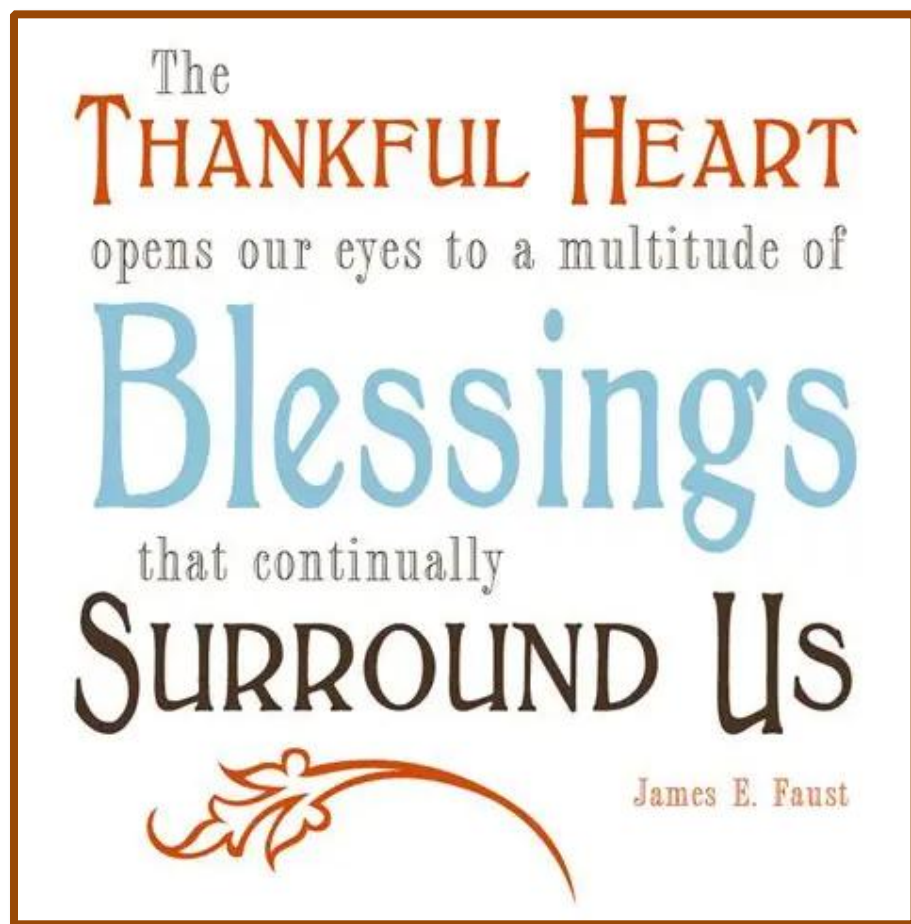


INNERGLOW

First Reformed Church
Boyden, IA

LaVonne Sietstra & Teresa Harms, Editors



November 2026



Greetings from your favorite church secretary! This November, I'm sharing an article from the CRC Network written by Anita Brinkman. It is entitled "Practicing Gratitude." Our society tends to steer people towards feelings of entitlement ~ let us remember that we receive blessings because God is good all the time! Thank you Jesus!

Practicing Gratitude

We're entering the season of Thanksgiving! It's a time to give thanks for the harvest, and it's also a good time to remember that throughout the year there are many things for which to be thankful. That can be easy to forget, so it's helpful to practice noticing things each day that can inspire gratitude.

Once you get going with this noticing, it can actually be difficult to stop. For example, I'm thankful for my garden and the trees in my yard as they turn a lovely coral. I'm thankful for several finches, a handful of white and monarch butterflies, and the bees feasting on the flowers in my backyard. I'm thankful for eyes to see all of these beauties. I'm thankful for a place to live. I'm thankful for work that lets me afford my beautiful home. I'm thankful that I enjoy my work and my wonderful co-workers ... You see how you can go on and on once you start!

And if life and health and beauty in our everyday life weren't enough, we can think on eternal things. Our good and loving God created a universe of unspeakable beauty and variety. When it was marred by sin and brokenness almost beyond recognition, He made a plan to redeem it. He shared whispers and promises of the coming redemption to reassure His people. Through millennia of painful history, it became clear that humanity's best efforts were not enough to restore creation; any goodness left after the fall seemed overwhelmed by tyranny, cruelty, pettiness, apathy, despair.

Then God stepped into His creation, Light into darkness. He spoke of the Kingdom. Walking around, one of us, He told us about lost things found; He healed people's illnesses and injuries; He fed hungry people. But then He was killed – arrested, interrogated, tortured, nailed to a cross until He died. The hope that had started shining was snuffed out like a tiny candle in a great dark world.

But (oh, wonderful thought!) God wasn't finished. "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) Jesus conquered death, rising from the grave after three days. Immanuel, our "God with us" is with us in all things, even death, and we will be with Him in resurrection.

In the meantime, deep shadows remain. Exploitation, greed, disdain for life and dignity, violence, and evils of all kinds create a gloom that can seem impenetrable. But God's people can carry His Light into the dark places, and one day the sun will rise fully. Death and destruction will be cast down forever, the Kingdom will be fully restored. When the darkness is thick around you, reflect on the coming Light, and be thankful.

A photograph of a piece of paper with the text "God, I'm still counting my blessings All that You've done in my life" written in a large, bold, black font. Below the text is a drawing of tally marks and an infinity symbol. The background of the paper is a light, textured surface with some greenery visible at the top.

God, I'm still counting my blessings
All that You've done in my life

SEPH SCHLUETER

Praise & Thanks for...

***trials and storms of life that draw us closer to God – He is our Rock & Refuge!**

***blessings of another harvest – God has given us much to be thankful for!**

***our Heavenly Father who hears the prayers of His children**

***the blessings of family and friends**

***religious freedom in our country**

***anniversaries and birthdays**

***the many blessings God has given us that we don't deserve**

***God's amazing grace!**

***encouraging words from loving people!**

***the beauty of the fall season – sunrises & sunsets**

***a loving Savior we can trust when our lives are turned upside-down**

***all our many blessings of home, food, work, health, family, friends, school,
church, freedom, ...**

***those who are willing and able to serve on consistory and carry out the work
of the church**

***We are blessed beyond measure!**



Pray for...

***comfort for those who are grieving**

***the individuals nominated for the offices of Elder & Deacon**

***protection from injury**

***our veterans**

***elected officials of the local, state and national levels**

***issues concerning our country's economy**

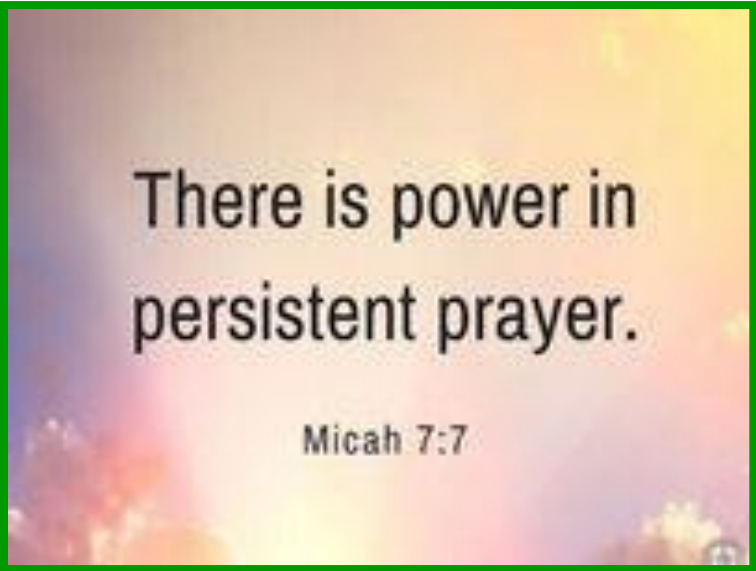
***personal spiritual growth**

***discipline to start and end each day with devotions and prayer**

***those facing physical health issues, mental health issues, treatments, surgeries and for their loved ones**

***our church – may we be open to and follow the will of God – may we recognize we are a church family and should love each other – may we reach out and bless our brothers- and sisters-in-Christ – may all of us who are hurting or struggling or afraid feel blessed to be a part of this church family**

***the Awana program, Youth Group, Children-in-Worship, Sunday School, nursery and other ministries of our church that need volunteers – ALL are called to serve the Lord and each other**



There is power in
persistent prayer.

Micah 7:7

SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH:

Answers to last month's Candy Quiz - 1. Y-Candy Corn, 2. R-KitKat, 3. P-M&Ms, 4. H-Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, 5. Q-Kisses, 6. L-Smarties, 7. S-Milky Way, 8. C-Lemonhead, 9. U-Skittles, 10. N-Nerds, 11. J-Twizzlers, 12. G-Jolly Ranchers, 13. M-Butterfingers, 14. W-Twix, 15. A-Snickers, 16. O-Starbursts, 17. E-Whoppers, 18. X-Dum-dums, 19. T-Good & Plenty, 20. I-Milk Duds, 21. D-Dots, 22. V-Laffy Taffy, 23. B-Fun Dip, 24. K-Now & Later, 25. F-Jaw Busters

Take Our Survey

Sometime in November, a survey will be placed in your mailboxes (or if you don't have a mailbox in the church, then we'll email it to you.)

Both LaVonne and I have greatly enjoyed bringing you the monthly Innerglow. We take pride in the things we write and share with you. We also wish to share things that you, the readers, want to see.

So, we believe it's time to find out from you what YOU would like to see in the Innerglow. The survey that is coming out will list the different parts of the Innerglow and we ask you mark which parts you read and enjoy. We'll also ask for suggestions as to what you'd like to see that we aren't including.

Both LaVonne and I would LOVE to have more contributors to the Innerglow, so perhaps there's someone in our reading audience that has a talent that they would be interested in including in the Innerglow!

Keep an eye out for the survey and if you have any questions, please feel free to talk with either LaVonne or myself (Teresa 😊!) Help us keep the Innerglow as a blessing for our church family! Thank you!!



HYMN OF THE MONTH:

“LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT”

“A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I the LORD, will hasten it in its time.” Isaiah 60:22

One snow-blanketed night, Canadian Fred Suffield awoke to an urgent pounding on his door. A half-frozen man reported that a train had stalled in the blizzard, and the passengers were in danger of freezing to death. Lighting a lantern, Fred followed the man to the site and led the travelers back to his house. Later one of the passengers, Kittie, wrote a thank you note. Fred replied, and Kittie wrote back. Their correspondence led to courtship and marriage.

Some time later, Fred and Kittie attended a church in Ottawa pastored by Rev. AJ Shea, and there they gave their lives to the Lord. As the couple grew in Christ, they entered the ministry of evangelism. One summer they invited Shea’s teenage son, George Beverly, to spend a month with them in Westport, Ontario, holding evangelistic meetings. One night, accompanied by Kittie on the piano, Bev attempted to sing, but his voice cracked on the high notes, and he sat down mortified, vowing never to sing again.

Kittie wouldn’t hear of it, suggesting he sing in a lower key. He did, and he kept on singing, and singing, and singing.

Many years passed, and in June of 2000, Billy Graham came to Nashville, Tennessee, for a four-night mission. My wife and I were privileged to attend a reception for the Graham team just before the meetings began, and George Beverly Shea, 92 at the time, rose to sing. His rich baritone voice broke into a song that had been written 73 years before by Fred and Kittie: “Little is Much When God Is in It.”

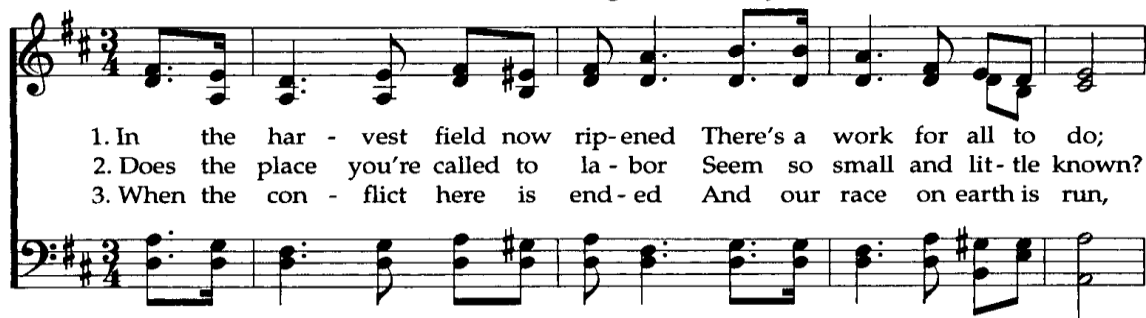
It thought it a strange choice of hymn. We were on the verge of the greatest evangelistic effort in Nashville’s history, headlined by the most famous evangelist in the world. And Bev Shea’s song was about the littleness of our efforts. But later I realized how perfectly the song fit. Compared to this great mission to untold multitudes, our own individual ministries seemed small and insignificant. But God uses little things in great ways. A tiny acorn may produce a forest. A spark may ignite a revival. A small church might produce the next far-famed evangelist.

Don’t be discouraged if your place seems small. You’re doing more good than you know.

**When we
sow the smallest of seeds,
God multiplies.**

Little Is Much When God Is in It 661

God is able to make all grace abound to you. 2 Corinthians 9:8



1. In the har - vest field now rip - ened There's a work for all to do;
2. Does the place you're called to la - bor Seem so small and lit - tle known?
3. When the con - flict here is end - ed And our race on earth is run,



Hark! the voice of God is call - ing To the har - vest call - ing you.
It is great if God is in it, And He'll not for - get His own.
He will say, if we are faith - ful, "Wel - come home, My child, well done!"

Refrain 3



Lit - tle is much when God is in it, La - bor not for wealth or fame;

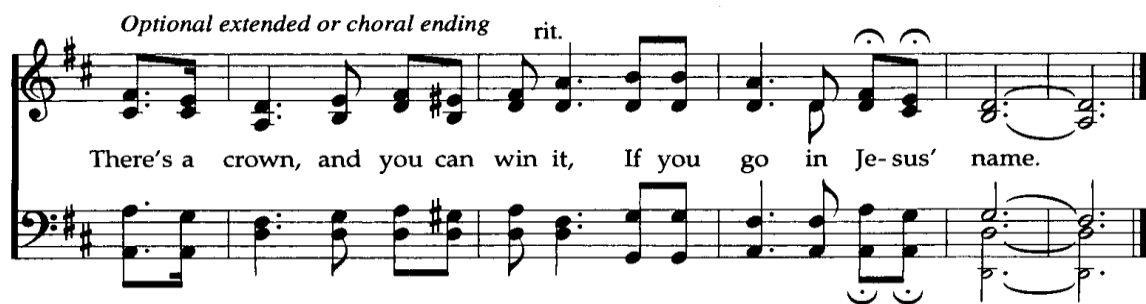


There's a crown, and you can win it, If you go in Je - sus' name.

TEXT: Kittie L. Suffield
MUSIC: Kittie L. Suffield

STEWARDSHIP
8.7.8.7. with Refrain

Optional extended or choral ending rit.



There's a crown, and you can win it, If you go in Je - sus' name.

In Years Gone By ...

50 YEARS AGO – November 1976

The newly elected elders were John R Ver Meer and Henry Wissink. The newly elected deacons were Rodney Grooters, Larry Moret and Glenn Salmon.

An 80th birthday open house was held for Jacob Wulfsen.

Congratulations were extended to Mr & Mrs Ronald Damstra on the birth & baptism of their daughter Jennifer Ann.

Leland Jiskoot was welcomed through transfer of membership.

25 YEARS AGO – November 2001

A bouquet of flowers was in the sanctuary in honor of the 65th wedding anniversary of Gerrit & Hattie Alons.

The newly elected elders were Kevin Rosenboom, Marlin Uittenbogaard and Merle Van Roekel. The newly elected deacons were Rod Bolkema, Ken Boone and Roger Nelson.

10 YEARS AGO – November 2016

Boyden FRC donated 55 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!

Pastor Andy & Sally Hilla of the Boyden UP Church invited everyone to a Thanksgiving dinner at the UP Church Thanksgiving Day.

Sympathy wishes were extended to the family and friends of Abe J Van Roekel, Scott Sneller and Henrietta Uittenbogaard.

An Open House was held for the 90th birthday of Casey Smit at Fieldcrest.

The newly elected elder was Kathy Ver Meer. The newly elected deacons were Jamie Koele & Paul Moret.

5 YEARS AGO – November 2021

Pastor Dave Poppen was welcomed back to Boyden FRC. He conducted the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Adalyn Paige Diekevers, daughter of Chris & Sarah, and Faith Marie Rosenboom, daughter of Nic & Kaitlyn.

Congratulations were extended to Les & Carla Starkenburg on the birth of their new twin grandbabies – Lea Joanne and Leo Jay.

The newly elected elders were Brent Fedders and Kathy Ver Meer. The newly elected deacons were Chris Diekevers and Ken Hoogendoorn.

Down Memory Lane



VETERANS

www.reallygreatdads.com

★ ★ ★ *Quilts of Valor* ★ ★ ★

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Veteran's Day Program

Wednesday, November 11th – 7 pm

Demco Community Center

Quilts of Valor will be donated to area veterans.

**Guest Speaker Pastor Jordan Helming
from Orange City, IA**

A Prayer for Our Veterans

Oh, God our Heavenly Father, You have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May Your protection and grace surround them each day. Let Your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries. May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in Your Holy Presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the precious lives of their loved ones.

Help us to honor and support them. Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and friends.

Amen.

A Heritage Hymn of Thanksgiving

(Can be sung to the tune of "America, the Beautiful")

Peggy Ferrell

**O God of all, Who hears the prayers of every generation,
Accept the thankfulness we feel for those who built our nation,
For frontier path with oxen cart, for circuit rider station,
For simple joy, for vision, for hope and inspiration.**

**We praise You for those saints of old who listened to Your call,
Who weathered storm and sacrifice to serve both great and small.
They left a legacy of love; a church that needs no wall –
But takes Your Gospel through the world and shares the Faith with all.**

**Walk city street and foreign shore with us, Your Church, today.
Lift us to new horizons; show us Your Will, Your Way.
Be in our thoughts, our hopes, our dreams, in all we do and say.
Grant us Your benediction now, O Lord, our God, we pray.
Amen.**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Dear Lord,

We are all gathered at this table with grateful hearts for all that you have done for us. It's not been an easy year but You have been with us through it all and given us the strength and courage to pull through all the trials and hard times. And for that, we are so very grateful.

Thank You for the breath of life, thank You for hope, thank You for Your love and thank You for Your kindness and Your works in our lives.

We dedicate the coming year to You, Bless each and everyone of us. Let Your divine favor be upon us and everything we do. Fill our hearts with joy and laughter and let Your peace reign in our lives.

In Jesus Mighty Name we pray,

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER

30 Verses of Thanksgiving to Read Together

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ 1 Chronicles 16:34-35 | ☐ Psalm 7:17 |
| ☐ Philippians 4:6 | ☐ Jeremiah 33:11 |
| ☐ Psalm 30:12 | ☐ Psalm 28:7 |
| ☐ Colossians 3:15-17 | ☐ Isaiah 12:4-5 |
| ☐ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 | ☐ Psalm 69:30 |
| ☐ 1 Chronicles 29:13 | ☐ Psalm 105:1-2 |
| ☐ Hebrews 12:28-29 | ☐ Psalm 34:1-4 |
| ☐ 2 Corinthians 4:15 | ☐ Psalm 9:1 |
| ☐ 2 Chronicles 5:13 | ☐ Psalm 107:8-9 |
| ☐ Psalm 100:1-4 | ☐ Psalm 95:2-3 |
| ☐ Jeremiah 30:19 | ☐ 1 Timothy 4:4-5 |
| ☐ Nehemiah 12:46 | ☐ Psalm 147:7 |
| ☐ 1 Chronicles 16:8 | ☐ Daniel 2:23 |
| ☐ Psalm 26:6-7 | ☐ Revelation 7:12 |
| ☐ Psalm 50:23 | ☐ Revelation 11:17 |

HAPPINESS IS ...

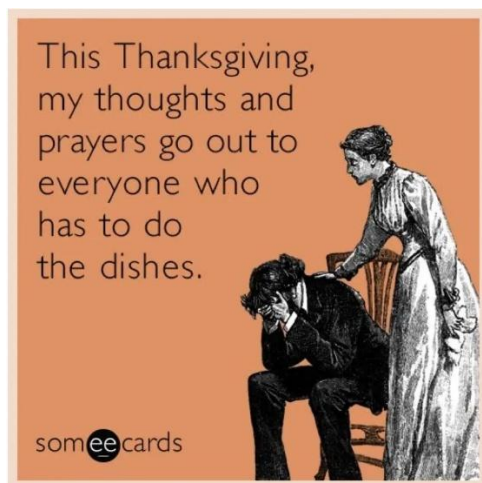


Wasn't it Smart of God to ...

... not put eyes in the back of our heads (I'm sure my third-grade teacher had them though.)
... say to the serpent that deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, "Cursed are you ... You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life," so Satan wouldn't have a leg to stand on.

... enclose the sea so we don't have to swim all the time.

"Who shut up the sea behind doors ... I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?'"
Job 38:8, 10-11



"On Thanksgiving morning, my wife Kelly overheard our five-year-old daughter Jordan talking to herself in a corner. She was upset she had been shooed out of the kitchen.

My wife asked Jordan, "Who are talking to?"

"Myself," Jordan replied. "Mommy, can God hear us when we whisper to ourselves?"

"Of course," my wife said. "God hears everything."

"Oh boy," Jordan sighed. "I'm in trouble."

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Cindy Warntjes	2 Heath Warntjes	3
4 WorldWide Communion! Mission Offering Adalyn Diekevers	5	6 Men's Group 5:30 am	7 Awana at FRC Youth Group at UP 6:30-8 pm	8 LET'S GO ON A HAYRIDE  Brent Fedders	9 Greyson Kooiker	10
11 Paisley Vanden Bosch	12 Columbus Day! Indigenous People Day!  Grace Mouw	13 Men's Group 5:30 am Elders Mtg 6:30 p Deacons Mtg 7 p Consistory 8 p Rosie Diekevers	14 Awana at FRC Youth Group at UP 6:30-8 pm	15 Bill & Peg Noack (43)	16	17
18 Rev. Dr. John Hartog III Building & Repair Offering Andrew Neuman Bill Noack Norlan Van Roekel	19	20 Men's Group 5:30 am Millie Kooiker	21 Awana at FRC Youth Group at UP 6:30-8 pm Lisa Nelson LaVonne Sietstra	22 Everly Diekevers	23 	24
25 	26 Innerglow due!	27 Men's Group 5:30 am	28 Awana at FRC Youth Group at UP 6:30-8 pm Wear Costume! Awards Night!	29	30	31 Happy Halloween!  Casey & Beatrice Kooiker

VETERANS DAY CROSSWORD

Down:

- People who protect our country at sea.
- What are Veterans help protect for our country.
- The red, white, and blue symbol of our country.
- People who protect our country on land.

Across:

- A short way to say "United States of America."
- A brave person who served in the military.
- What we show to those who have served- respect and ____.

WORD BANK

FREEDOM	ARMY
NAVY	USA
FLAG	HONOR
VETERAN	

FUN FACT: Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11th to honor all who served in the military.

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Thanksgiving Word Search

Find and circle all of the items that are hidden in the grid.
The words may be hidden down or across.

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

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|
| THANKFUL | PILGRIM | INDIANS |
| PUMPKIN | NOVEMBER | GRAVY |
| FEAST | TURKEY | FAMILY |
| HARVEST | STUFFING | YAMS |