



Shoebox Christmas



Shoebox Christmas 2019 - Once again, it's time to continue this wonderful ministry by packing treasures and necessities in our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Last Christmas, due to your generosity, we collected 149 shoeboxes at PHUMC. Our class LOVES leading this very special ministry for our church and we would LOVE for you to pack a shoebox (or two, or three or four!!!) for a child who may not receive a gift at all - if not from YOU!

But it's not only the things in the shoebox that are important – it's the message of love and hope that Operation Christmas Child spreads as they fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus shared with his disciples. These shoeboxes have the ETERNAL message of Jesus that we all have been blessed to know – and are called to share with others. Again this year, millions of children will experience Christmas joy when they receive these special shoeboxes and hear of God's precious gift of our Lord Jesus through Christian literature and follow-up discipleship programs.

Suggested gift ideas are: small toys, school supplies, and hygiene articles, as well as other special items such as Bible story picture books, soccer balls, socks, hats, gloves, T-shirts, and solar calculators. In a separate envelope, you may also enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. **Operation Christmas Child encourages this – it's so special to the children to know about the people who gave them their gifts.**

You can find all that you need to get started on this special Christmas project outside of the Sunday School office, including age/gender labels to be placed on your box, envelopes for mailing donations and a brochure with 101 gift suggestions for your shoebox. Shoeboxes from Operation Christmas Child are available on all 3 floors at PHUMC – or pack your treasures in your own box! Shoeboxes may be wrapped, but please remember that the top and bottom must be wrapped individually to allow Operation Christmas Child staff to add literature on top of your gifts (allow 1" at top). Shoeboxes may be dropped off outside of the Sunday School office anytime from now until **PHUMC Collection Day on Sunday, November 24th**, when Pastor Vic will bless our shoeboxes and we will deliver them to Grace Fellowship in Timonium.

The cost to ship the shoeboxes is \$9.00 for each box. Please make your check out to "Samaritan's Purse" and place it **inside** the box (right at the top so it is easily seen).

And if you can't create a shoebox but would like to help with the mailing expenses, a check for \$9.00 can be made out to "Samaritan's Purse" and put into the OCC envelopes located outside of the Sunday School office and on the Narthex table. Please place them in the offering plates.

Shopping for treasures for Operation Christmas Child has become a special family tradition for many of our church families and is a wonderful way to show our children how we all can help to share God's love to those in need. Please help this wonderful ministry started years ago by our friend, Nancy Rafferty, continue to grow.

