

# HERE AND NOW

WHAT'S HAPPENING  
AT PHBC

NOVEMBER 11, 2018

## NEBUCHADNEZZAR BY: JON PERKINS

*Do you remember the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Here's a quick summary:*

King Nebuchadnezzar gathers together all the people, including the who's who from throughout the Babylonian Empire. People from different nations and languages. He invites them to come to the dedication of a gold statue. It is a party.

As they are assembling, they are ordered to bow down and worship the golden statue when the music strikes up – or else they'll be thrown into a fiery furnace.

Everyone bows down...with the exception of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. With everyone bowing down, it is very obvious to those around that those three are standing. The King goes haywire, which was not uncommon for him, and orders them to be brought in.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, of course, admit to not worshipping the statue. They boldly announce that their God is powerful enough to save them from the fiery furnace. If they can survive, it'll prove that their God is powerful.

Fired up, Nebuchadnezzar sentences them to be thrown into the furnace. He demands that the furnace be seven times its normal temperature (Dr. Evil attempted this, as well).

As the King's mighty men prepare to toss the fully clothed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace, the flame from the fire kills the mighty men in the process, and the three fall into the furnace.

King Nebuchadnezzar is dumbfounded to see that there are more than three people in the fire. There's a fourth person present, who looks like "a son of the gods." And he's walking, alive with the other three.

Dazzled and impressed, he calls Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego out of the fire. They emerge with their cloaks unharmed, not a hair singed, and not even the smell of fire was on them – to the surprise of all the King's officials.

What a powerful story. We have heard many sermons, children's stories, and the like about these three. As we should, but I want to point something out that we sometimes overlook in the story, which I believe will help in our walk with Christ.

We like to think of ourselves as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Being brave and standing for God when no one else will. That is how we hear that story and that is the prism through which we visualize the lesson. But what if – stay with me – what if we can learn to be more like Christ by acting like King Nebuchadnezzar at the end of the story.

He noticed what was happening in the furnace and when he called the trio out, he praises the God (our God) of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He sees visually what God can and will do in someone's life. In fact, Daniel 4 concludes with one of the last mentions of Nebuchadnezzar, that the King said this: ***"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble."***

Although not the perfect role model, we can learn from King Nebuchadnezzar. He praised God for His workings in others' lives and made changes in his own life to follow God. But my biggest takeaway is this: God is not finished with you yet! He still has a plan for you. He has not given up on you. He didn't quit or hide for King Nebuchadnezzar, and he threw three people into a fiery furnace.



## AHUMBE PRAYER CORNER

Pray for the women of Ahumbe. These are the ladies in the music ministry.

## MISSIONS PRAYER FOCUS



Elaine Idoine has just finished her first year in Lesotho as she serves with YWAM. Pray for her as she learns the language. She works with orphans, women, and high school boys. Elaine is enjoying the spring weather. Pray for Elaine's need to renew her visa in 2019.

## PRAYER THOUGHTS

*Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love endures forever (Psalm 107:1).*

Thank you, Lord, for Your goodness and Your enduring love.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

***What might it have been like back in the time when Jesus was born?*** What did it feel like to come across the money changers, or the Roman guards, or the shepherds in the field, or to meet Mary and Joseph face to face? Beginning this week in Children's Church, grades 1-4 will begin to have some of these hands-on experiences that will lead up to Christmas, where the Savior is revealed. Join us in the Sr. High room once dismissed from the 11:00am service and experience God's Word coming to life. Any teens or adults who would like to help with the portrayal of these experiences, please see Pam Scott or Sue Eaton.

***Our new Check-In system for children has begun on Sunday mornings.*** It's as easy as entering a phone number, checking the times your child will be here, choosing diaper bag or not, then print your tags. Parents, don't forget to present your tag at pick-up time. Security codes will change weekly along with the number for your child. So watch for a new call number each week, in case we need to contact you in the worship center.

## WHERE WILL YOU SERVE?

***Our Thanksgiving Community Meal is coming on November 20,*** and this year (in place of groceries), we will be collecting \$25 Giant Eagle gift cards (or cash to buy gift cards) to give to the families that come to the meal. You can purchase the gift cards from the Academy table on Sundays or in their office throughout the week. In the welcome center, you can fill out a Thanksgiving card and place a gift card with it, or there will be cards in your Growth Groups to fill out. Help us bless the families of our community.

**During the meal, we will be serving homemade apple and pumpkin pies.** We need your baking skills to help provide enough to feed everyone. Sign up in the glass walkway. Make an extra pie or two while you're making your Thanksgiving desserts!

***Still looking for your place in ministry?*** There are great opportunities in 9:30am Sunday School with grades 1 and 2 or grades 3 and 4, as well as 11:00am churchtime with our 4s and 5s or grades 1-4. How about serving every other month with our Nursery-Toddler children during the 8:15am service? See Pam or mark the back of your Connect Card to get involved.

***Our worship team is looking for individuals who would be interested in running sound or PowerPoint*** for our worship services. If you can join the team during any of our three services, please contact Staci Kling about running PowerPoint, or Linda Johnson about running sound.

***It's time to start decorating the church for Christmas!*** We are looking for volunteers to help us the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 24, at 8:00am. We need decorators of all types, including some people who are able to climb ladders. If you would like more information, contact Dan Buncher or we'll just see you on November 24.



## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

***The American Policy Roundtable is hosting a Christmas Event!*** On Saturday, December 8 at 2:30pm and 6:30pm at Medina Cornerstone Chapel, come out to see *Christmas In America 1981*. They only come once a year and it's your chance to be a part of a very unique live broadcast of The Public Square® radio program. Join in the live audience for this radio variety program featuring award-winning musical guests, a most compelling story, and songs you will keep singing all season long. Tickets are available for all shows but will go fast. Go to [www.thepublicsquare.com/events/](http://www.thepublicsquare.com/events/) to purchase your tickets today.

## CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

***We want you to be a part of our team!*** One of the seven traits of a healthy church, according to author Thom Rainer, is a church that intentionally intersects with non-Christians. The Connections Ministry is a front-line ministry with guests exploring PHBC for the first time. Some of our guests need to not only hear about Christ's love, but experience it! If you are interested in volunteering in one of the ministry areas listed below, let Tim Hunsicker know by emailing him at [thunsicker@phbaptist.org](mailto:thunsicker@phbaptist.org), calling the church office, or simply writing "Connections" on the back of your Connect Card on a Sunday morning.

### ***Ministry Areas in the Church include:***

- Assimilation Team – Guest follow up
- Coffee Crew – Making sure the coffee is ready for our guests and church family
- Welcome Center Team – Creating a warm, clean and inviting experience
- Guest Ambassador – Waiting with anticipation to interact with guests
- Greeter – Welcoming guests and regular attenders to PHBC with a warm smile
- Parking Lot Team – Assisting people in and out of the building from the parking lot
- Special Events Team – Designing new events to connect with our community and enhance events already held at PHBC
- Shuttle Bus Drivers – Help elderly residents in nearby apartments get to church with a safe, warm ride in one of the PHBC shuttles

## PARMA HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

***PHCA office hours are currently 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.***

***Support the Academy through the ongoing Shopping Card Program fundraiser.*** By picking just one business you regularly visit and committing to only go there with our gift/shopping cards in your wallet, you will help us keep tuition costs low for families. Stop by the Academy table in the glass walkway to purchase shopping cards at face value before you shop. Many cards are on hand right now and ready for you to take with you. We are also selling Malley's Chocolate for our annual candy fundraiser! Stop in the Academy office for more details or to purchase a chocolate bar for \$1 each. All proceeds go to support PHCA!

## MISSIONS

***Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, where children in need around the world receive shoeboxes filled with gifts.*** You can help to bring joy to these children by filling a shoebox today! Shoeboxes and packing lists are available in the glass walkway while supplies last. All boxes are due back to the church by November 18.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

***On Sunday, December 9 at 6:00pm, we will have a special Christmas Celebration.***

***Coming Home for Christmas*** will celebrate Christ's birth through music and drama. We'll sing and celebrate together in the worship center, then enjoy a cookie fellowship in the Family Life Center. Begin inviting your family and friends now. Free promotional tickets will be available November 18.



## HOSPITALITY BY: JON PERKINS



***My favorite meal of the day is breakfast. In fact, I enjoy waking up early and getting breakfast. I don't do it every morning, unfortunately, but there is never a bad breakfast in my opinion.***

Name the breakfast place and I love it: Cracker Barrel, IHOP, Victoria's, Chick-Fil-A, Taco Bell, etc. In fact, once a week I go to Denny's with two friends and enjoy an hour or so long breakfast that's filled with coffee, eggs, fruit, French toast (sometimes), pancakes (occasionally), and of course, more coffee.

I am not sure how we ended making Denny's our breakfast spot. When we made the decision to make breakfast our time to get together, Denny's was not even on my radar.

I have nothing against Denny's, but I was kind of hoping for something a tad more original, a bit more "diner-ish," and even a dash more, umm...dingier. You know, sort of like one of my all-time favorites, Waffle House! If you have never been to a Waffle House – well, my friend, you need to get out more. But there is not a better place than Denny's on Day Drive in Parma to get breakfast.

The food is not the best. The coffee is not always the freshest. However, the hospitality and the love for others make it worth going back every week. Don't get me wrong, spending time with two good friends of mine is a great part of my week, but when I get to Denny's early that one morning each week, I know there is someone there who is expecting us. Not because we are just customers.

How do I know this? Before we even get there, our waitress has set the table for us. Not just with silverware and a placemat – the table is completely set with our waters and coffee mugs and menus ready for us. No other table is ready like ours. As soon as we sit down the coffee is poured and our waitress is ready to take our order. Not that she even needs to take our order since she has it memorized. She knows what we like and even remembers what we don't like or what we don't finish so that the following week she reminds us not to order that again.

With all the flaws you might be thinking of Denny's and even the flaws I have with Denny's, I look forward to eating there every week because of the way our waitress shows us love.

I Peter 4:9-10 says: *"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

I don't know if she, our waitress, is a Christian, but every morning she "shows hospitality" in a way that God is glorified. We, as Christians, are called to show that hospitality to others in order that "God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." There are plenty of chances or opportunities for us to show that hospitality but the one that comes to my mind first is our Sunday morning experience. Are we, are you, expecting our guests? Ready to make our guests feel welcomed and loved? It starts with a good morning and concludes with looking forward to seeing you next week. Every church has the same "start" and "conclusion" as mentioned above, but what can we do in the in-between that will show hospitality and love for others?

The waitress from Denny's who I only see once a week shows love and hospitality that we can all learn from and sets an example that not only we should follow, but also what we are called to do because of our love for Christ.

How can we already have the table set?

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PHBC

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
11	12	13	14			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11**  
 New Members Lunch – 12:30pm/parlor  
 YA Singles Bible Study – 4:30pm

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13**  
 Senior Adult Bible Study – 1:00pm/B-5

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**  
 White Cross – 10:00am/parlor  
 Chain of Love – 1:00pm/parlor  
 IMPACT Night – 7:00pm

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18**  
 Puppet Team Rehearsal – 4:00pm/B-1  
 YA Friendsgiving Feast – 4:30pm

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19**  
 Food Pantry – 10:00am  
 GriefShare – 7:00pm/B-5

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20**  
 Thanksgiving Hot Meal – 6:00pm/FLC

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**  
 NO IMPACT Night

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
 Happy Thanksgiving!  
 Church office is closed.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23**  
 Church office is closed.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24**  
 Church Decorating – 8:00am



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**  
 8:15 & 9:30am *Classic* | 11:00am *Contemporary*  
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