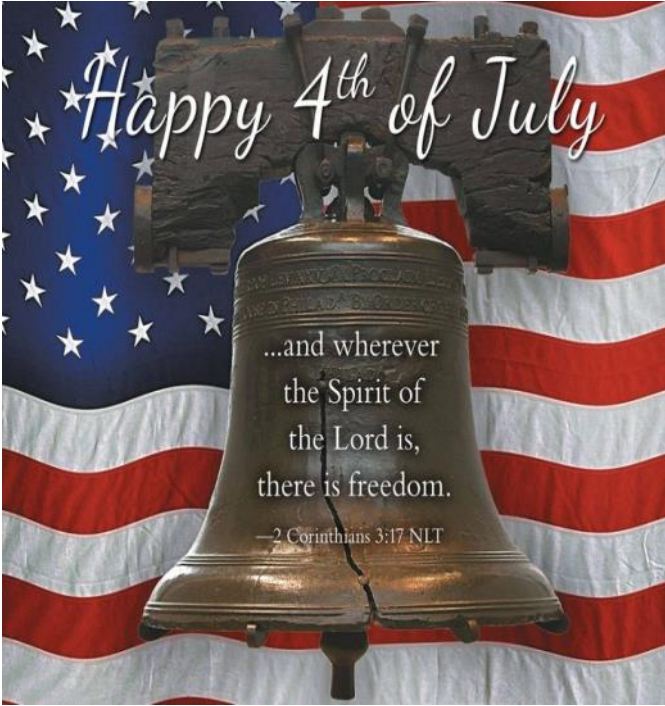
The **Forever Young Luncheon** will take place on Tuesday, July 11th at 12:30 p.m. We will be meeting at the **Golden Corral** in Frederick, MD. Remember, anyone is welcome.



In the month of June, **Upper Seneca Baptist Church** sent out a letter sharing with you about how you can financially support the ministries of church. In the letter, you were given a self-addressed envelope to make a financial contribution. If the Lord is leading you to make such a gift, the church would be grateful and honored. You can easily make this gift by using the envelope provided in the letter, through online giving, or by bringing your gift to the church.

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
July 23, 2023

Weather Policy

If the church cancels or postpones any service or activity due to inclement weather or wintry 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/



During the entire month of July our church will take on two very important tasks. First, we will collect non-perishable food for families needing a helping hand. Second, we will be collecting

school supplies for children who need that extra support.

Please make certain that the non-perishable food you donate has not expired. Also, the school supplies include basic essentials (backpacks, pencils, glue, etc.).



These items can be dropped off in the church's foyer and will be distributed at a later date.



In the month of July, there are scheduled meeting(s) to help get the *Ministry Teams* off and running. Below is a schedule of the *Ministry Team(s)* meeting dates. Each one will take place after the 11 a.m. worship service and will last for about 15 minutes.

Benevolence Ministry Team – July 23rd



Below are some wonderful events that happened in the life of USBC during the month of June.

Young Adults – On June 25th, the Young Adults went to Dave & Busters for a fun time of fellowship.

VBS – From June 26th-June 30th, the children from our church had a blast at VBS.

Youth Group – On June 30th, the Youth Group made its way to Monster Mini Golf in Gaithersburg



During the month July, the *Dive Deeper Bible Study* will be put on hold for the summer. However, the church will be offering other opportunities for future Bible studies.



will meet on July 9th.



Due to *VBS*, the following activities will be canceled for the week.

- *After the Sermon Bible Study* (June 27th)
- *Phone-In Prayer Meeting* (June 28th)
- *Thursday Night Women's Bible Study* (June 29th)
- *Sunday School* (July 2rd)
- *Church Office Closed* (July 4th)



Don't forget to mark your calendar for July 30th 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 brief informal meeting. During this 10-minute time period, I will be sharing with everyone about upcoming events, areas where the church needs help, and receiving 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.

THE CONCEPT OF WORSHIP

"HOW BIG IS YOUR CONCEPT OF GOD?"

By Pastor Dennis Felder

Starting on July 11th, I will be starting a new sermon series entitled, "*The Knowhow of Worship*". *The Knowhow of Worship* is a 4-week sermon series to help us understand the importance of **WORSHIP** and how to **WORSHIP**. When worship saturates our life, we are better able to praise our Lord and Savior with greater passion.

July 2nd – VBS Celebration Service

July 9th

Sermon Title: "*The Concept of Worship*"

Scripture: John 4:20-24

Synopsis: People have many ideas of what worship is. Biblical worship is the celebration of God for who He is, and what He has done. God is seeking our worship and He rightfully deserves it.

July 16th

Sermon Title: "*The Content of Worship*"

Scripture: Exodus 24:1-11

Synopsis: The worship of God involves several key ingredients. When all the ingredients are added together, one gets to taste and experience the sweetness of God.

July 23rd

Sermon Title: "*The Context of Worship*"

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Synopsis: Worship is not complicated. As a matter of fact, God made worship simplistic so that we can worship a complex God. Because of its simplicity, anyone can worship Him.

July 30th

Sermon Title: "*The Compensation of Worship*"

Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-22

Synopsis: Worshiping God is not just for His benefit, but it is also for our benefit. When we truly understand worship and fully immerse ourselves in worship, we receive multiple blessings.