



It's already November! Leaves on the trees have changed colors and are starting to drop on the ground, or swirl through the air on windy days. In just a few weeks we will gather to celebrate CPC's 61st birthday and feast together in celebration of Thanksgiving 2018.

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As an elementary school girl, I always associated Thanksgiving with the stories of 17th century Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, grateful for their survival after a harsh winter. What I never learned during my school years was "the rest of the story" - the actual history of this special holiday. Here's what I discovered on the internet (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Thanksgiving-Day>):

New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "Thanksgivings," days of prayer, thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought.

It was the U.S. Continental Congress that proclaimed a national Thanksgiving upon the enactment of the Constitution. However, after 1798, the new U.S. Congress left Thanksgiving declarations to the states; some objected to the national government's involvement in a religious observance, Southerners were slow to adopt a New England custom, and others took offense over the day's being used to hold partisan speeches and parades. A national Thanksgiving Day seemed more like a lightning rod for controversy than a unifying force.

Thanksgiving Day did not become an official holiday until Northerners dominated the federal government. While sectional tensions prevailed in the mid-19th century, Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of a popular magazine, campaigned for a national Thanksgiving Day to promote unity. She finally won President Abraham Lincoln's support. On October 3, 1863, Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26.

The holiday was annually proclaimed by every president thereafter, and the date chosen, with few exceptions, was the last Thursday in November. President Franklin Roosevelt attempted to extend the Christmas shopping season, which generally begins with the Thanksgiving holiday, and to boost the economy by moving the date back a week, to the third week in November. But not all states complied, and, after a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, Roosevelt issued a proclamation in 1942 designating the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) as Thanksgiving Day.

**Community Presbyterian
Church**

**1940 S. Penrod Lane,
Pinetop, Arizona 85935
928-367-4923**

As the country became more urban and family members began to live farther apart, Thanksgiving became a time to gather together. The holiday moved away from its religious roots to allow immigrants of every background to participate in a common tradition. Thanksgiving Day football games, beginning with Yale vs. Princeton in 1876. In the late 1800s parades of costumed revelers became common. In 1920 Gimbel department store in Philadelphia staged a parade of about 50 people with Santa Claus at the rear of the procession. Since 1924 the annual Macy's parade in New York City has continued the tradition, with huge balloons since 1927.

However you and I choose to celebrate our American tradition, let us hold fast to these words penned by the Apostle Paul: **Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV)**



THE CHURCH MOUSE

Thanksgiving is such a wonderful time of the year. Here are some thoughts I'd like to share as you gather around to share a wonderful meal.

T'was the night of Thanksgiving but I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep.

The leftovers beckoned, the dark meat and white.
But I fought the temptation, with all of my might.
Tossing and turning with anticipation.

The thought of a snack became infatuation.
So I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door,

And gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.
I gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,
Pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.

I felt myself swelling so plump and so round.
Until all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling, floating into the sky,
With a mouthful of pudding, and a handful of pie.

But I managed to yell, as I soared past the trees
Happy eating to all, pass the cranberries, please!!

May your stuffing be tasty, May your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes and gravy, Have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious, May your pies take the prize,
And May your Thanksgiving dinner, Stay off your thighs!



Love To You All,
Webster
Submitted on behalf of Webster
By Lynda Marble

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS

BEAR TREE MISSION FOR 2018

Hello Dear Church Family,

Where has the year gone? Didn't we just celebrate Easter? Soon it will be time to start preparations for our annual Christmas Bear Tree Mission that benefits the children that are in foster care in the White Mountains. We work in conjunction with Child Protective Services to provide gift bags for those in need.

When I receive the information needed from Tammy Skelly-Morales, the director of CPS, the bears will be labeled with the information needed for each child and placed on the East wall of the church. This will be done on the Sunday, November 11th. You will have Four weeks to shop, fill the bags and return them to church in time to be picked up by CPS.

Each bear will have a number at the top, the child's gender, age, clothing size and a gift item wish. Most of the children are wearing hand-me-downs so clothing is always appreciated. You do not need to provide everything on their "wish list." But, you can add additional items if you wish to. I bought extra things after Christmas, last year, and I will probably have extra items to share. Laurie Yost also donated some extra items from her school bag mission. Please do not wrap the gifts as they need to be checked by the CPS staff.

If you would like to participate in the program and are unable to shop, for any reason, the Deacons will be happy to shop for you. We would need a check made out to one of us, or cash, and we will give you the receipt.

Thank you for taking every bear off the wall and making a very special child very happy this Christmas.



Blessings to all,

Arlene Kerr, Chairman

Christmas Bear Tree Mission

602-361-0910 (c)

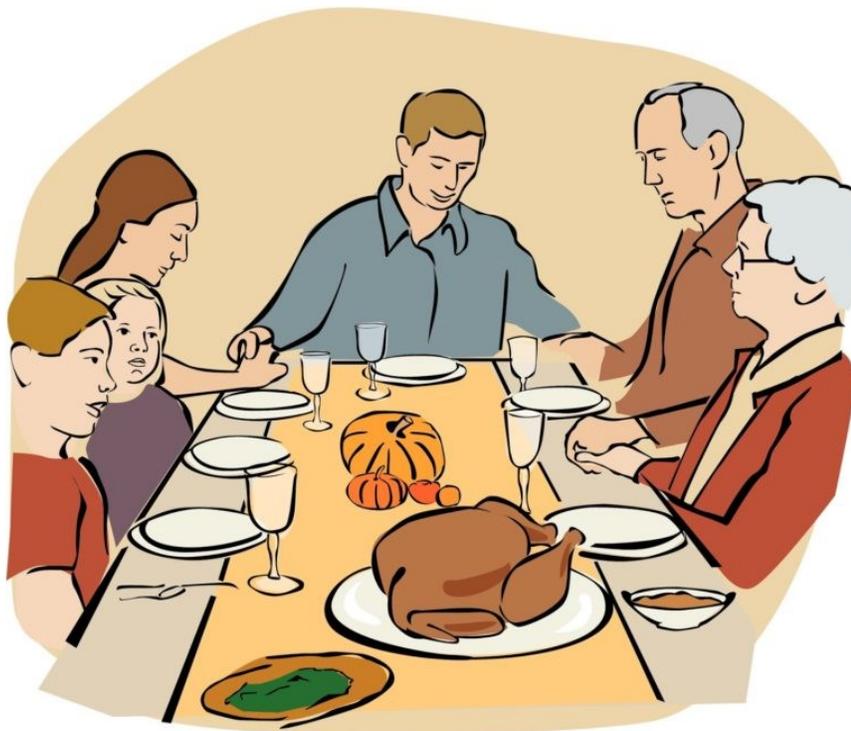
928-367-1617 (h)

FELLOWSHIP

The annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 18th after the church service in the Fellowship Hall. This year the Deacons will furnish the turkey, stuffing & gravy. The Elders will furnish the ham, mashed potatoes and clean-up. Sign up sheets for side dishes and desserts will be in the fellowship hall the Sundays before the 18th - please let us know how many in your party will attend. We will be decorating and putting out the good china on Saturday, the day before the dinner. Please feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to attend with you. Even if you do not wish to bring a side dish or dessert (it is not required) please sign up so we can get an idea of how many will be attending. Thank you in advance for your participation. See you there!!!

Steve Lora,

Fellowship Committee Chairman



WORSHIP REPORT

October was a month of winding down and regrouping for Worship. We have gone back to one service at 10:30. Most of our summer members have gone back to warmer climates. When it was raining, then hailing and finally snowing this morning, I was wishing I had done the same!

November 4th, the Choir will begin practicing for the Christmas Cantata. We plan to meet at 9:00 on Sunday mornings and will be presenting our program at the December 16th Worship Service. Anyone wishing to join us for the next few Sundays and add your voice for this brief time, please, please, do join us; your help would be greatly appreciated. We are back to our "bare bones" choir for the winter.



Advent begins on December 2nd. We will be decorating the Church starting at 10:00 on Saturday, the 1st. Everyone is welcome to help. Many hands make light work! Please let Jan or Judi know if you will be available to help that day.



Jan Mullins-(928)242-0653

Judi Bee-(928)242-0526



What is per capita? It is a way that we as Presbyterians share equally, responsibly, and interdependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), no matter the size of our churches. Per capita contributions are requested from every congregation based on each church's total active membership.

Through our per capita contributions, the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon helps congregations with pastoral transitions, trains and supports interim ministers, assists churches with resolving congregational conflicts, and helps to prepare people for service as ordained ministers. In this year of change for Community Presbyterian Church, we are especially grateful for these pastoral resources that are available to congregations such as ours through the per capita program.

The Presbytery has set the per capita donation level at **\$34 per member** in 2018. While our church will pay this support contribution regardless of member donations, we strongly encourage each member to consider make a specific per

November



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Worship
10:30 AM/
Communion
Choir 9:00
AM

Sonrisers
8:00 AM

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Worship
10:30 AM
Session
Meeting

Deacons
Meeting
1:00 PM

Sonrisers
8:00 AM

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Worship
10:30 AM
Thanksgiving
Dinner



25 26 27 27 29 30

Worship
10:30 AM
Derek
Luptak

Sonrisers
8:00 AM

