

Volume 30 Issue 1

January 2026



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

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

USBC NEWS



Dear Church Family,

As I take a moment to pause and reflect, my heart is overflowing with gratitude as I celebrate ten years of serving as your Pastor. This milestone is not just a personal achievement; it's a testimony of God's faithfulness and the incredible love and support that each of you has shown me throughout this journey.

From the very beginning, you welcomed me with open arms and open hearts. Your kindness, encouragement, and unwavering faith in our shared mission have been a tremendous blessing to both me and my family. Together, we have walked through seasons of joy and sorrow, triumphs and challenges, and through it all, your steadfast love has been a source of strength and inspiration.

Thank you for believing in the vision God has placed on our hearts and for participating faithfully in the work of the ministry. Whether it was through your prayers, service, or the countless acts of kindness you have shown me, you have reinforced the reality that we are truly a family rooted in Christ's love.

I am continually amazed by the deep connections that we have fostered as a church. Your willingness to step into leadership roles, volunteer your time, and support various ministries speaks volumes about your commitment to serving Christ and one another. It fills my heart with joy to witness how our church has grown—in number, in spirit, and in faith.

As we move into the next chapter of our journey together, I look forward to what God has in store for us. I am excited about the opportunities we will have to serve our community, to deepen our faith, to reach out to those who are seeking hope and love, and to share the gospel of Christ with others.

Thank you once again for the privilege of being your Pastor. Your love is deeply felt, and I am genuinely humbled by your support. Let us continue to lift each other up as we walk in faith, ever eager to share the love of Christ with those around us.

With heartfelt appreciation and love,
Pastor Dennis





Anna's Baptism

A big “shout out” to **Anna Schultze** for being obedient to Christ and following through with Believer’s Baptism. On November 30th, the entire church rejoiced with Anna as she let the whole world know that she loves Jesus by being baptized. It was a great celebration!



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, January 4th, the **2026 Proposed Church Budget** will be available for your review and careful consideration. Copies of the budget will be placed in the back of the sanctuary so that you will have time to pray over it before adopting it on Sunday, January 18th.

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.



Immediately after our Worship Service on January 4th, the church will be taking down the **Christmas decorations** and placing them back in storage until next year. So please stay around for about 30 minutes to help.



Come join **Pastor Dennis** on January 18th (immediately after worship service) at the Mt. Airy IHOP for pancakes and fellowship.

Blessing Bags



On Sunday, January 11th, we will be putting together our **Blessing Bags**. (“Blessing Bags” are bags that contain personal necessities, toiletries, food, and some extras that you can hand out when you come across an individual dealing with poverty or in need.)

January Sermons

Pastor Dennis Felder

In January, I will be focusing in the area of how God moves in the life of a believer and our desire to following Him; even when life can become a struggle.

January 4th – Guest Speaker: Tom Shuggars

January 11th

Sermon Title: *“Homesick for God”*

Scripture: Luke 15:3-7

Synopsis: As Christians, we can experience the effects of homesickness when we long to once again to have an intimate and personal walk with Christ. It is time to come home.

January 18th

Sermon Title: *“Responding to God’s Call”*

Scripture: Isaiah 6:5-11

Synopsis: God calls each believer into service. This calling can be challenging at times, but it is always rewarding.

January 25th

Sermon Title: *“God’s Grace Sustains Us”*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

Synopsis: We all go through seasons of our life when we feel weak. It could be physical, emotional, mental, or even spiritual weakness. Either way, God says that His strength is made perfect in human weakness. His grace is always sufficient in any and every season or situation.



The ladies of our church gathered together for food, fun and fellowship to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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
January 18, 2026

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/

HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some wonderful events that happened in the life of USBC during the months of November and December.

Thanksgiving Gathering – On Nov. 25th, all who attended the Thanksgiving Gathering, gathered around the table and shared our thankfulness in a fun and creative way.

Thanksgiving Food Drive – Collected non-perishable foods which were donated to “Damascus Help”.

Christmas Decorating – On Nov. 29th, a group of people gathered at the church to decorate our church for Christmas.

Samaritan’s Purse – USBC packed 40 shoeboxes for “*Operation Christmas Child*”.

Benevolence Offering – During the month of December, USBC collected money for benevolent needs within our church family. Also, special ornaments were made available and the funds received went to the Benevolence Fund.

Toys for Tots – During the Christmas season, USBC collected toys that were given to *Toys for Tots* to help make Christmas very special for children who are in need.

Christmas Memorial Tree – Christmas is considered to be a joyous time of year. However, for some who have a loved one that has died, it can be a time of loneliness and grief. So, to help keep their wonderful memory alive during the Christmas season, USBC placed a Christmas Memorial Tree in the church foyer. If you had a loved one who had passed, you were invited to place a Christmas ball on the *Christmas Memorial Tree* to remember them.

Communion – On Dec. 7th, we celebrated the birth of Christ by recognizing His purpose for coming: To die for our sins. It was special reminder as we took communion.

Christmas Service, Christmas Eve, Eve Service, Women’s Christmas Party, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Sidewalk Prophets Christmas Concert are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

ENJOY OUR 2025 FAMILIES CHRISTMAS TREES

During the month of December, everyone was invited to share a picture of their Christmas tree. Below are the pictures that were received. Enjoy the beauty of Christmas.



Felder Family



Kirschenmann Family



Fogarty Family



Steiding Family



Rogers Family



Palmer Family

USBC Christmas Service 2025

Christmas Service – USBC had a spectacular Christmas Service on Dec. 21st. We sang beautiful Christmas songs, touched by heartfelt special music that highlighted the precious birth of Christ, and were blessed watching the children share a special Christmas story.



Christmas Eve, Eve Service – On Dec. 23rd, USBC had a special candlelight service to recognize and honor the birth of Jesus.



Sidewalk Prophets Christmas Concert – On Dec. 19th, a group from the church attended a special Christmas concert that celebrated the birth of Christ through song.





On Sunday, January 25th, our *Dive Deeper Bible Study* topic will be **“Open Discussion”**. Have you ever had a Biblical question or questions that you have always wanted to ask. Well, bring your question(s) to our next *Dive Deeper Bible Study* and share them with the group during our *“open discussion”*. The Pastor, along with the rest of the group, will help provide answers, direction, and clarification during our discussion time.

So, join us Sunday, January 25th immediately following our worship service for this informative Bible study and for lunch.



If you are planning on using offering envelopes for your tithes and offerings for 2026, the new offering envelopes are available in the church’s foyer. Upon picking up your box of envelopes, please place your name next to the envelope box number on the signup sheet. If you have leftover envelopes from 2025, you can continue to use them in 2026.



The following *Ministry Teams* will be meeting in the month of January for about 15 minutes following the 11 a.m. worship services.

AV and Website Ministry Team – Jan. 4th
Young Adult Ministry Team & Security Ministry Team – Jan. 11th



On behalf of my family and myself, I want to express a big **THANK YOU** to my wonderful and caring church family. The cards, the gifts, and the encouraging words were heartfelt and uplifting as you expressed your appreciation for us during the Christmas season. It is a joy being your Pastor.

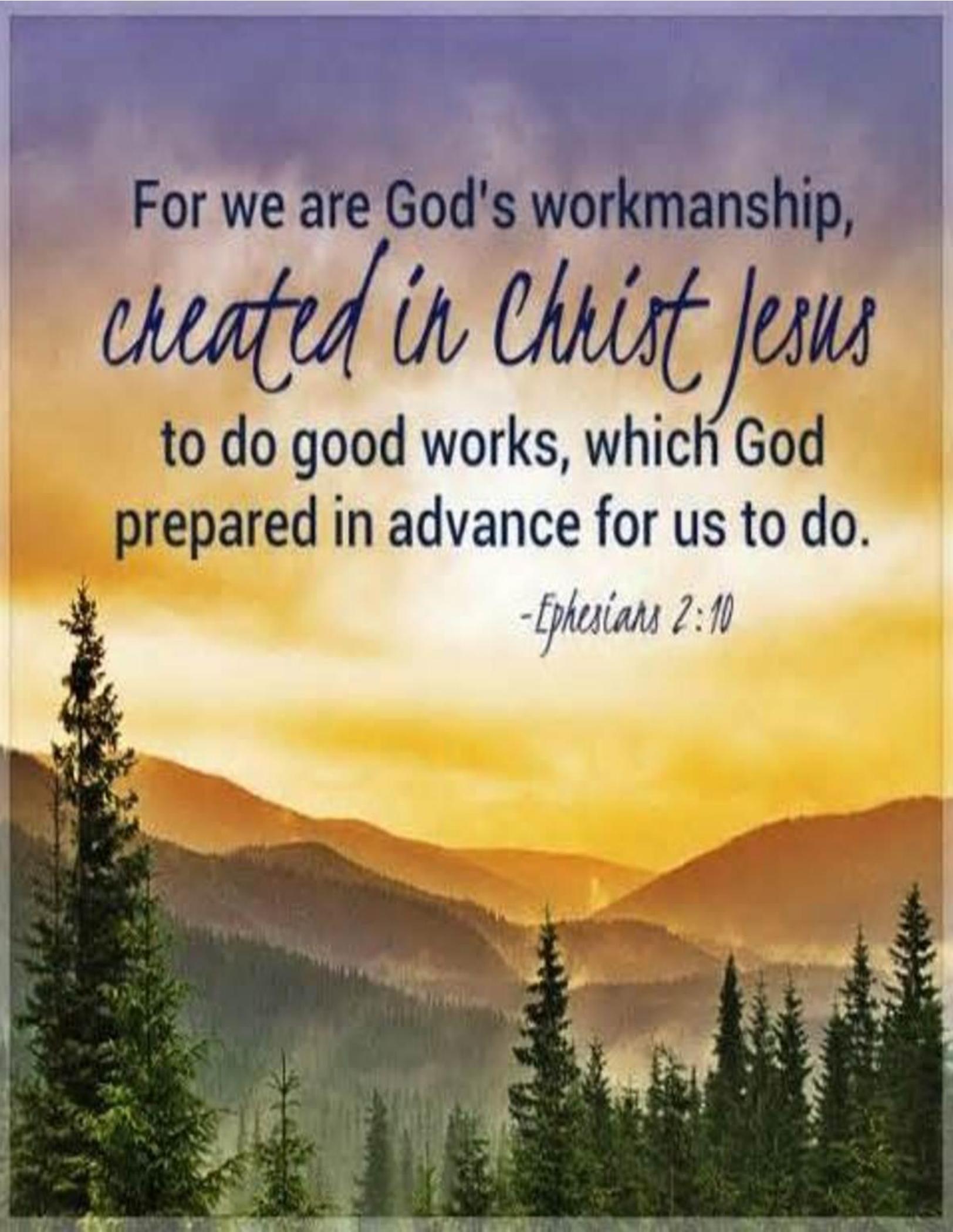


Our offering of **\$2,200**, supports Baptist foreign missionaries across the entire globe.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for January 25th 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.



The *Forever Young Luncheon* will take place on Tuesday, January 13th at 12:30 p.m. We will be meeting at the **Golden Corral** in Frederick, MD. Remember, anyone is welcome.

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains under a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon. In the foreground, several tall, dark green evergreen trees are visible, some in sharp focus and others slightly blurred. The mountains in the background are layered, with the nearest ones appearing more detailed and the further ones fading into a hazy atmosphere.

For we are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus
to do good works, which God
prepared in advance for us to do.

-Ephesians 2:10