Pullin' Weeds Plantin' Seeds

TEMPLE LADIES NEWSLETTER

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Thanksgiving

Twila Jones

Thanksgiving is defined in Webster's 1828 Dictionary as "rendering thanks for good received," and "expressing gratitude for favors or mercies."

The first time we read the word "thanksgiving" in our Bible is in Leviticus, and it is used in reference to the thanksgiving offering commanded by God to His people, the Israelites. Certainly, they had reason to render thanks for good received – Read Exodus. Much favor and mercy had been lavished on this nation whom God had chosen to be His particular people.

PSALM 69:30 – I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with Thanksgiving.

PSALM 95:2 – Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

PSALM 100:4 – Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name.

PSALM 147:7 – Sing unto the LORD with Thanksgiving, sing praise upon the harp unto our God:

These are only a few of the verses we find in Israel's hymnbook. Throughout the Psalms we find Thanksgiving in all kinds of circumstances.

Thanksgiving should come easy to those of us who belong to God through Jesus Christ.

COLOSSIANS 2:7 – Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with Thanksgiving.



This time of year, we naturally turn our thoughts and plans to Thanksgiving Day. We should be thankful, but if we are not careful, we will spend less time being thankful and more time being rushed, overworked with baking, cooking, decorating, shopping, cleaning, and then…eating…and for some, football. Thanksgiving Day is an opportunity for us to gather with family and friends. For the most part it is a happy day, filled with good food, laughter and making memories.

This year, being the 250th Anniversary of the United States, I would like to look back on what Thanksgiving meant to the Pilgrims, the Founders, and our First President.

> The Pilgrims, an ordinary group of real English men and women which consisted of the Separatists – those who disliked the forms of worship and the doctrine so much that they wished to separate from and leave the Church of England, were led by William Bradford and William Brewster – and the Strangers – those who were military or adventurers looking for a better life in America. *102 boarded the Mayflower on September 6, 1620, in Plymouth, England.***
>
> After much delay, a long, stormy voyage, and a disappointing stop at Cape Cod the Mayflower

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES '26

Guest Speaker
Rev. Dale & Janet Bigham



Saturday, December 12
6:00 PM Choir Christmas Presentation

Sunday, December 13
9:30 AM Children's Christmas Presentation
6:00 PM Choir Christmas Presentation
Cookie & Coffee Fellowship

Continued from Front

landed at Plymouth on December 21, 1620. It was bitter cold, and the Pilgrims struggled with harsh conditions, friendly and unfriendly Indians, and much sickness – one half of them died of starvation and illness. Yet, in the spring, not one Pilgrim would leave when the Mayflower returned to England. *According to William Bradford, they believed God had led them to the New World and would protect and prosper them to become a nation under God.***

Preparing themselves for protection against attacks, meeting with Samoset and Chief Massasoit, who were friendly to the Pilgrims, and the coming of summer, enabled them to experience an easier time. When autumn arrived in 1621, the Pilgrims' conditions were better. Corn and barley yielded a good return; ducks, geese, wild turkeys, and deer were plentiful. When Massasoit and ninety Indians came to visit, a three-day feast was held. This was the first Thanksgiving ever celebrated in New England.

ELEMENTARY HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES,
WILBUR F GORDY, pp 43-50
**ITALICS MINE

George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation, New York, October 3, 1789, was our first national Thanksgiving. Abraham Lincoln in 1863 made it an annual national holiday to be celebrated on the last Thursday of November. Originally it was a day of thanks and prayer and supplication and request for Divine Blessing. A few helpings of those would go nicely and wouldn't hurt with the stuffing and gravy of today.

WILLIAM J BENNET, THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA

GEORGE WASHINGTON,
THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION, NEW YORK,
OCTOBER 3, 1789

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor, and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness." Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, Who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks, for His kind care and protection of the People of this country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed…

This Thanksgiving, think about that First Thanksgiving. It was more than a day full of food and fun, it was an offering of the Pilgrims to Almighty God for His care and provision in the midst of the most difficult and harsh conditions, starvation, and loss of life. He enabled them to survive and prosper. They gave Thanks to God for not only survival, but also the establishment of a thriving colony that eventually led to the Founders forming the United States of America.

Let us take time this year to offer our own Thanksgiving to our Loving Heavenly Father for all His "kind care and protection" of us, not only this year, but throughout our lives.

We have so very much to be thankful for!!

O give Thanks unto the LORD, for He is Good; His Mercy endureth for ever.

Happy Thanksgiving!!



SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 1:09 AM
7 LBS 10 OZ 20 INCHES

Charlotte Grace Howland

PROUD PARENTS: GARRETT & MEGAN
GLEEFUL GRANDS: TOMMY & KRISTIN HOWLAND
GIDDY GREATS: LES & CATHY HOWLAND

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
7 LBS 10 OZ 20 INCHES

Kenneth Charles-Alan

PROUD PARENTS: JEREMIAH & MAKIAH MARQUETTE
GLEEFUL GRANDS: STEVE & AMBER CLARK
ELATED AUNTS & UNCLE: SADÉ, KYLIE, ZACK

