

HERE AND NOW

WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT PHBC

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

GIVE THANKS BY: DAN ADAMS

I'm beginning to think I'm in the minority, but I like my holidays one at a time. I don't want to rush, I want to enjoy each one, especially this time of the year.

We're barely past the last one, and nearly every store is already decked out for Christmas.

The day after Halloween, my neighbor replaced his spooky yard decorations with snowflake lights. Now, I love Christmas just as much as the next person, with all of the family traditions, foods, and celebrations of Jesus' life. But I don't want to rush past Thanksgiving.

Now, I realize that the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday isn't a biblical holiday, but it certainly is a Christian concept. All throughout Scripture we're commanded and encouraged to give thanks. We're given so many examples and reasons to give thanks. And forgiven followers of Christ have the most reason to be grateful.

I have to admit, it's far too easy for me to focus on the negative. I'm tempted to grumble and complain about difficult circumstances. I don't think I'm alone in that. And while this life may be filled with hardship, we also have so many blessings, if we only pause to remember. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 instructs us, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances."*

What a great reminder. *"In all circumstances"* is a healthy reminder that even when I'm having a rough day, I can give thanks to God for His many blessings.

Psalms 136 is one of my favorites. Multiple times it instructs us to *give thanks*, and then goes on to give dozens of reasons to be thankful. Sometimes I need that reminder. If you have a few minutes, I encourage you to read it. When you're done, take a moment to make your own list – reasons you have for giving thanks. I think you'll be encouraged.

This November, I'm not rushing straight to Christmas. I'm going to take some time each day to thank God for something new. I'm looking forward to giving thanks to God, not just on one Thursday at the end of the month, but each and every day.

There are several things I thank God for just about every day: His love and forgiveness, salvation, my wife and kids, and His daily provisions. Right at the top of this list is our church family. I'm grateful to God for you. You are a constant blessing and encouragement to me. I hope this November we make time to establish a habit of gratitude. Happy (early) Thanksgiving!



MISSIONS PRAYER FOCUS



Ashley Tengler currently serves with Youth For Christ at Independence Middle and High Schools.

During the past year, there has been development of regular high school programming, plus expansion of the middle school programming. Pray that these get-togethers before school starts, one-on-one mentoring, regular small groups, weekly clubs and

many small, local events continue to have eternal impact on middle and high school students.

PRAYER THOUGHTS

Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:20).

When we give thanks to God – regardless of our feelings, He gives us joy – regardless of our circumstances. We are blessed – even though the difficulties may remain.



AHUMBE PRAYER CORNER

Continue to pray for the people of Ahumbe. Pray that God opens the hearts of the people to hear his Word. Pray that they are being drawn to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

Over the past seven years, the Hunsicker family has been working with a team in Kosovo to build a new school for kids pre-K through grade 12. This fall, the team completed the classroom wing of the school, opening up opportunities for mission teams to come during the summer to run camps to engage with the students and community.

Tim and Cara will be leading a short-term team to Kosovo June 10–21, 2020. The trip will include developing an enrichment camp (art, science, sports, or other) and performing some light-duty projects such as painting to help the school prepare for the 2020–2021 school year. The goal of the trip will be to help the Kosovo Leadership Academy continue to connect and build relationships with the community.

If you are interested in being a part of this team, there will be an informational meeting on Sunday, November 24, following the 11:00am service in B-5. If you are unable to attend but would like information, please contact Tim Hunsicker at thunsicker@phbaptist.org or call the church office at 440.886.6100. Applications will be available starting at that time and will be due by December 8. This trip is open to adults and high school students with a parent or guardian who regularly attend PHBC.



Operation Christmas Child is here! This 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 24.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY



All women, including youth, are invited to hear about the direction, structure, and vision of Women's Ministry for 2020. If you are interested in participating or just want information about what is happening, we would love to have you join us. The meeting is Saturday, November 9 at 5:00pm. If you have questions or topics you would like to be addressed, please email women@phbaptist.org. Childcare and coffee will be provided.

If you are currently leading a Growth Group, Bible study, or are interested in leading in the spring, there will be a training and vision meeting on Sunday, November 10 at 6:00pm in the parlor. This meeting will cover a bit of training, but most importantly the new structure and offerings that will be available in the spring. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Not long ago, I had mentioned in a previous issue of "Here and Now" about the possibility of looking for open doors with our neighboring apartments. At this time, we are attempting to make some connections with the children through some type of ministry focus. If you have an interest in being a part of this new adventure, see Pam Scott or one of the Children's Ministry team members. This may be an opportunity where entire families can serve together.

Do you know some children who need to hear about Jesus? There will be a great opportunity to invite them to the Children's Christmas Service for grades 1-6 on December 8, once dismissed from the 11:00am service. Watch for flyers and more information soon to make an impact on the lives of children. Encourage your kids to invite their friends.

CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

The Christmas season is just around the corner and we are eager to start preparations for that special time of year. The decorating team needs your help! We will be decorating the worship center and campus on Saturday, November 30 from 8:30am to noon. Whether you are a decorator or a climber for the worship center, there is a place for you. If you have tools like scissors, wire cutters, or other things you think would be helpful, bring them with you. Please call Kathy Hunsicker at 440.526.8509 if you are able to help.

Do you enjoy interacting with other people? If you do and are looking for a place to minister at PHBC, let the Connections Team know. We are looking to more than double the amount of people serving. We would love to train you in one of our guest relations areas, place you with a mentor, and prepare you to serve. Connect with Tim Hunsicker by calling the church at 440.886.6100, or email him at thunsicker@phbaptist.org. He will set up a time to talk with you about how you can be a part of this team.



The areas where you can serve include:

- The Assimilation Team (A-Team) – Contacting first time guests
- Coffee Crew – Making coffee each Sunday
- Welcome Center Set-Up and Clean-Up Team – Preparing the welcome center for Sunday guests
- Welcome Center Hosts – Spend the day in the welcome center serving our guests and attenders
- Guest Ambassadors – Meeting new guests and helping them find their way
- Greeters – Meeting everyone who comes through one of our doors
- Bus Drivers – Picking up and dropping off people at the local apartments
- Parking Lot Attendants – Helping people get from their cars to the doors



THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY HOT MEAL

Our Thanksgiving Community Hot Meal is Tuesday, November 19. We are collecting \$25 Giant Eagle gift cards to hand out to the families at this meal. We have a table set up in the welcome center to turn in your gift cards, and also we ask that you write a note of encouragement for the families who will receive the gift cards. In addition, we will be serving pies at the meal and need pie bakers. Sign up in the welcome center to bake an apple or pumpkin pie. And if you are interested in volunteering to serve the day of the meal, you can start showing up to help on that Tuesday at 4:30pm.

PARMA HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Academy will be closed in celebration of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 29.

The new shopping card program is up and running! Stop by the table in the glass walkway for more information and to purchase your new cards!

Our fall Malley's Chocolate Fundraiser is in full swing. Stop in the Academy office if you are interested in supporting PHCA in this delicious way by purchasing a Malley's chocolate bar; they are only \$1 each! We are selling Milk Chocolate Pretzel, Crunch, Almond, CLE bar, and Dark Chocolate Pretzel.

SONSHINE PRESCHOOL

It's always a good time for pie! Sonshine Preschool is running a Baker's Square Pie fundraiser through mid-December. Each pie card is \$13, and good for any pie and never expires. Pie card order forms are available on the literature rack outside the worship center and can be turned into the church office. Once your order has been fulfilled, we will call/message you that it is ready for pick-up in the church office. Please call the Preschool office at 440.886.7485 with any questions. Thank you for your support!

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL RECAP

So, what really happened at our 2019 Fall Family Festival? It was a truly amazing day! You generously gave about **550 POUNDS** of wrapped candy – talk about a sugar dream come true! Thank you for giving so abundantly; that allowed us to be generous with all the kids that came ready for a treat.

The day started with weather forecasts that were from one extreme to the other. Would it rain or wouldn't it during the festival? So we decided to go with our indoor/outdoor plan. Many of you showed up and got everything set up before lunch. The indoor games were set, the outdoor games were ready, along with a hayride. The pavilion was blanketed with activity – from face painting, to nature, and of course a new area that provided lunch. We were ready with kettle corn over a fire in the woods, and a launch pad behind the garage. There was even a horse that came to visit.



We were ready, and then... Yes, the rain started. And while people were lined up outside at 12:15pm waiting to get in, we called for a different plan. We did a combination of our two plans that we had in place. Game cards were exchanged, color codes for lines were changed. Outside games and nature displays were pulled inside. Our horse visitor greeted guests for a while, then a dog with fun tricks took over. Pastor Shane just kept going with the hayride – the kids didn't care about getting wet. Our face painting, lunch, final prizes, kettle corn, and the Connections Team kept things exciting in the pavilion. Each family was escorted with an umbrella from the building to the pavilion.

What a great time to connect with our guests! The good thing was, the rain was basically a drizzle all afternoon. It finally let loose into a real storm when everything was over, so thank You, God, for holding things off. People really enjoyed the indoor and outdoor venues. The Pavilion also had some added tarps to break the wind, as well as some heaters to take the chill out of the air.

We had at least 1,000 people attend our Fall Family Festival, and many were from our community and loved reconnecting with us. Thank you to the many workers who came and set-up, ran stations, and then cleaned up. What a great team we had working together to carry out God's work. It truly was a fabulous day, and people were so appreciative. For next year, we have it penciled in the calendar for October 31, 2020. We're excited to see what God has in store for us. But again, thank you to everyone who took part in this outreach opportunity: candy donators, workers, and prayers! We appreciate you all!

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
10		12	13	14		
17		19	20			

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

New Life Class – 11:20am/C-5
Growth Group Training – 6:00pm/parlor

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Senior Adult Meal – 12:00pm/FLC

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

White Cross – 10:00am/parlor
IMPACT Night – 7:00pm

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Co-Ed Volleyball – 7:30/FLC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

New Life Class – 11:20am/C-5
Puppet Team Rehearsal – 4:00pm/B-1

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Thanksgiving Hot Meal – 6:00pm/FLC

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

IMPACT Night – 7:00pm

PHBC LEADERSHIP STAFF

Shane Prewitt – Senior Pastor

Dan Adams – Associate Pastor

Pam Scott – Children's Pastor

Jon Perkins – Discipleship and Senior Adults Pastor

Tim Hunsicker – Connections Pastor

Matt Vince – Interim Youth Director

Sarah Likowski – Interim Christian Schools Administrator

Jen Moench – Preschool Director



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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