



# Pastor's Comments

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## Northampton Assembly of God

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### American Thanksgiving

The American tradition of Thanksgiving can be traced to the year 1623. Having gathered the harvest, the governor of the Plymouth Colony, William Bradford, proclaimed: "All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones, do gather at the Meeting House, on the hill ... there to listen to the pastor, and **render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings.**" The pilgrims were **to demonstrate their gratitude to God** for their survival. After sailing 9 weeks on the open seas, the 102 puritans arrived in America on Nov. 9, 1620. That first winter was very difficult – about one-half of the pilgrims had died. Still, **they were grateful for God's blessing during those difficult years.**

On November 1, 1777, by order of Congress, the first National Thanksgiving was proclaimed "That with one heart and one voice the good people may **express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor ...**"

George Washington wrote a proclamation setting aside a National Day of Thanksgiving in which he stated that it is "our duty as a people, **with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God ...**"

On October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln and the U.S Congress established the first annual National Day of Thanksgiving "on the last Thursday of November, as **a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.**"

So it is that on Thanksgiving each year, **we are reminded of America's godly heritage** as we gather to give thanks to God, acknowledging His blessings toward us throughout the year. This we do in **rightful recognition of Him and in obedience to the Scriptural command** in Psalm 50:14, "**Offer unto God thanksgiving!**"