

The Community Clarion

November 2019

Volume 49, Issue 11

Question: "What should be the focus of Christians on Thanksgiving?"

The original thanksgiving celebration was held by the Pilgrim settlers in Massachusetts during their second winter in America in December, 1621. The first winter had killed 44 of the original 102 colonists. At one point their daily food ration was down to five kernels of corn apiece, but then an unexpected trading vessel arrived, swapping them beaver pelts for grain, providing for their severe need. The next summer's crop brought hope, and Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer to show the gratitude of the colonists that they were still alive.

From that time forward, Thanksgiving has been celebrated as a day to give thanks to God for His gracious and sufficient provision. President Abraham Lincoln officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863, "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." In 1941, Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday of November be observed as Thanksgiving Day and be a legal holiday.

In scripture, we find things related to the issue of thanksgiving nearly from cover to cover. Individuals offered up sacrifices out of gratitude in the book of *Genesis*. The Israelites sang a song of thanksgiving as they were delivered from Pharaoh's army after the crossing of the Red Sea (*Exodus 15*). Later, the Mosaic Law set aside three times each year when the Israelites were to gather together. All three of these times [Unleavened Bread (also called the Feast of the Passover) (*Exodus 12:15-20*), Harvest or Pentecost (*Leviticus 23:15-21*), and the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles (*Leviticus 23:33-36*)] involved remembering God's provision and grace.

In the New Testament, there are repeated admonitions to give thanks to God. Thanksgiving is to always be a part of our prayers.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men" (1 Timothy 2:1).

And of all of God's gifts, the greatest one He gave us was the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

We, like the Pilgrims, have a choice. In life there will always be those things that we can complain about (the Pilgrims had lost many loved ones), but there will also be much to be thankful for. As our society becomes increasingly secular, the actual "giving of thanks to God" during our annual Thanksgiving holiday is being overlooked, leaving only the feasting. May God grant that He may find us grateful every day for all of His gifts, spiritual and material. God is good, and every good gift comes from Him (*James 1:17*).

(Resource - The Quest Study Bible)

Pastor's Page



Out of all the things that we should be thankful for, there is one that is not mentioned above. This popular song only points out the obvious!

GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given **Jesus Christ**, His Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given **Jesus Christ**, His Son

Give thanks!

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18 give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in **Christ Jesus**.

Happy Thanksgiving

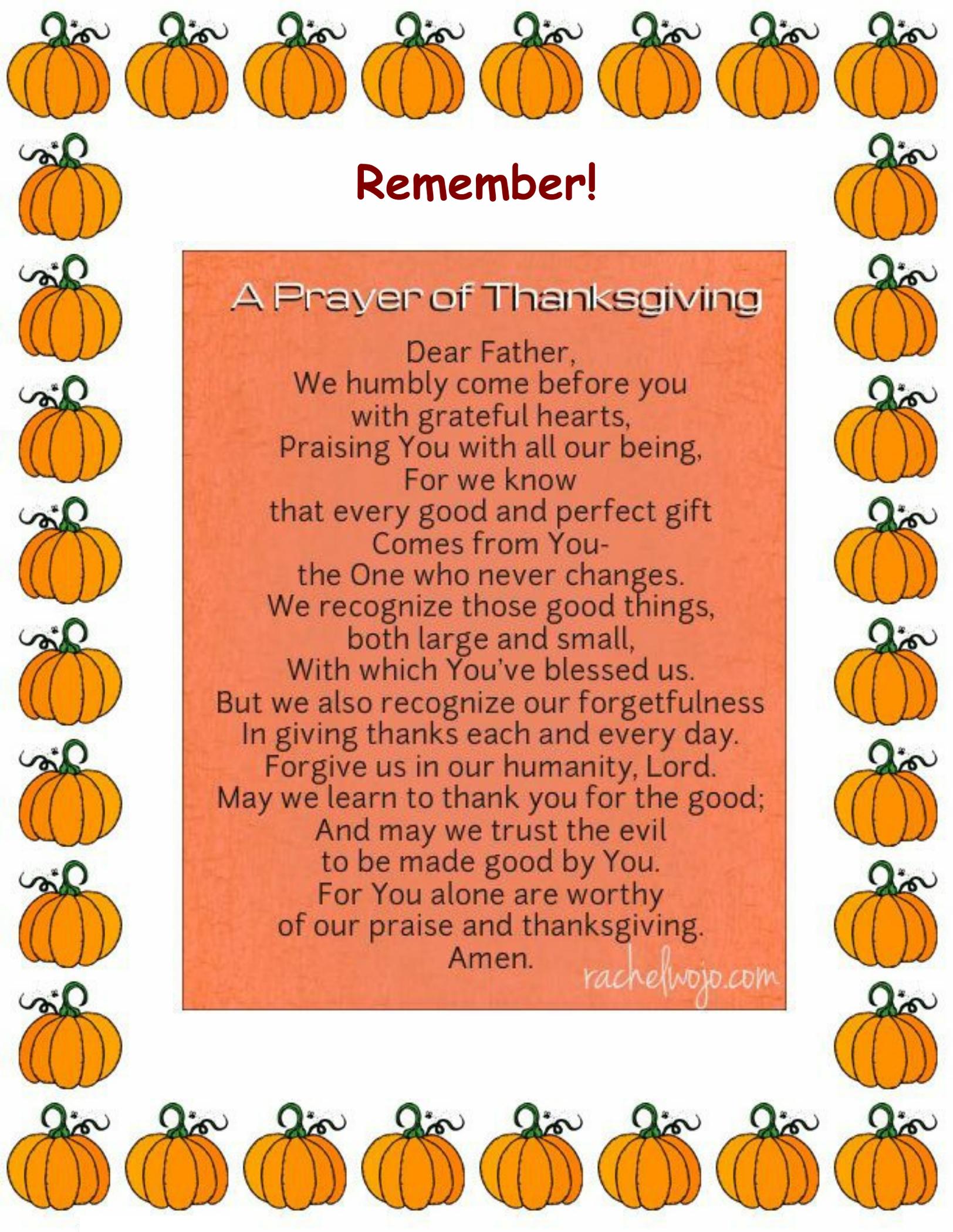
Pastor Kevin

Celebrations



Birthdays

DYER, Arianna	11/01
SCHAFRATH, Mady	11/01
WHITING, Taylor	11/11
DOEBELE, Mary Lou	11/17
METZ, Wilbert	11/21
DOWNEY, Sue	11/22



Remember!

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dear Father,
We humbly come before you
with grateful hearts,
Praising You with all our being,
For we know
that every good and perfect gift
Comes from You-
the One who never changes.
We recognize those good things,
both large and small,
With which You've blessed us.
But we also recognize our forgetfulness
In giving thanks each and every day.
Forgive us in our humanity, Lord.
May we learn to thank you for the good;
And may we trust the evil
to be made good by You.
For You alone are worthy
of our praise and thanksgiving.
Amen.

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November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Worship Wertz's Visit	4 6:30 Adelines Practice	5 10:00 Women's Study	6 7:00 Choir Practice	7	8 11:00 Food Pantry 4:30 Hot Meal	9 9:00 Charge Conference at Rocky River UMC
10 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Worship	11 6:30 Adelines Practice Veterans Day 	12 10:00 Women's Study 6:30 Worship Mtg.	13 7:00 Choir Practice	14 7:00 Girl Scouts(115)	15 11:00 Food Pantry 4:30 Hot Meal	16
17 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Worship	18 6:30 Adelines Practice	19 10:00 Women's Study	20 7:00 Choir Practice	21	22 4:30 Hot Meal	23
24 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Worship	25 6:30 Adelines Practice	26 10:00 Women's Study	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving 	29 Budgets Due to District on 12/1	30 9:00 Hanging of the Greens