

Thanksgiving Calendar Connections

This is an updated version, that can be used for years 2016-2018

from [1+1+1=1](#)

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You **can** print this set front to back, although each printer is different, most are similar.

I added a tiny black arrow showing the way I insert my page back in {face up} so that they line up exactly. Be sure to run a test on fast draft/grayscale to make sure yours line up right! We printed ours on white cardstock, laminated them, then cut them out!

Looking for more Calendar Cards?

We have many to choose from!

[Calendar Connections](#)

Helpful Items

~these are the *exact* products we use~



[cardstock](#)



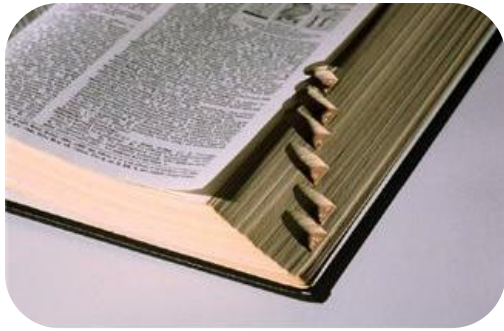
[laminator](#)



[laminating film](#)



[calendar](#)



What is Thanksgiving? 1



A Command 2



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An Example of Thanksgiving 3



Giving Thanks 4



Thanksgiving Claims 5



Who is Right? 6

3 ~ An Example of Thanksgiving

God set an example for us to follow to develop the habit of being thankful. Exodus 23:14-19 speaks of three annual festivals that were to be celebrated: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering. Each one commemorated an event that had happened in the lives of the Hebrews. Each also coincided with a harvest. God commanded these festivals to remind the Hebrews what they had been through and what they had been given. They were to be THANKFUL!

2 ~ A Command

Many people know the ten commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17. Can you find the one that tells us to be thankful? Look at verse 17. Can you see it? It says DO NOT covet. Covet means to desire something someone else has. It is the act of being dissatisfied with what you already have. The opposite of DO NOT is DO. If we are to NOT want what someone else has we are TO BE thankful for what God has given to us. What are you thankful for today?

1 ~ What is Thanksgiving?

The dictionary says it is "grateful acknowledgment of benefits or favors, especially to God". God commands us to "give thanks". In fact, it is the most repeated command in the Bible! Colossians 3:15 says, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Being thankful is not a choice! Your challenge this month is to write down, each day, at least one thing for which you are thankful!

6 ~ Who Is Right?

There are twelve claims to the "first" thanksgiving – two in Texas, two in Florida, one in Maine, two in Virginia, and five in Massachusetts. Each of the events had to do with the arrival of something – food, supplies, shelter, rain or a safe arrival to a destination. (Do you see the similarities to the Hebrews thanksgiving feasts?) The claims we will examine are based upon accounts or documents (letters from actual participants or journals from record keepers) from the original event.

5 ~ Thanksgiving Claims

Americans often trace the holiday of Thanksgiving back to the Pilgrims and Indians of 1621. We think of the black and white outfits they wore and the turkey and cranberry sauce that they ate. Did you know that there are 12 *different* claims to the first Thanksgiving? Each of the claims we will look at were not made by people involved in the actual event, but by people who lived many years later. People have made these claims for many reasons which may include regional pride (where the event took place), ethnic identity (Spanish, non-English), or religious identity (Catholics, not Protestants).

4 ~ Giving Thanks

The New Testament also has many examples of people who gave thanks to God. Paul, the apostle, was one such man. There were many times in his life where he could have grumbled about what was happening to him. He was thrown in prison, shipwrecked, and stoned! But he wrote this verse: "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thes. 5:18. God wants us to give thanks to Him no matter what happens in our lives. Does that mean Paul was thankful he was stoned? NO! He was thankful **even though** it took place and that God was in control. Today – try to focus on the blessings God has given and have a thankful heart!



May 29, 1541 7



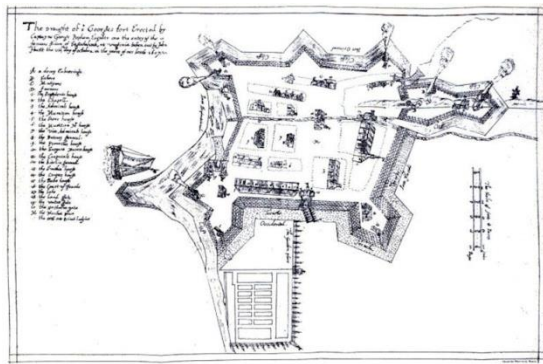
June 30, 1564 8



Sept 8, 1565 9



April 30, 1598 10



Aug 19, 1607 11



1610 12

9 ~ September 8, 1565

Early in 1565, King Philip II of Spain sent Admiral Pedro Menéndez de Avilés to defeat French colonists who had set up a settlement near what is now Jacksonville, FL. Upon Menéndez' arrival in late August he marched into the Timucuan Indian village and set up a fort named St. Augustine (the oldest permanent European settlement on the North American continent). On September 8th they celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving. It is thought that they most likely ate hard sea biscuits and cocido - a stew made from salted pork and garbanzo beans laced with garlic.

8 ~ June 30, 1564

The French were eager to establish themselves in the New World. In 1562 a small group led by Jean Ribault set sail for the Americas and established Charlesfort. Ribault left 28 men and returned to France for more supplies. He was arrested, however, and was unable to return. With no supplies and hostile natives, 27 of the 28 men returned to France after just one year. Ribault's second in command, Rene de Laudonnière, led a group of 200 settlers to Florida in 1564 where they established Fort de la Carolina. A Service of Thanksgiving was held for the safe voyage and arrival of the new colonists.

7 ~ May 29, 1541

Exploration of the New World was in full swing and Francisco Vásquez de Coronado was on the search for wealth. Upon hearing of Quivira, a wealthy civilization, Coronado gathered an expedition team and went in search. Traveling with 335 Spaniards, 1300 natives and four Franciscan monks they were the first European explorers to discover the Palo Duro Canyon in Texas. Coronado held a Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate the ample game, edible plants, and protection from weather that the canyon provided. A historical marker was placed at the canyon in 1959 by the Texas Society Daughters of American Colonists

12 ~ 1610

England continued to establish colonies along the coast of North America and in April of 1607 sent three ships, the *Susan Constant*, *Discovery*, and *God Speed*, with English entrepreneurs – men unused to the harsh working conditions of the new land to establish the Jamestown Colony in Virginia. Within the first few months 51 people died. In the “starving time”, 1609-1610, only 61 of the 500 colonists survived. June 10, 1610, *The Deliverance*, an English ship, brought much needed supplies and more colonists. A Thanksgiving Service was held in celebration of the desperately needed supplies.

11 ~ August 19, 1607

England was becoming more active in trying to establish colonies in the New World. Sir Ferdinando Gorges, a shareholder in the Plymouth Company (an English joint stock company founded in 1606 by James I of England with the purpose of establishing settlements on the coast of North America) funded George Popham to establish a colony in New England (Maine). With two ships and 120 people, Popham sailed from Plymouth, England and landed at the mouth of the Kennebec River. There they erected the first English colony, Popham Colony. They held a Thanksgiving Service to mark their safe arrival.

10 ~ April 30, 1598

In 1595 King Philip II ordered Juan de Oñate to colonize the northern frontier of New Spain (Central America up through current day Nevada and California). Oñate began his expedition in 1598. After 86 stressful days crossing the Chihuahuan Desert with over 500 people and 7000 animals, they forded the Rio Grande with the help of the Manso Indians. He claimed all the land beyond the river (New Mexico) for Spain on April 30th. Oñate held a Thanksgiving Mass and feast with the Manso Indians to celebrate their successful journey. Since 1989, annual reenactments of this first Thanksgiving have been held in San Elizario, TX.



1619

13



1620

14



1621

15



1623

16



1630

17



1631

18

15 ~ 1621

This account is the most well known of the twelve accounts and the one on which our modern day Thanksgiving is based upon. The colonists faced many difficulties that first winter including poor shelter and almost starving. With the help of Squanto and the rest of the Wampanoag tribe the colony survived. The Indians taught them how to grow crops, fish, and make other necessary items. Upon a successful fall harvest, Gov. Bradford decided that the colonists and Indians should "rejoice together". For the period of one week they ate venison, duck, fish, squash, and puddings made from corn, nuts, and berries. They also demonstrated their skills in marching and shooting and played games, including competitive sports.

14 ~ 1620

William Bradford, the governor of Plymouth Colony for thirty years, kept journals of his life in North America. We know of many of the events that took place during that time thanks to his careful documentation. Upon the arrival of the Mayflower in Provincetown, Massachusetts the new settlers held a Service of Thanksgiving for their safe journey across the ocean.

13 ~ 1619

In 1619, the ship *Margaret*, set sail out of Bristol, England with thirty-eight settlers to Virginia. The financial backers ordered the settlers to keep the day of their arrival holy and set it aside as a day of thanksgiving. It was to be a yearly event. The ship landed at Berkeley Hundred on December 4, 1619. The colonists followed orders and observed a day of thanksgiving and prayer until they were attacked and wiped out by Native Americans in 1622. This is called the "First Official Thanksgiving Day in America". In the late 1800's a copy of this Thanksgiving order was found among the documents of John Smyth, a historian for the Berkeley Hundred. Since 1970, a reenactment and festival of this event has been held on the first Sunday of November.

18 ~ 1631

The first winter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (Boston) was difficult, with colonists struggling against disease and starvation, resulting in a significant number of deaths. Upon the arrival of ships carrying desperately needed supplies a Service of Thanksgiving was held. This event and the 1630 thanksgiving were documented by Gov. John Winthrop. This is the final account for the competing claims of "first thanksgiving". Can you see the similarities between the Biblical thanksgiving feasts and those represented in the late 1500's and early 1600's?

17 ~ 1630

Boston, Massachusetts was founded September 17, 1630 by Puritan colonists from England. The Puritans are often confused with the Pilgrims who established the Plymouth colony ten years earlier. The Puritans maintained their loyalty to the Church of England. Separatists, or Pilgrims, held that their differences with the Church of England were conflicting and that their worship should be independent of a central church. Upon the safe arrival of the Puritan colonists, they held a Service of Thanksgiving.

16 ~ 1623

According to Gov. Bradford's journal, the summer of 1623 proved to be difficult for growing crops due to a drought. Gov. Bradford ordered a Service of Thanksgiving with the arrival of new colonists and much needed supplies as well as the arrival of rain! The colonists did recognize a celebration known as "Thanksgiving", which was a solemn ceremony of praise and thanks to God for a congregation's good fortune. This would have been their "first" thanksgiving and would have consisted of a full day of prayer and worship and probably very little revelry.

Yearly Pages

Depending on when Thanksgiving falls, the cards are adjusted. Print the pages you need for each year!



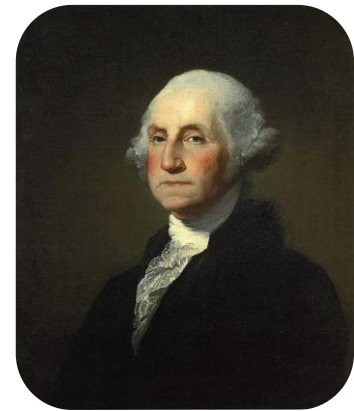
Two Old Traditions

19



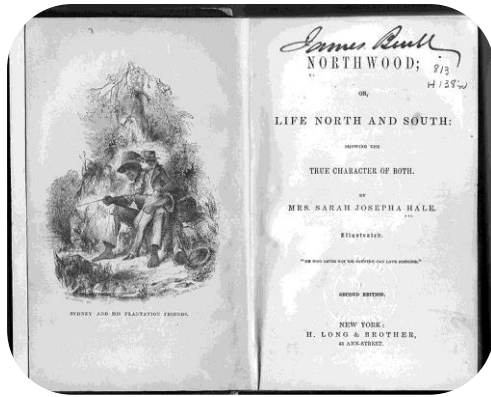
A National Thanksgiving Day

20



Proclamations

21



Sarah Josepha Hale

22



A Dream

23



Happy Thanksgiving

24

21 ~ Proclamations!

For the next 26 years, various proclamations would be issued to celebrate a day of thanksgiving. President Washington issued Thanksgiving Day proclamations for November 26, 1789, to mark the adoption of the United States Constitution, and February 19, 1795 as a general day of thanksgiving. John Adams would issue two general thanksgiving day proclamations and James Madison issued two "day of thanksgiving" declarations, one in January and one in May, to mark the end of the War of 1812. That was the last one. It would be 48 years before another president declared a national Thanksgiving Day.

20 ~ A National Thanksgiving Day

The Continental Congress adopted New England's customs of both special event thanksgiving celebrations and of an annual, general Thanksgiving Day. The first special events thanksgiving day was proclaimed for December 18, 1777 to mark the defeat of the British army at Saratoga. The first annual, general Thanksgiving Day declaration occurred during the American Revolution in 1778 and each year after until 1784 when the Revolutionary War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

19 ~ Two Old Traditions

From the previous cards one can see that our modern day concept of Thanksgiving stems from the two main reasons for giving thanks: celebrating the harvest and proclaiming thanks for special events. By the mid-1640's civil leaders from the Connecticut River Valley started declaring an annual day of general thanksgiving in the fall – whether there was a special event or not. On this day people were to give thanks for their blessings of the past year for the "first fruits of the earth". This tradition slowly spread across the New England colonies.

24 ~ Happy Thanksgiving

Psalm 118:1, 28

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

23 ~ A Dream

Though the New England states has established an annual autumn Thanksgiving Day, that was not the case as a nation. Year after year Sarah wrote a special editorial urging the plan of a National Thanksgiving. She wrote thousands of letters to governors of states, territories, military commanders, ambassadors and five different presidents. She kept track of where and when Americans celebrated a national Thanksgiving Day. In her 1852 editorial she wrote that 29 States and all the Territories held celebrations and was hopeful that Virginia and Vermont would join. It was her hearts desire that "every heart would on one day in each year, beat in unison of enjoyment and thankfulness."

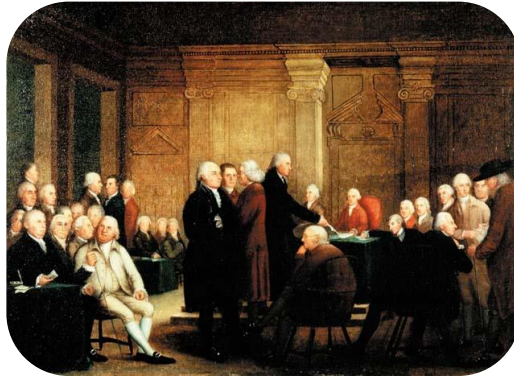
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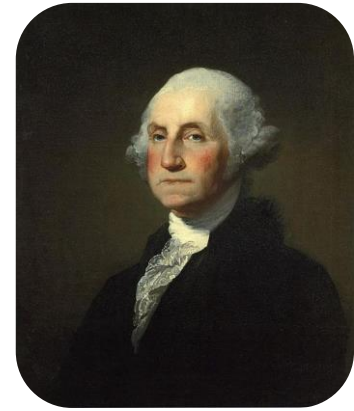
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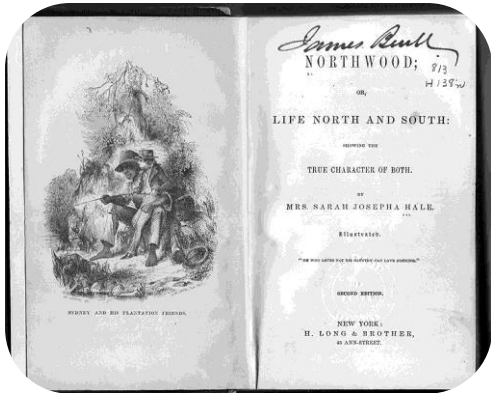
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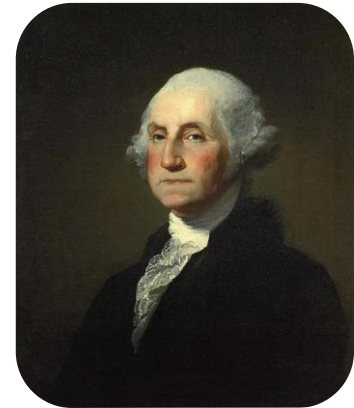
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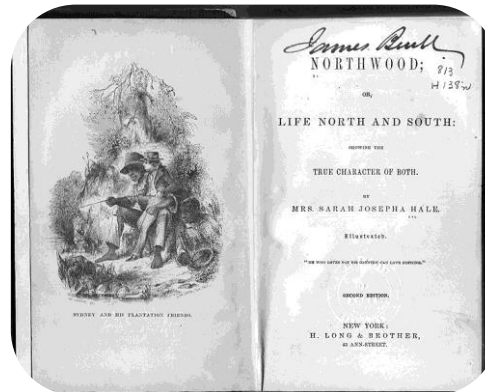
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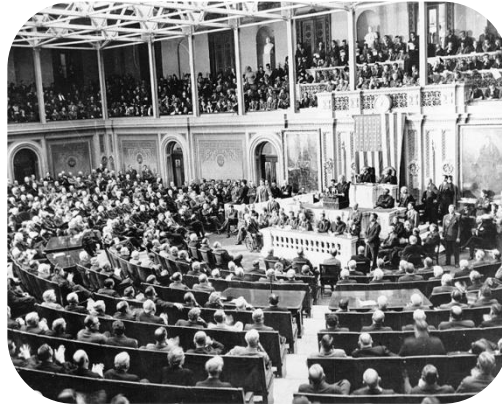
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A Dream
Fulfilled

25



Focused
Efforts

26



Why Thursday? 27



Did they eat
turkey?

28



Pilgrim and
Indian Story

29



Three
Themes

30

27 ~ Why Thursday?

Sarah chose the last Thursday in November for several reasons: harvest duties for the year are generally completed, the elections are over, autumn illnesses which prevailed in the South ended, and summer "wanderers" returned to their homes. She also wrote that "Thursday is the most conventional day of the week for a domestic holiday." She also pointed out that President Washington chose Thursday in his Thanksgiving Proclamation. The House of Representatives set the last Thursday of November as the fixed date for the holiday. The Senate, however, amended that resolution and set the fourth Thursday of November as the official date to adjust for the years when November has five Thursdays and help the national association of merchants with more shopping days before Christmas.

26 ~ Focused Efforts

Sarah continued to focus her efforts on getting Congress to pass legislation making Thanksgiving the "third American holiday" until she retired in 1877 at the age of eighty-nine, two years before her death. In her last editorial she wrote, "Let the Fifty-fifth Congress, in the name of the American people, enact that from henceforward the last Thursday in November shall be observed, throughout the length and breadth of our land, as the day of our National Thanksgiving." In 1941, sixty-four years later, Congress finally established Thanksgiving as an official holiday.

25 ~ A Dream Fulfilled

35 years after Sarah began her campaign for a National Day of Thanksgiving, she wrote a letter to President Lincoln to entreat him "to put forth his Proclamation, appointing the last Thursday in November...as the National Thanksgiving...Thus by the noble example and action of the President of the United States, the permanency and unity of our Great American Festival of Thanksgiving would be forever secured." On Oct. 3, 1863 President Lincoln issued a Proclamation of Thanksgiving for the last Thursday of November. Sarah had her dream fulfilled, part of it at least. She knew that a presidential proclamation only applied to federal employees and residents of the District of Columbia. It would take an act of Congress to have a national Thanksgiving become an official holiday.

30 ~ Three Themes

How did you celebrate Thanksgiving this year? Since early Biblical times there have been three themes connecting all Thanksgiving celebrations. They are giving thanks to God, emphasizing the bounty of food, and the gathering of family and friends. Did you find those themes evident in your own Thanksgiving celebration? Did you give thanks to God for all your blessings? Did you celebrate with a special meal? Did you gather together with family or friends? You have continued the tradition set forth by the Hebrews so many years ago!

29 ~ Pilgrim and Indian Story

So when did the 1621 Pilgrim and Indian story become the "First Thanksgiving" story? Sarah Hale often referred to the 1631 event in Boston. Newspapers throughout the 1800's and early 1900's agreed that Thanksgiving originated in New England but referred to the 1623 and 1631 events. It was in the late 1800's that the story of the Mayflower and the Pilgrims' pursuit for religious freedom became the founding story of the United States. It was at this time that mass immigration and harsh living conditions due to the population explosion caused anxiety and tension in Americans and immigrants alike. A story of surviving hard times and inviting Indians to a feast was welcomed by many. By 1920 it became a standard feature in children's history books.

28 ~ Did they eat turkey?

It is possible that the 1621 Pilgrim and Indians did eat turkey. In a first hand report written by Edward Winslow he stated that the colonists killed many "fowl". He just failed to mention what kind. The area was abundant with ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, heath hen, and turkey. Turkey's were first domesticated by the Spanish in Mexico in the early 1500's. By the early 1700's they had become a part of America's Thanksgiving feast. By the late 1800's a roast turkey had become the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving meal. According to business historian Thomas DiBacco this was because a group of poultry producers launched a marketing campaign for Americans to eat more turkey, especially around Thanksgiving. See what advertising can do?



Psalm 30:12 31

Psalm 30:12

*That my heart may sing to you
and not be silent. O Lord my
God, I will give you thanks
forever.*

Did you complete all 31 days of your thanksgiving journal? Did you find it easier as time went on to give thanks? Why not make it a daily habit and give thanks to the Lord forever!