

HERE AND NOW

WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT PHBC

DECEMBER 8, 2019

FEAR NOT! BY: SHANE PREWITT

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people" (Luke 2:10).

The most repeated command in all of Scripture is found in those two little words, "Fear not". This year at PHBC, we are focusing on the "Fear Nots" of the Christmas story as they relate to the recipients of the news surrounding the birth of Messiah.

In each of the "Fear Not" encounters, God's angelic messengers had to reassure their recipients not to be afraid of their appearance but to rejoice because of what God was doing. The Messiah, the Savior of the world was about to come, and His arrival would change the trajectory of the world forevermore. Including the lives of the people receiving the news of Messiah's birth.

Zechariah and Elizabeth would be able to rejoice that God was going to give them a son of their own who would prepare the way of the Lord.

Joseph would be able to stand by Mary's side and support her throughout her pregnancy and be the earthly father to God's very own Son.

Mary could celebrate that God had found her highly favored in His sight and had chosen her to give birth to the Savior of the world. The shepherds could delight that they were just as loved as anybody else in the world and would be the first to lay eyes on the newborn King.

All of the recipients of the news surrounding Jesus' birth had their own fears and questions that faced them head-on, but when they received the wonderful news from God's messengers, the fears that they faced were swallowed up by confidence in what God was revealing to them.

I wonder what type of fears are being faced in our church family as we near the conclusion of another year. Maybe it's the fear of what others think of you. Maybe it's the fear of not being able to pay the bills while still buying Christmas gifts for the kids. It could be the fear of being rejected by a spouse, or having to face another Christmas alone.

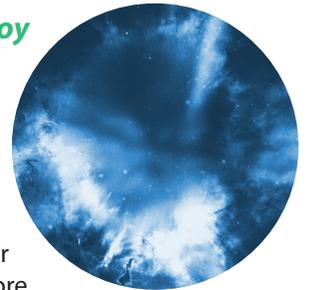
Are there fears that you are facing this Christmas season?

If so, listen closely to the "Fear Nots" of the Christmas narratives. God had good news of great joy not only for the shepherds who were abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks, but that same good news extends to us today.

Jesus has come, which means truly God is with us. And just like the Apostle Paul said, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

Instead of allowing fear to paralyze you this Christmas season, look fully into the meaning of Jesus' birth and allow His coming to give you full confidence in His love for you.

Fear not, for the Lord has come!



AHUMBE PRAYER CORNER

Pray that the people of Ahumbe and its neighbors will be experiencing the best December they've had. Pray that through our help, they will experience a better life. Pray also that this Christmas will bring a special meaning to them. Pray that God will open their hearts so that they come to know Him.

MISSIONS PRAYER FOCUS



Tim and Martha have been serving in the Arabian Peninsula for thirty years. Pray for their work at an international school. Pray for the 17 language classes they are offering. Pray also that Christmas will open opportunities for them to talk to neighbors about Christ's love for them.

PRAYER THOUGHTS

Mary and Joseph's gift to Jesus was the gift of obedience.

Mary's womb would protect the growing child. *Mary answered, "May it be to me as you have said"* (Luke 1:38).

Joseph would be the protector of Mary and Jesus. *Joseph did what the angel of the LORD had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife* (Matthew 1:24).

Give Jesus the gift that Mary and Joseph gave.... the gift of obedience.



CHRISTMAS EVENT

Word of Life Production is excited to share with us "All is Bright"! The *All is Bright* Production is an evening of worship, drama, and media arts put on by students and staff of the Word of Life Bible Institute. Please join us on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00pm in the worship center for this family-friendly event. Doors open at 5:30pm, with a time of fellowship and refreshments to follow in the Family Life Center. Reserve your FREE tickets now online at wol.is/allisbright, and invite your family and friends. (Tickets are also available in the church office.)

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

During the Christmas season, we have adjusted our worship service times.

On Sunday, December 22, we will have a special Christmas service at 9:00am and our contemporary service at 11:00am. Growth Groups will not meet and children in grades 1-12 will worship with their parents.

On Sunday, December 29, we will only have two worship services at 9:30 and 11:00am. Children's classes will meet at their regular times. Grades 7-12 will worship with their parents.

We will have two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 3:30 and 5:00pm. Childcare for children 3 and under will be provided.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

What's happening for our kids on December 22 and 29? On December 22, there will be two special Christmas services at 9:00 and 11:00am. Children in grades 1-6 will worship with their parents, while preschool and childcare will be offered during both services. On December 29, there will be a 9:30am service and an 11:00am service, and regular children's programs will be offered during both services.

Christmas Eve is a special evening where many guests will come through our doors, and it's also a great opportunity to show love by caring for their little ones. If you can help at 3:15 or 4:45pm on Christmas Eve, please sign up in the nursery-toddler area. It's a great opportunity to serve as a family at one service, then attend the other service. Thanks for showing your love to others.

All Children's workers: it's time to Power Up! Make sure you have January 25, 2020 on your calendar for our annual Children's Worker Breakfast and Training. Come get recharged for ministry as you enjoy an energizing breakfast, experience hands-on charge-up stations, make some great connections, participate in a unique prayer experience, and get refueled with a challenge from Pastor Shane. It's a morning you won't want to miss. Sign up in the glass walkway beginning in January.



YOUTH MINISTRY

All senior high students (grade 9-12) are invited to join us for a New Year's Eve party on December 31 from 8:00pm to 1:00am. We'll hang out, play games, have food, and count down the new year! Feel free to bring your favorite card or board game to share. Guys, please bring a 2 liter drink to share and girls, please bring a snack or dessert to share.



CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

Did you know PHBC has a shuttle that can pick you up or drop you off at several locations near the church? Not only can we pick you up on Sunday mornings, but a new ministry will be launching for IMPACT Night beginning in January!

Sunday Shuttle

If you are interested in using this FREE service on Sunday mornings, all you need to do is show up at the following stops at the designated times and look for the van labeled PHBC:

9:00am	Regency Apartment Building D
9:05am	Regency Apartment Building B
9:10am	Educator Apartment Building
9:14am	North Church Towers
9:17am	Independence Apartments 2
9:20am	Independence Apartments 1
9:25am	Arrive at PHBC for the 9:30am Service and Growth Groups

For your return trip, all you need to do is meet at the doors at the front of church, where you are dropped off, and the shuttle will return you to your apartment complex.

Wednesday Shuttle

In January 2020, we will be launching a FREE shuttle service on IMPACT Night (Wednesday night) to the same locations as Sunday mornings. However, since this is a new ministry, we need to know who will be needing a ride. Please contact the church office and let us know that you would like to be picked up at one of the following locations:

6:30pm	Regency Apartment Building D
6:35pm	Regency Apartment Building B
6:40pm	Educator Apartment Building
6:44pm	North Church Towers
6:47pm	Independence Apartments 2
6:50pm	Independence Apartments 1
6:55pm	Arrive at PHBC for IMPACT Night

For your IMPACT Night return trip, you will need to meet in the welcome center, where you are dropped off, at 8:30pm where you will load the shuttle and head back to your apartment.

WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY

Are you currently involved in our Worship Arts Ministry at PHBC? Would you like to know what opportunities are available? Join us for our After Christmas Worship Arts Party on Friday, January 10 at 6:30pm for a time of fellowship and vision casting. Pastor Shane and Charlene will be casting the vision for our Worship Arts Ministry in 2020 and talk about some exciting upcoming worship initiatives, along with exploring opportunities to get involved in this important area of our church. Bring a dish to share for the potluck and let's look forward to what God has in store for us in 2020.

WHERE WILL YOU SERVE?



The Facility Team is looking for volunteers to help during the winter with snow removal on the sidewalks. If you are interested, please contact Dan Buncher at the church or send an email to dbuncher@phbaptist.org.

PHBC would like to put together an Emergency First Response Team. This team will be able to help provide a safe environment for our congregation by being available to give direction and assess individuals in need of emergency medical attention during Sunday mornings and special events. If you are a doctor, nurse, paramedic, EMT, firefighter, police officer, or have other emergency expertise, please take some time to prayerfully consider whether you should apply to serve on our Emergency First Response Team. For more information about involvement in this team, please contact the church office to leave your contact information.

PARMA HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Academy will be closed in celebration of Christmas from Monday, December 23 to Friday, January 3. Classes will resume on Monday, January 6, 2020.

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! Thank you for supporting our school through this program.

We still have some Malley's chocolate bars for sale. 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.

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8			11	12	13	
15	16	17	18	19		

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Children's Christmas Service – 11:20am/C-8
Annual Business Meeting – 6:00pm/WC

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

White Cross – 11:30am/parlor
Youth Christmas Party – 6:00pm
IMPACT Night – 7:00pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Volleyball Open Gym – 7:30pm/FLC

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

MOPS – 9:30am/parlor
PHCA Christmas Concert – 7:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

All is Bright Program – 6:00pm/WC

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Preschool Christmas Program – 7:00pm/WC

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Senior Adult Meal – 12:00pm/FLC
Community Hot Meal – 6:00pm/FLC
Preschool Christmas Program – 7:00pm/WC

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

No IMPACT Night

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Volleyball Open Gym – 7:30pm/FLC

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 – 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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