

HERE AND NOW

WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT PHBC

NOVEMBER 25, 2018

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! BY: DAN ADAMS

It's been said that you never know what you have until it's gone. Very recently I found out how true that is.

About a month ago, our dishwasher decided that instead of washing dishes, it wanted to wash the kitchen floor with a flash flood. This was not one of its advertised options. After mopping up the floor, and several fruitless repair attempts, we finally admitted that it was dead.

Now, we had purchased this dishwasher, used, about 12 years ago, for only \$100. Our active family of 5 has certainly gotten more than our use and money out of it. For the past 12 years, I haven't given this dishwasher any thought... until it was gone. The reality of washing our dishes each night by **gasp** hand, set in hard and fast. After a few nights of feeling sorry for myself, it finally dawned on me that I have been fairly ungrateful for something as simple and basic as a dishwasher.

The more I thought about it (I've had plenty of time to ponder at the sink over the last month), I began to remember how many things I have to be thankful for – things that I simply take for granted. I have so much more than clean dishes: good food on those dishes each day, modern conveniences to make life simpler, and electricity to run them all. And of course, the list goes on and on.

The Dishwasher Debacle of 2018 has given me a new mental challenge. I've decided that when I find myself tempted to grumble and complain, I'm going to use that as my personal prompt to look for something to be thankful for instead.

1 Thessalonians encourages us to, *"give thanks in all circumstances."* So that's what I'm going to try to do. I invite you to join me in this. Not just on Thanksgiving Day, or the week of Thanksgiving. Let's make a lifestyle commitment to giving thanks.

PHBC Family – you are one of the many things that I'm giving thanks to our God for this year. You are a constant blessing and encouragement to me, and it's a joy to serve you. Happy Thanksgiving!

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so..." (Psalm 107:1-2)



AHUMBE PRAYER CORNER

Pray for the people of Ahumbe. We can be thankful for the opportunity we have to help Ahumbe with their education needs.

MISSIONS PRAYER FOCUS



Jeff and Beth live in Turkey as they work with Global Hope Network International. Jeff travels widely throughout Africa and the Middle East. Pray for their safety in Turkey and for Jeff as he travels. Pray also for the many villages where Jeff's workers are trying to transform their way of life through better water, education, food, and income generation. They are thankful for everyone who has partnered with them in prayer and financially.

PRAYER THOUGHTS

Shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for He is our God. We are the people He watches over, the flock under His care (Psalm 95).

We offer thanksgiving to our Savior, the great God and King, our Maker and our Shepherd who keeps us in His care.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our special Children's Christmas service for grades 1-6 is December 9 at 11:20am.

Once dismissed from the 11:00am service, children will come down to the youth room for "Mary Had A Little Lamb". With the use of video, puppets, and devotional, we'll see God's plan for the perfect Lamb and His sacrifice for us. Bring a friend as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior.

Found a place to serve yet? We still have some exciting opportunities on Sunday mornings during the 8:15am service, 9:30am Sunday School, or 11:00am Churchtime. See Pam or mark the back of your Connect Card so we can help you find your place to serve. You'll be glad you did.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young adult singles and college age, come and join us as we bake Christmas cookies! We will be meeting at the home of Matt and Sheri Williams at 10:00am on Saturday, December 8.

The Young Adult Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00pm at Matt and Sheri's home.



WOMEN'S EVENT

All women are invited to come and bring a friend to visit three homes as we share Christmas traditions. This free event is on Saturday, December 15, and buses will leave the church at 12:15pm. We will enjoy refreshments, a Christmas devotion, as well as make gift baskets for our shut-ins. Sign-ups are in the welcome center or the glass walkway.

WHERE WILL YOU SERVE?

With the excitement of the upcoming Christmas season, we have many opportunities to reach out to our community. One of those ways is by caring for their children. Why not serve as a family at one of these opportunities, so others can hear about God's great love for us. Contact the church office or sign up in one of our church nurseries if we can count on you on December 9 at 5:45pm, or at one of our Christmas Eve services, December 24 at 3:15pm or 4:45pm. Let's enable everyone to hear the Good News of our Savior.

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.

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 this area of ministry, let Tim Hunsicker know by emailing him at thunsicker@phbaptist.org, calling the church office, or simply writing "Connections" on the back of your Connect Card on a Sunday morning.

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

First off, thank you, everyone, for participating in the survey. We received a lot of vital feedback and we are very encouraged by the responses you all have given. We have taken that feedback and used it to finalize the Senior Pastor job description and position listing. We have initiated the process of listing the position online. We ask that the congregation continues to pray for not only the committee, but also the potential candidates and our church as we continue in the process. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to either email them to phbcsearchcommittee@gmail.com, or reach out to anyone on the committee.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Our annual business meeting is December 2 at 6:00pm. We will hear ministry highlights and members will vote on the presented 2019 budget. Absentee ballots are located in the church office.

PARMA HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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

PHBC brought in 354 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Thank you for your generosity and helping to show God's love to these children in a tangible way.

THANK YOU

At this time of Thanksgiving, we want to say thank you for being such a wonderful church family. During this past month especially, we have been recipients of your gracious gifts, treats, lunches, kind notes, and words of affirmation. We truly are honored and blessed to be serving our Lord together. God is doing great things, and we continue to look forward to His plan for each of us individually as well our entire church family. Thank you again for allowing us to serve with you. We love you!

Your PHBC Staff

Dear PHBC Pastors, Staff, and Funeral Crew,

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, if so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say; perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day, whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much whatever the part.

Thank you for everything!
Amy Bednarski and Family



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 are available. *(As our parking lot project will be wrapping up at this time, please use the back parking lot for the evening.)*

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- December 9:** *Children's Christmas Service (grades 1-6) at 11:20am*
Coming Home for Christmas at 6:00pm
- December 23:** *Regular Sunday morning with Growth Groups*
- December 24:** *Church office open until noon*
Identical Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 3:30pm and 5:00pm
- December 25:** *Church office closed*

DO NOT GIVE UP BY: MATT VINCE



Who doesn't love a good action movie? A fight of good versus evil to the bitter end with the good guy coming out on top!

We see it all the time, especially with every new comic book movie that comes out in theaters. We love the lone hero who stands up against the supervillain, the corrupt government, or the evil billionaire set on corporate domination and greed! The really good stories make us want to be heroes ourselves.

But we can easily forget just how hard it is to stand up for what is right. That fighting against evil is not easy, to put it mildly. People, especially those who dare to do the right thing, get hurt. They can face great difficulties and hardships and oftentimes they feel that they are the only one who is taking a stand.

Obviously, none of us are ever likely to be called on to singlehandedly save the world from an alien invasion, a villain with superpowers, or the army of thugs hired by an evil billionaire out to control the city. But we have been called upon to fight the evil that reigns in our world. God calls us to very specific battles in our lives. We're not fighting evil people, though it may often feel that way. Rather, we are fighting Satan and his army of thugs (Ephesians 6:12), who use lies to dupe people into thinking they don't need God, that their way is the best way, or any other of a hundred lies that our sinful hearts want to believe.

But in our best efforts, we often get hurt to our very core; a broken heart, a broken spirit, and often a broken will. Many of us know in our heads that God has won the ultimate victory (1 Corinthians 15:57), but that doesn't necessarily assuage the pain and agony we experience at the hands of the enemy; a child who has turned their back on their faith; an unfaithful spouse; the death of an infant to an unstoppable disease. We feel alone. We're devastated. We want to quit. We may cry out in our anguish, *"What's the point!?"*

The point is, we don't know who is watching and we don't know how God maybe using our faithfulness, regardless of how we feel, to inspire and motivate others. In Galatians 6:9, Paul says, *"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."* Those are hard words to live by. But they are very important words, especially that last phrase, *"...do not give up."* When all we can think about is throwing in the towel, do not give up! When we feel we're being attacked by those closest to us, do not give up! God's Word promises that *"in due season we will reap"*. Often the issue is, we don't know if the things we're working to "harvest" are in their season yet. We don't know how close we are to victory!

We can easily get caught up in the wonder and excitement of those superheroes from the movies and the cool powers they have, and forget the pain and loss that they fought through. But I think that more than anything, the true "power" of those superheroes, and that of all real world heroes, is their commitment to the cause. They did not give up standing for and fighting for what is right.

So whatever battle you find yourself in, do not give up! Your victory may be just around the corner and, after all, you don't know who may be watching your own hero's story!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PHBC

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28		30	
2	3		5	6		8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

YA Bible Study – 4:30pm

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Food Pantry – 10:00am
GriefShare – 7:00pm/B-5

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Senior Adult Trip – 10:15am

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

IMPACT Night – 7:00pm

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Youth Reverb All-Nighter – 5:30pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Puppet Team Rehearsal – 4:30pm
YA Bible Study – 4:30pm
Business Meeting – 6:00pm/WC

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

GriefShare – 7:00pm/B-5

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

IMPACT Night – 7:00pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Co-Ed Volleyball – 7:30pm/FLC

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

YA Cookie Making – 10:00am



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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