

Volume 28 Issue 9

September 2024



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

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

USBC NEWS



As the calendar turns to September and the days begin to shorten, many of us may start to feel a sense of sadness that summer is coming to an end. The long, lazy days of relaxation and vacation may soon be replaced by the hustle and bustle of work and school.

But just because summer is drawing to a close, does that mean we have to say goodbye to the carefree, laid-back mindset that comes with it? Absolutely not! In fact, with a little help from Scripture, we can still hold onto that vacation mindset all year round.

One of the key components of a vacation mindset is rest. In the book of Matthew, Jesus invites us to come to him and find rest for our souls (Matthew 11:28). This rest is not just physical, but also mental, emotional, and spiritual. By taking time each day to spend with the Lord in prayer and meditation on His Word, we can find a peace and rest that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Another important aspect of a vacation mindset is gratitude. When we are on vacation, we often take the time to appreciate the beauty of the world around us and the blessings in our lives. The Bible encourages us to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18). By cultivating a spirit of gratitude, we can find joy and contentment regardless of the season.

Lastly, a vacation mindset is all about living in the present moment. We often feel more relaxed and carefree on vacation because we are fully present and engaged in the experiences around us. In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul reminds us to forget what is behind and press on toward the goal (Philippians 3:13-14). By focusing on the present and trusting in God's plan for our lives, we can experience true freedom and joy.

So, is summer really over? Not if we choose to hold onto the vacation mindset that comes with it. By finding rest in the Lord, cultivating gratitude, and living in the present moment, we can experience the peace and joy of vacation all year round. As the psalmist wrote, *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"* (Psalm 118:24). So, grab a beach chair, a good book, and a refreshing drink, and enjoy the vacation mindset that summer brings, no matter what time of year it is.

NEW MEMBER LINDA HANKS



Attention all members! Please join us in welcoming our newest member to our church family, Linda Hanks. Linda has been part of our USBC family for a couple of years. However, on July 28th, Linda officially joined our church. Welcome her with open arms if you have not yet done so.



USBC will be celebrating its 219th anniversary this year. In recognition of this milestone, USBC will be having a very special celebration service on October 20th during our 11 a.m. worship time. Following a very inspirational service, we will gather around for delicious food and sweet desserts.

Please invite your friends and family to attend our special 219th Anniversary Service. It will be a blessing for all when we join together to worship God on this special occasion.



Men's Luncheon - On Saturday, September 28th at 11 a.m., the men will gather at Tom and Ray's Family Restaurant for a delicious meal and great fellowship. This is a great opportunity to connect with other men in our congregation and to grow in our faith together. We look forward to seeing you there! (Address: 9805 Main Street, Suite 206, Damascus, MD).



Calling all adventurers and vacationers! We want to see all of the fun and memorable moments from your summer travels. Show us your stunning scenery, tasty treats, and family fun. We can't wait to see where you have been and what you have been up to this past summer! So, share your best **vacation pictures** with us to be featured in our October Newsletter.

Please submit your picture(s) by September 20th to be included. Please email your pictures to pastordennisusbc@hotmail.com or text your pictures to 843-957-5140. Be sure to include your name and the location of the picture(s).



If you are on a **Ministry Team** or would like to be part of a **Ministry Team**, you are invited to attend the **Ministry Team Meeting** on Sunday, September 8th, immediately following our Worship Service.

During our time together, everyone will be brought up to date about the opportunities to serve at USBC. Also, you will hear about all the ministries and how they will function to impact our church and our community for Christ.



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



In September, I will be sharing a variety of sermons to help strengthen and to help encourage us as we face daily challenges in life.

Sept. 1st

Sermon Title: *“Love and War: The Ultimate Battle”*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Synopsis: We may live in a world full of war, but as followers of Christ, we have access to a powerful weapon – love. Love is not just a feeling or an emotion, but it is a weapon that can conquer even the darkest of war zones.

Sept. 8th

Sermon Title: *“Why is Change So Hard?”*

Scripture: Mark 6:30-32

Synopsis: There are so many things in life that change. However, the most difficult to change is our life. God has called each of us to be transformed. For this full transformation to take place in our life, we must give every aspect of our life to our Lord and Savior. This can be hard to do.

Sept. 15th

Special Service: *“We Are the World”*

Scripture: Matthew 28:19

Theme: USBC has been blessed by having the world come to us. During this Special Service, members of our church family, who are from other countries, will share their testimonies, stories, and culture about how Christ has worked in their lives.

Sept. 22nd

Sermon Title: *“How to Keep Your Composure”*

Scripture: Psalm 37:8

Synopsis: Everyday life can challenge our temper. Uncontrolled anger can be destructive and unhealthy. When anger reaches a toxic level, it destroys lives, relationships, and puts division between us and our Savior.

Sept. 29th

Sermon Title: *“The Poison of the Tongue”*

Scripture: James 3:1-12

Synopsis: Our tongue is one of the smallest parts of the body, but it has the potential to destroy friendships, relationships, and families. Why? Because we can use it to spew words of hate, condemnation, and meanness.

USBC NEWS

Upper Seneca Baptist Church

23401 Davis Mill Rd.

Germantown, MD 20876



Next Newsletter Deadline

September 15, 2024

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.

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/



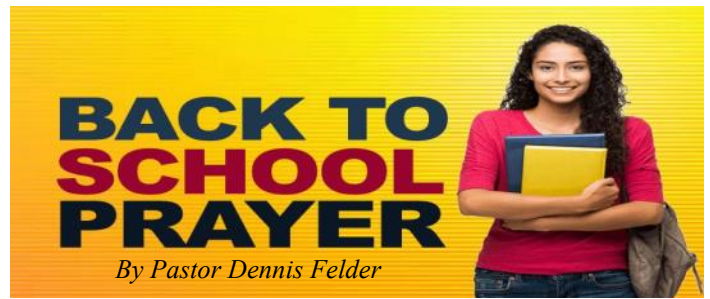
On Sunday, September 29th, our *Dive Deeper Bible Study* topic will be **“The Holy Spirit and Me”**. The Holy Spirit, who is part of the triune God, has a unique way of working in us and through us. However, how do we know if and when the Holy Spirit is working in us and through us? Can we tell when we are in harmony with the Holy Spirit and if so, what does that look like? Such questions and many more we will be discussed about how we and the Holy Spirit work together.

So, join us Sunday, September 29th immediately following our worship service for this informative Bible study and for lunch.



Don't forget to mark your calendar for September 29th 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 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.



As students all across this country are starting back to school, it is important that we lift them up in prayer. Below are three prayers for students, parents, and teachers. Let these be your prayers as the new school years starts.

A prayer for children going to school.

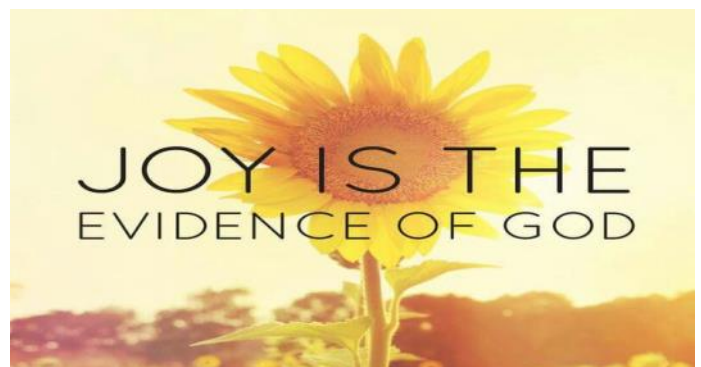
Dear Jesus, you who promise to be with me always, I pray that you would be with me today as I go to school. Bless my going and my coming. Bless my learning and my playing. Please protect my heart from fear. Please keep me safe. Please give me good friends. Give me joy this day, and thank you for loving me from head to toe. In your name. Amen!

A prayer for parents.

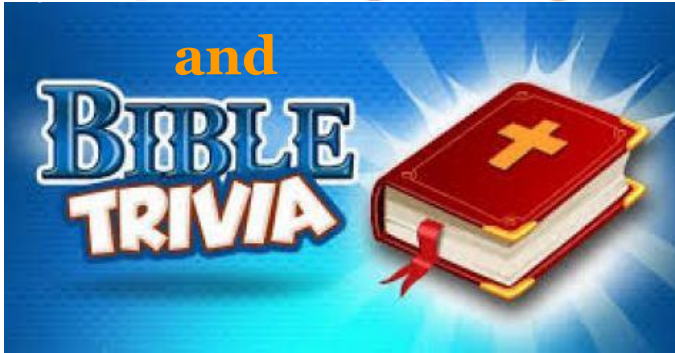
O Lord, you who promise to guide us through the wilderness and to protect us through the storm, we ask that you would make us wise when we cannot clearly see the way forward, make us brave when we feel afraid, make us strong in the face of our weakness, and make possible what to us seems impossible, so that we might joyfully entrust ourselves and our children into your tender care in these trying and troubling times. In Jesus' name. Amen!

A prayer on behalf of teachers/staff.

O Lord, you who have called and equipped the teachers in our community, we pray for them today. Watch over them, provide for them, guide them, sustain them. May you be their sun and shield, so that they might do the work that you have entrusted to them and sense your care in these uncertain times. In Jesus' name. Amen!



HOT DOG



Hot diggity dog! It is time for a fun night of *Hot Dogs and Bible Trivia*. Join us on Saturday, September 14th at 5:30 p.m. for some tasty hot dogs and a fun game to test your Bible knowledge. Following our hot dog eating contest, we will play *Who Wants to Be a Bible Millionaire*. All ages are welcome, but we ask that you sign up so that we can plan accordingly. The sign up sheet will be located in the church's lobby.



On September 15th, USBC will be having a very special Worship Service called *"We Are the World"*. As Christians, we are called to *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* (Matthew 28:19). It is important that we fulfill this mandate of spreading the "good news" with others.

Today, the world has been coming to us. Here at USBC, our church family has been blessed by others who were born and lived in different parts of the world. Through their culture and experiences, each one has a unique testimony for the Lord. So, USBC is bringing the world to us on September 15th.

During this special *Mission Service*, several members within our church family, from different parts of the world, will be sharing their culture and testimony. We are literally bringing the world to you.

Harvest Festival



On Saturday, October 12th at 6 p.m., USBC would like to invite you to attend our *Harvest Festival* that will take place at the church. We will join each other's company around the campfire, roast hot dogs, make s'mores, and enjoy the adventures of fall. This event is for all ages.

To help with the fun activities, we are asking for some volunteers to help setup and bring some candy. The church will be providing the hot dogs, buns, fixings, chips, drinks, and the ingredients to make s'mores.

If you are planning on helping to setup or to bring candy, please let the Pastor know. If it rains on October 12th, the *Harvest Festival* will be moved indoors, minus the campfire of course.



On behalf of the church, I want to thank everyone who brought **food and school supplies** to help the people in our community who needs this form of assistance. The Bible reminds us in **Matthew 25:35-40** by saying, *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. 'Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

Although our food drive and school supplies collection has ended, it does not mean that our commitment to helping others in need takes a hiatus. Let us keep looking for ways to serve and ways to help others in need.