

The Messenger

First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*The Church with Love &
Hope to Share*

2018

NOVEMBER



Office Closed
Thursday & Friday,
November 22nd and 23rd



Office Closed Monday,
November 12th



First Parish Book Club
Wednesday, November 14th
6:00 PM



Youth Fellowship Overnight
Friday, November 16th 7 PM

12 Beach Street, Saco, Maine 04072

Phone: 207-283-3771 www.firstparishsaco.org

Deborah Breault, Interim Minister
Kristine Galasyn, Director of Christian Education
Jacqueline Savage, Music Director
Nadine DeSilva, Office Manager

deborah@firstparishsaco.org
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From Deborah's Desk

From Deborah's Desk

Our world is in the midst of a huge upheaval that feels relentless. Basic life and our regular routines are too often brought up short due to terrifying examples of violence and abuse and hatred. We often feel helpless for it seems there is nothing we can do to make a difference in the face of these terrible events. It is natural for us to wonder if God is present. It is understandable that some may feel utterly at odds as the violence and tragedy continues to occur.

And yet, the prayer practices of our Christian faith are a significant means of moving toward balance, empowerment and hope. Deep in our hearts we innately know that both the power and practice of prayer offers us guidance and clues for faithful living. May we be reminded *that we all need to do what we can do*. This is obviously different for each person. In a similar fashion, our community of faith, also needs to do what it can do.

On November 4th, the congregation of First Parish blessed twelve prayer shawls with caring cards, made by our knitters, to send to the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburg. We are also using the Pastor's Discretionary offering collected that day to send to the First Baptist Church of Wakefield, Massachusetts, that was struck by lightning on October 23rd and burned to the ground.

Some may think that these small responses won't have much effect. But I believe it will matter to those who reach out in love offering spiritual support. And I believe it will matter to those who have suffered pain and loss to receive our humble acts of kindness and caring. We must remember and share the truth that *we are not alone*. Our God of love moves with us and enfolds us each step of every day.

The gift of community and faithfulness will continue to ground us in the presence of the Holy Spirit and will guide us steadily into the future, to reveal the reality of what we proclaim each Sunday. God is still speaking and acting in our world. It is a blessing to be able to offer our simple gifts to do what we can do in this time and place. With God's grace and strength, we will continue on this path. May we share deep gratitude that we do make a difference as we serve the living one, even Jesus the Christ.

In faith,

Rev. Deborah



Dear First Parish,

Two weeks ago, First Parish's computer server in the church office was "attacked" by an outside entity. Utilizing "ransom ware", they were able to encrypt all the documents on the server. This means that we no longer had access to them. They had demanded that we pay a ransom of \$4,000 in bit coins before they would unencrypt the files. The police were notified, but after discussions, it was obvious that the hackers were untraceable and the police could take no action.

The following week the council had a special meeting and unanimously agreed not to pay the ransom demand. Instead, we have hired Network Knowledge, an IT firm who has worked with the church for several years. Network Knowledge immediately began helping us reconfigure the server and install three levels of backup.

The good news is that all our financial data is stored in the "cloud" so was not affected. Also, the hackers had no interest to get to any personal information, so nothing was compromised.

In the short term, we hope that the congregation can bear with us as our files are being restored and we can get back to business as usual. The entire monthly Messenger library was lost so please be patient for the next couple of months as we recreate that format. We will strive to work with our volunteers and hired professionals to insure that our computer systems are set up properly and the proper backup systems are in place.

Bob Mohlin
Moderator

Music Ministry

Jacqueline Savage: Music Director

Junior choir has had a very busy October rehearsing every Thursday afternoon. Each week we have added a new singer or singers to our group. We now have 12 Junior Choir members. We have been working on several songs to sing in church and also for the Church Concert on Saturday, November 3rd. We are excited to sing with the Youth Choir, because many of their singers started out in Junior Choir. We will also be singing with the Senior Choir during the Concert.

It's hard to believe, but we are working on Christmas music for the Pageant and the Christmas Eve Family Service. Our rehearsals are filled with songs and laughter. What could be better?



phillipmartin.info

BOOK CLUB

“Tell My Sons: A Father’s Last Letter” will be discussed at the next FPC book club meeting on November 14th at 6:30 PM in the parlor.

For the December meeting there will be a social meal with a light supper. And 2019 book planning



Help feed the hungry! The Saco Food Pantry is accepting donations of soup for the month of November. Please put your donation in the shopping cart. Thank you!



October was a very busy month. See below articles on Bible Sunday and Trunk or Treat.

Sign ups will be going out soon for the Christmas Pageant. Please fill out the form and let Kris know what part you would like to play in the pageant. Speaking parts generally go to our third graders and up. Under third grade are either angels or shepherds.



November is our last month in our **Fall Quarter** for Church school. **December 2** begins our Winter Quarter. We will be looking for Church school teachers for this Quarter. Please see the sign up on the Christian Education board in the atrium

See you at Church school.

Kris



Jesus says: "Let the little Children come to me"

-Matthew 19:14

Helping **Lisa** in the

Nursery for the month of **October** was:

7th **Abby Henry**
14th **Kathy Mehlman**
21st **Aldene Walters**
28th **Jen Erickson**

First Parish Christian Education Team appreciates your time. **Thank you**



Bible Sunday

Five third graders, and one fourth grader received their Bibles on **Sunday, October 21** during the 10 AM worship service. There was a yummy

breakfast held in the Fellowship hall for Bible recipients and their families. Twenty-five people enjoyed breakfast. The Christian Education Team hosted this event. Receiving Bibles were. **Alice Browne, Ian Cook, Lucy DesRoberts, Ella Herzberg, Connor Remillard and Stella Wells.** More pictures of our Bible Breakfast are on the Christian Education board in the atrium.



Coming
in December

Friday, December 14th will be our **Pageant supper and Rehearsal.** **Christmas Pageant Sunday** is December 16^h



Family Friendly Christmas

Eve Service will be at 5 PM on Monday, Dec 24th





"Trunk or Treat" Halloween Outreach for Churches



At the Saco Main Street Harvest Festival cars from First Parish lined up to participate in the second annual Trunk or Treat. Many thanks to Christian Education team members: **Karen Brann, Lisa Edstrom, Kris Galasyn and Linda Lambert** for transforming their cars into games/treats.

Also, thanks to: Kaeley Brann, Hunter Ladeoux, Lucas Edstrom, Ella Walters, Grace Doyle, Mary Sicard and Heather Galasyn.

The Bubble Gum machine was made by the 8-12th grade Church school class.



Friday, November 16th is the Big Bake Off at our annual Youth Fellowship Giving Thanks Overnight at the church. We will begin at 7PM. All 6th through 12 graders are welcome. We bake into the night for our Bake Sale after worship on **Sunday,**



November 18th At this time we put together Thanksgiving Baskets for area families that are having a hard time making ends meet. We will be asking the congregation for help by bringing in nonperishable food items for the baskets.



Items needed are: stuffing,



cranberry sauce, can vegetables, can fruits and pie mixes. We will also be taking a "turkey offering".

Through this donation we are able to supply each family with a turkey.



From the Treasurer

We are well into autumn, which for those of us in finance is planning season for the coming year! Teams have developed and submitted their requests for their 2019 budgets. The Generosity Team has been engaging and challenging all of us in this time leading up to Consecration Sunday. Soon the Budget Task Force will begin developing the overall church budget for 2019.

This is also an excellent time to review First Parish's overall performance against the 2018 budget. As of this writing, we had nine full months of income and expenses reported in the September financial statements that were e-mailed to all team chairs or other designated team members. We have three quarters or seventy-five percent of the year to review and to help project how we'll finish 2018.

As you may remember from January, the 2018 approved budget anticipated \$286,867 in budgeted income and \$348,649 in budgeted expenses. Because projected expenses exceeded projected income, we all voted to fund the projected \$61,782 deficit with the "carryover" or "surplus" balances from prior years that was included in the 12/31/17 Operating Balance of \$102,885. The Operating Balance represents the portion of the money in the checking account available for the church to use for all the budgeted expenses. The rest of the money in the checking account belongs to various teams in their rolling funds.

The 2018 budgeted expense amounts in the financial statements are higher than the approved budget because Facilities and Music and Arts transferred some of their Legacy and rolling funds into the Operating Balance to increase their budgets. The Legacy Fund budgets are also included as expenses so that we can track them, but those funds will be transferred at year-end from Investments and will not impact the Operating Fund.

So, how are we doing?

Both budgeted income and expenses are below 75% of our annual targets. The numbers below are taken from the September Income and Expenses report that all teams received.

Year to Date Budgeted Income:	\$ 211,018.66
less Year to Date Budgeted Expenses:	(282,405.06)
add back Year to Date Budgeted Other Legacy Expenses:	<u>24,998.89</u>
Year to Date Deficit:	<u><u>\$ (46,387.51)</u></u>
75% of Budgeted Annual Deficit of \$(61,782):	(46,336.46)
difference:	\$ (51.05)

We are actually tracking our budgeted deficit difference very closely, within 0.1%! The change in the Operating Balance from 12/31/17 reflects that we are spending our "carryover" or "surplus" balances as it has dropped from \$102,885 to \$47,958 as of 9/30/18.

I ask us all to be mindful of managing First Parish expenses for the remainder of the year so that we stay within budget. We need to continue to work together to plan for and meet these financial challenges as a united faith community. Feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns, or ideas.

Amy Chute



The Generosity Team has been meeting monthly, beginning last August. We are fortunate to have ten people sharing the work on our Team this year.

Approximately 250 letters went out to the First Parish Congregation in September. Kathy Lee lead this portion of the Generosity Team work. Our next phase was our Fellowship Calls, which were made on October 9th and 10th. Joan lead this portion of the Generosity Team work. Each evening a light supper was shared together, and we made calls from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. There were 25 people who joined together to speak with over 200 households. Callers and those they called enjoyed fellowship through personal conversations, focusing on offering thanks for the dedication and work parishoners have given to First Parish Church over time. Here are some statistics about our fellowship calls:

205 Number of phone calls made

104 Number of households who are either considering a pledge or definitely will make a pledge for 2019

51 Households called two times each evening, but did not speak with anyone in the household

24 Phones were disconnected (we suspect most were people who no longer have a landline)

9 Households will not pledge this year. Seven of these households stated they are financially unable to contribute this year.

1 Number people it takes to make a difference at First Parish Church, UCC

On the second evening of fellowship calls, a group of five people hand signed letters with a personal comment added, and the next day 155 letters of thanks were mailed to all parishoners who will pledge, are considering a pledge, or whom we were unable to speak with. Norma Gorham is now leading our next phase, which is keeping track of incoming pledges. Norma's work will continue until December 31st.

Joan Sonneborn



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Greetings from your rebooted Search Committee!

When you read this, we will have been officially commissioned and given your directive and trust to do the work of calling a settled pastor to come and join in our spiritual journey together. We have already begun our work, building our own small community of faith to move forward with God's grace and spirit woven into all that we do. We will not be so much forging a new path, but picking up the mantle from countless hours of work already in place.

The previous search committee has gifted us with many insights from their experiences of the process, and recommendations for ways to make our profile reflect more fully the life and direction of our congregation.

We will be doing our work toward that end, and will be soon calling on you to do yours. Our work is framed by three questions:

Who are we?

Who is our neighbor?

Who is God calling us to become?

Our current church profile does answer these questions, but the previous search committee and the current search committee feel that more work is needed to flesh out our answers - particularly for the third question. To answer that, we need the whole congregation to participate. Toward that end, in the weeks ahead, your search committee will be reaching out to a variety of people to find ways that they have engaged congregations in these same visioning exercises. We will be trying to set up a meeting with Deb Jenks, the former interim in Camden, who was the first church to use the new church profile. We hope to gain insight into the ways that that congregation successfully navigated their search and call, and to come away with some plans to renew our excitement at the prospect of where God is calling us.

It is our goal that every member of the congregation should have a clear sense of what our answers to these questions are. In your prayer time, ponder these questions personally and with your sense of this loving and giving body of Christ. And keep your search committee in your prayers as we do the work you have entrusted to us.



Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons are busy times for the Flower and Alter Teams. We look forward to decorating the Sanctuary and Alter adding a special beauty to our worship. How can you help?

- **Sunday, November 11th**, please bring fruits and root vegetables for Thanksgiving Sunday's Cornucopia. The fruits and vegetables will be given to Youth Fellowship for their Thanksgiving baskets
- Flower and Alter will be assisting Harry and Deb Nielson on **Thursday, November 29th 9am** in a Greens Workshop to create the baskets for the Gingerbread Fair Greens Table. We would appreciate any assistance that day. Also, **Christmas mugs and small baskets** would be appreciated
- **Sunday, December 23rd** is Poinsettia Sunday. Orders will be taken at the 8 AM and 10 AM services on **Sunday, 12/2 & 12/9**. More information to follow in the December Messenger.

Thank you to everyone who has provided flowers for the Alter on Sundays. The 2019 sign up sheet will be available in early December



ReadMore Saco Adult Literacy Program is looking for some help. While we are always looking for volunteers willing to become literacy tutors, we could also use a person willing to answer inquiries, schedule evaluations, and plan outreach events. These are the things that will help ReadMore Saco to grow. It would involve perhaps an hour or two a week and much of it could be done from your home. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact the Mission Team or Dorrie Roedner at 468-4669.

Program Development

Due to good health care, at least in part; longevity is alive and well, and very apparent here at First Parish. Contained in these aging bodies that we lug with us to church on Sundays, I am sure there is a great deal of wisdom that has been learned. I think we all could be great resources for one another in handling many of those challenging moments we all have had by sharing our experience, our wisdom.

The Program Development Team, in semi-retirement, for the past two years, has had only one member. This Team now consists of Tom Kircher, Peter Gray and myself. One of our thoughts is to share our stories, our pathways in Christian learning, which have stretched us and helped us grow. Look for more about sharing circles in January. Think about this, and if you have ideas to tap into this resource of “us” - please let one of the three of us know. In this light I share the below story as one such learning experience.

“My first husband has dementia and I felt really called to visit with him. I wanted to be sure he knew that I saw him as a good Dad. That I valued my time with him, that I knew we were each children of God, doing our best; and that living together was not healthy for either of us. And that now, 35 years later I saw us both as being Spiritually intact.

We visited in the garden and the sun was behind his head. He seemed to know what he wanted to say but the wrong words would come out when he tried to say them. However, we seemed, nearly intuitively, to find a way to understand one another.

At one point, he leaned to the side and I started to squint as the sun shone in my eyes, he smiled and instinctively pulled his head back to shade my face. It was an amazingly touching moment of clarification for me. Somewhere, inside, he was still there, still considerate, still kind. There were no words needed, because the action spoke for itself.

I learned so much from him that day. I learned to let silence occur so I can have time to see the Holy. I learned how important it is to stretch just a bit for the comfort of others. I learned to both listen and speak from a point of love. I learned that human dignity is not always in profound statements or name brand clothes.

I had a lesson in being human from someone who was fast slipping away from his own humanity. And perhaps it is because of his own lack that he could teach me the most.”

Dolly Anagnostis dollyaldrich@icloud.com 207-229-7577

Other Team Members:

Tom Kircher tomkircher999@gmail.com 207-282-7530
Peter Gray pgray6379@gmail.com 207-838-4132

Women's
Fellowship
First Parish
Congregational



Boutique • Collectibles • Books
Baked Goods • Candy • Wreaths
Baskets • Hand Knits • Crafts

Gingerbread FAIR

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 1ST

9AM - 2PM

Lunch Served
11:30am - 1pm

12 Beach St.
Saco



**Get involved...speak with any of these people to
help out at the fair!!!**

Baked Goods - Cathy Cone-Sabo & Susan Tarver

Books - Nadine Russell (needs a helper)

Boutique - Carol Spencer-Lemay

Candy - Gisele Cantin

Christmas Greens - Elves

Cookie Walk - Cathy Baillargeon & Mary Coyne

Collectibles - Danielle Roberge

Crafts - Charlotte Lapham & Joan Lachance

Dining Room - Pam Mohlin

Gingerbread Lady - Dolly Anagnostis

Greeters - Norma Gorham

Gift Baskets - Cheryl Gray

Luncheon - Sue Burgess

Lunch Tickets - Vanessa Johnston

Overflow Room - Top of the Hill Gang

Snack Bar - Carole & Tony Nero

Social Media - Vicky Shaw

Treasurer - Priscilla Baker

Women's Fellowship Workshop - Shirley Gibson & Priscilla Kelley

Wreaths - Nan Cone

Meals to Go - Sheila Maksut

Truck Brigade - Jack Neumyer

Set Up & Clean Up - Top of the Hill Gang





Born in November

November 2nd

Nancy Twomey
Jerice Goulet
Barbara Delage
Hope Poore

November 5th

Sandy Cartwright
Diana Burton

November 6th

Abigail Worster
Amy Chute



November 7th

Richard Twomey
Wayne Lamarre
Grace Pickering

November 8th

Lois Milks

November 9th

Renee Reiche

November 14th

Aldene Walters

November 15th

Angela Makengo

November 17th

Denise Meiler

November 20th

Rosemary Guptill
Karen Hanna

November 22nd

Troy McGahey
Erika Meiler

November 24th

Jeffery Galasyn



November 28th

Arthur Prentiss Jr

November 29th

Lu Kachmar
Lara Favreau

November 30th

Dorrie Roedner



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Name: _____ Date: _____



A Thanksgiving Feast

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the delicious Thanksgiving food in the grid. Look for the words in all directions including backwards and diagonally. What's your favorite Thanksgiving food?



GREEN BEANS

MAC AND CHEESE

MASHED POTATOES

MINCEMEAT

PEAS

PECAN PIE

PUMPKIN PIE

ROLLS

SQUASH

STUFFING

SWEET POTATOES

TURKEY

YAMS

APPLE PIE

COLLARD GREENS

BISCUITS

CORNBREAD

BRUSSEL SPROUTS

CRANBERRY SAUCE

CASSEROLE

DRESSING

CHESTNUTS

GRAVY



Name: _____ Date: _____



Feeling Grateful

Word Search

What are YOU thankful for on Thanksgiving Day and all the other days of the year? Here are a few ideas to get you started.

ANIMALS
BED
BIRTHDAY
BOOKS
CARS
CHALLENGES
DAD
EARTH
FAMILY
FLOWERS
GRANDPARENTS
HEALTH
HEARING
HEART
HOME
ICE CREAM
JOKES
LAUGHTER
LUNGS
MOM
MOON
MUSIC
NATURE
OXYGEN
POPCORN

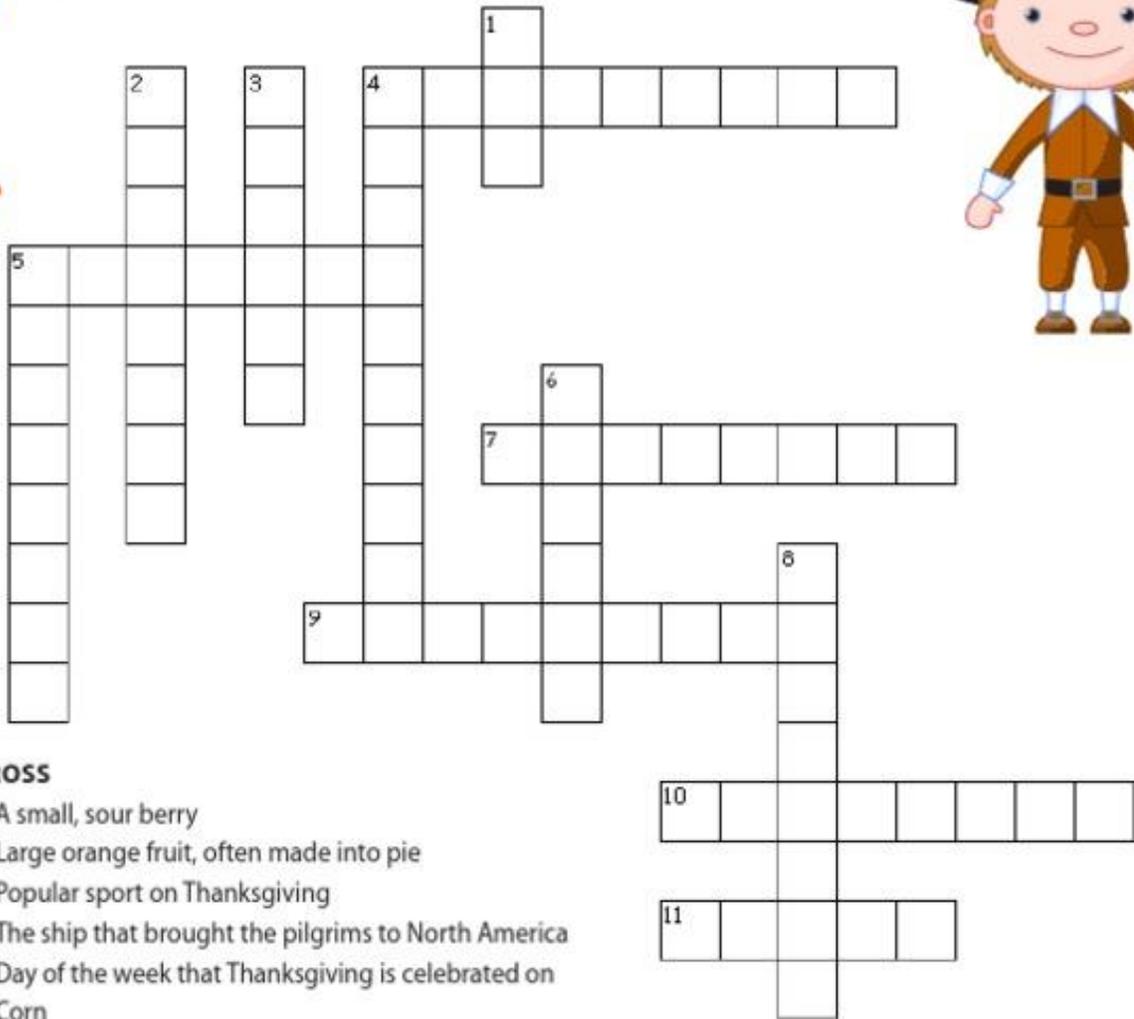
L	E	R	D	I	D	N	V	I	K	B	S	T	E	A	C	H	E	R
X	Q	I	A	C	C	D	V	G	P	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	V	S
T	Q	Q	D	E	S	J	Q	E	S	L	A	O	R	G	U	Q	T	Z
A	R	Y	G	C	R	B	G	T	Z	T	C	O	J	U	Z	C	E	C
S	T	N	E	R	A	P	D	N	A	R	G	X	N	H	T	S	F	M
T	W	M	A	E	T	J	N	N	E	I	S	Y	P	Z	R	A	K	S
E	O	A	R	A	S	M	I	O	A	D	I	G	W	G	Y	A	N	E
H	B	S	T	M	X	M	C	T	O	I	V	E	A	N	Q	O	I	G
C	S	I	H	Z	A	B	Z	V	R	M	K	N	N	I	V	B	L	N
U	B	Z	Z	L	Z	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	D	Q	O	H	E
O	H	P	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	E	Y	N	A	L	Q	H	L
T	G	O	F	B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y	H	X	E	K	T	U	L
D	E	P	Q	C	P	X	P	T	Y	K	H	E	A	R	I	N	G	A
X	X	C	T	H	G	I	S	L	F	A	M	I	L	Y	G	B	F	H
S	K	O	O	B	W	C	M	A	E	H	Z	U	G	S	V	B	E	C
X	F	R	Q	V	H	U	V	E	I	G	H	J	R	D	M	Q	U	D
D	G	N	S	O	S	I	N	H	V	T	M	S	F	S	E	O	H	S
S	Z	E	O	I	L	L	E	M	S	E	K	O	J	F	I	J	M	B
Z	Z	L	C	L	A	U	G	H	T	E	R	H	Z	P	H	L	A	A

RAIN
READING
SCHOOL
SHOES
SIGHT
SMELL

STARS
SUNSHINE
TASTE
TEACHER
TOUCH
VACATION



Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

4. A small, sour berry
5. Large orange fruit, often made into pie
7. Popular sport on Thanksgiving
9. The ship that brought the pilgrims to North America
10. Day of the week that Thanksgiving is celebrated on
11. Corn

DOWN

1. Another word for a sweet potato
2. Where the first Thanksgiving was celebrated
3. Big bird traditionally eaten on Thanksgiving
4. Horn of plenty
5. What we call the settlers
6. Sound made by the traditional bird of Thanksgiving
8. Tribe of Native Americans that helped settlers



Answers - Across: 4. Cranberry 5. Pumpkin 7. Football 9. Mayflower 10. Thursday 11. Maize
Down: 1. Yam 2. Plymouth 3. Turkey 4. Cornucopia 5. Pilgrims 6. Gobble 8. Iroquois

~ November 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 8:00 Early Worship 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry-Parlor 10:00 Consecration Sunday 11:00 Consecration Brunch-Fellowship Hall	12 Church Office Closed for Veteran's Day Holiday 6:30 Church Council – Conf. Rm. 7:00 Big Book AA – Youth Rm.	13 9:30 WM Board Meeting-Parlor 9:30 WF Workshop-Fellowship Hall 6:00 Investment Team-Conf. Rm. 6:30 Mission Team-Parlor 6:30 GNT-Fellowship Hall 7:00 Voices in Harmony-Sanctuary	14 10:00 Exercise-Flex Use Rm. 6:00 Girl Scouts-Clstrm. 1 6:30 Book Club-Parlor	15 3:15 Jr. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Women's Step Mtg. – Youth Rm.	16 7:00 Youth Overnight	17
18 8:00 Youth Bake Sale 8:00 Early Worship 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry-Parlor 10:00 Worship Services 11:30 Search Comm.-Conf. Rm 7:00 GS Trp. #2196-Clstrm.5	19 5:00 Bell Choir-Flex Use Rm. 6:30 Diaconate-Conf. Rm. 7:00 Big Book AA – Youth Rm.	20 9:30 WF Workshop-Fellowship Hall 11:00 Spurwink Thanksgiving Feast-Fellowship Hall & Atrium 7:00 Voices in Harmony-Sanctuary	21 10:00 So. ME Theo. Rndtbl.-Conf. Rm 10:00 Exercise-Flex Use Rm.	22 THANKSGIVING DAY 	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 8:00 Early Worship 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry-Parlor 10:00 Worship Services 7:00 GS Trp. #2196-Clstrm.5	26 5:00 Bell Choir-Flex Use Rm. 7:00 Big Book AA – Youth Rm.	27 9:30 WF Workshop-Fellowship Hall 7:00 Voices in Harmony-Sanctuary	28 9:00 York Assoc.-Parlor 10:0 Exercise Class – Flex Use Rm. 6:00 Girl Scouts-Clstrm. 1	29 9:00 Greens in the Kitchen 3:15 Jr. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Women's Step Mtg. – Youth Rm.	30	Notes:

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