

Volume 28 Issue 4

April 2024



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

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder

USBC NEWS



## Struggling to Pray

*Pastor Dennis Felder*

Prayer is a powerful and important aspect of the Christian life. It provides solace, guidance, and a connection to God. However, there may be times when we do not feel like praying, whether due to distractions, laziness, or feelings of doubt or despair. In these moments, it can be challenging to muster the motivation and focus to engage in prayer. Below are some tips on how to pray when you do not feel like praying:

**Acknowledge your feelings:** There are times when you may feel hesitant to pray. Acknowledge your feelings without judgment and recognize that this can be a normal part of the spiritual journey. Allow yourself to sit with these emotions and explore the reasons behind them.

**Start small:** When you are struggling to pray, it can be helpful to start small. Begin with a short and simple prayer, like a quick expression of gratitude or a brief request for strength. Setting realistic expectations can help you ease into a healthy prayer practice.

**Create a routine:** Establishing a routine for prayer can make it easier to incorporate into your daily life, even when you do not feel like praying. Set aside dedicated time each day for prayer, whether it is in the morning, before bed, or during moments of quiet reflection.

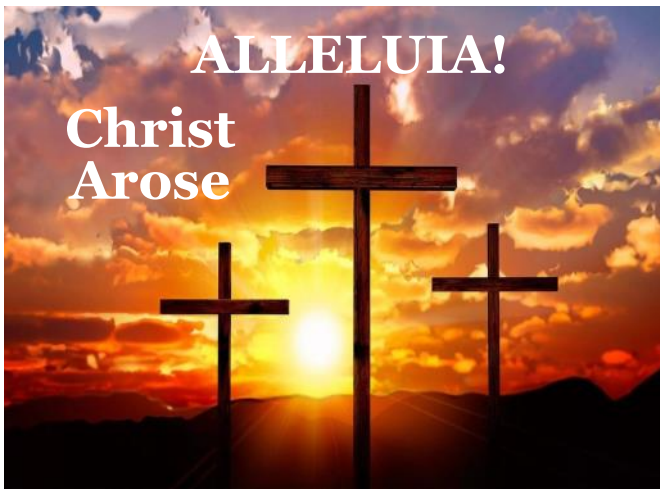
**Use prayer prompts:** If you are unsure of what to pray for or how to start, consider using prayer prompts or guided prayers. You can find resources online, in books, or within Scripture that will provide prompts for different situations or emotions, helping you focus your thoughts and intentions.

**Change up your routine:** If you find yourself feeling bored or uninspired in your prayer practice, it may be time to change things up. Try praying in a different location, a different posture, or incorporating music into your practice.

**Seek support:** Do not be afraid to reach out to others for support and guidance in your prayer journey. Talk to a spiritual mentor, join a prayer group, or seek out a community of like-minded believers who can offer encouragement and accountability.

Remember that prayer is a personal and individual practice, and it is okay to have moments of struggle or resistance. Be patient and kind to yourself, allowing yourself the grace to navigate the ups and downs of your spiritual life.

**Philippians 4:6-7** – *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*



**Easter** is an exciting time in the life of the church and **USBC** certainly celebrated our resurrected Lord during this special time of year. Below are some highlights of our **Easter activities**.

**The Last Week** – *The Last Week* was a sermon series that started on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and concluded on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This 5-week sermon series dealt with Jesus’ last week on earth leading up to His resurrection. As Jesus was living out His last few days on earth, there were important lessons that He wanted to leave with us. These services are available for your viewing on the church’s website.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – On March 24<sup>th</sup>, our children gathered outdoors as they made their way across the lawn to find Easter Eggs filled with prizes.

**Good Friday Service** – Our *Good Friday Service* took place on March 29<sup>th</sup>. During our time together, we reflected upon the great sacrifice that Jesus paid for us on the cross. The special service was filled with songs, scripture, videos, and communion. This service is available for your viewing on the church’s website.

**Easter Communion** – On Easter Sunday, a room was dedicated for anyone to participate in *Easter Communion* in a private and reflective manner.

**Easter Service** – On March 31<sup>st</sup>, **USBC** celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ in our worship service through song, Scripture, message, and a special Easter skit. This service is available for your viewing on the church’s website.

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** – This offering is named for a faithful missionary who dedicated her life to sharing the Gospel of Jesus. 100% of the offering went to support our local missionaries as they carry out the Great Commission.

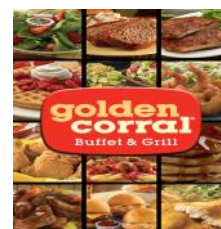


What a wonderful celebration of life as the entire **USBC** family celebrated the soon arrival of the **Schultze’s baby girl** on March 17<sup>th</sup>. During the baby celebration, we showered Erin, Stephen, Anna, John, and Tom with gifts. It began with a beautiful prayer by Brian Altman and concluded with tasty food. Also, everyone was given a chance to pick the date, the weight, and other information surrounding the future birth of the Schultze’s little girl. Once the baby has arrived, we will announce the winners.

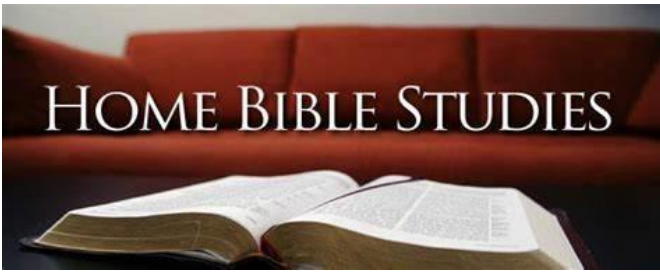
Congratulations



**Kelly Schultze**  
**March 26, 2024**  
**Born 9:53 pm**  
**Weight 7.7 lbs**  
**Parents:**  
**Steven & Erin**  
**Big Sister:**  
**Anna**  
**Big Brothers:**  
**John & Tom**



The **Forever Young Luncheon** will take place on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. We will be meeting at the **Golden Corral** in Frederick, MD. Remember, anyone is welcome.



On Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, the church will be hosting a *Home Bible Study* at the home of Mary King from 1-3 p.m. Following our Sunday Morning Worship Service, we will go to Mary's home and Brian Altman will lead the study. Prior to the Bible Study, Mary will be providing lunch for everyone. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the foyer.

Due to our Home Bible Study, there will be no *Dive Deeper Bible Study* in April.



On Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., the men will gather at Woodside Deli in Germantown for an enjoyable lunch to connect and to plan for future events for the men. (Address: 13048 Middlebrook Rd., Germantown, MD 20874).



USBC would like to invite you to attend our *Sunday School* hour (from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.). There is a *Sunday School* class for all ages (young children, teenagers, and adults). Do not miss out on these special Bible studies to help you grow in your faith and understanding of God's word.



USBC will be having regular meetings with both the *Ministry Teams* and *Church Leadership* on a regular basis. The purpose of these meetings is for planning, implementation, communicating, and coordinating events and activities for the church.

On Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the following *Ministry Teams* and *Church Leadership* will meet for about 15 minutes following the 11 a.m. worship service.

### Children's Ministry/VBS, Young Adults Team, and Buildings & Grounds



The church invites everyone to join us on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> to enjoy the fun and fellowship of duckpin bowling. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the **Mt. Airy Bowling Lanes**. Even if you are not going to bowl, we still encourage you to come and be a cheerleader. The cost is \$18.00 per bowler and that includes the shoe rental and 2 hours of bowling. While you are there, you can purchase food to eat at their snack bar. The address to the bowling alley is 304 Center Street, Mt. Airy, MD 21771. Sign up in the foyer to join in on the fun!



A special **Music Sunday** will be taking place on May 19<sup>th</sup> during our 11 a.m. worship service. On this day, our entire service will be of music. So, if you have a special hymn or song that you would like for our church to sing, please use the *Song Request Slip* in your bulletin to write down your request and place it in the offering plate.

## 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**  
**April 21, 2024**

**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/**

# DO OVER

## Starting Anew In God's Grace

*Pastor Dennis Felder*

In April, I will be starting a new sermon series entitled, *“Do Over: Starting Anew in God's Grace”*. In this 4-week sermon series, we will discover the power of a “do over” in our spiritual journey. We will learn to let go of our past mistakes, receive God's forgiveness, and walk in His promises for our future. No matter how many times we may fall, God's grace gives us the opportunity for a fresh start and the ability to live a life transformed by His love.

### April 7th

**Sermon Title:** *“Recognizing the Need for a Do Over”*

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Synopsis:** The need for a “do over” often stems from our own failures and shortcomings. We make mistakes, we hurt others, and we fall short of God's standards. But through Christ, we are given the opportunity to be redeemed, forgiven, and transformed.

### April 14th

**Sermon Title:** *“The Power of Forgiveness in Starting Over”*

**Scripture:** Psalm 103:12

**Synopsis:** Starting over requires us to let go of the past and embrace the possibilities of the future. It means leaving behind our old ways, our hurts, and our grudges, and stepping into the freedom and restoration that God offers us through His forgiveness.

### April 21st

**Sermon Title:** *“Overcoming Regrets and Moving Forward”*

**Scripture:** Philippians 3:13-14

**Synopsis:** Regret can weigh us down, holding us back from experiencing the fullness of life that God intends for us. It can prevent us from moving forward, growing, and embracing the future with hope and joy. But through Christ, we are offered forgiveness, redemption, and a fresh start.

### April 28th

**Sermon Title:** *“Embracing the Do Over: Walking in God's Promises”*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 43:18-19

**Synopsis:** God's promises are our anchor in times of uncertainty and doubt. They are a source of strength, comfort, and hope, reminding us that He is faithful to fulfill His plans for us. By embracing the “do over” that God offers us, we can step into the future with confidence, knowing that He is with us every step of the way, guiding us towards His intended purpose and blessings for our lives.

# USBC Easter Egg Hunt 2024

