



## From the Pastor's Desk

We are rapidly approaching Thanksgiving and the times when we gather with family and friends to celebrate all the provisions that we enjoy. There is so often an abundance of food, gifts, and excess. Throughout this time we are inundated with the commercial season where companies overwhelm us with messages to buy and to consume. In our heart of hearts, we know that we are called to gratitude and thanksgiving for what we have and for who God is, but it is difficult with the patterns of excess that have been established as the cultural norms. How do we move so quickly (speaking for myself) from a position of gratitude to a posture of need and want? Whether we struggle with consumption or not, the message is clear to overeat and overindulge, to desire more things and to save on amazing deals. Even if we find that we can tame the basest parts of our selves that need and want, the message is overwhelmingly bent to consume. It's within this context that we anticipate the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons when we prepare for the coming of the birth of Jesus. How do we maintain focus on Christ's coming and on God's goodness with all these distractions?

The task of finding, holding on to, and maintaining gratitude is formidable. If we are serious about framing our seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas as times for gratitude and thankfulness, we have to be intentional. One way we accomplish this is to place ourselves firmly in the presence of God as often as we can, to reflect on the scriptures that remind us of our need for gratitude, and to support one another that this posture of gratitude is not only worthwhile but essential to our personal and communal wellbeing.

In the Old Testament, the people of God routinely associate the provision of food, safety, and wellbeing with their God. They recognize God as the Covenant Maker and the Covenant Keeper. They proclaim God as the one who provides and the one whom they seek. The psalms consistently reflect this attitude of thankfulness, and they express both the need to be thankful and the reasons for the thankfulness of God's people. Psalm 105 expresses thanksgiving this way:

- <sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- <sup>2</sup>Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.
- <sup>3</sup>Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- <sup>4</sup>Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.
- <sup>5</sup>Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

**Psalm 105 (NRSV)**

After verse five of the psalm, the author expresses how God covenanted with the people and kept the promise to provide for them. The author refers to the narratives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses as examples of God's faithfulness. How will we, at East Union, proclaim God's faithfulness this Thanksgiving and Christmas? Will our children recognize that we worship not the gifts, nor the food, but the Jehovah Jireh, the One who provides?

Continued on page 2

# Grateful for our Goodly Heritage



## 60 years ago: 1959

**November 1** - Lowell Yoder has gone to Elkhart, Indiana to begin his I-W service in the Hospital. His address will be given when he has found his lodging place.

**November 15** - Ezra Shenks take this opportunity to thank the canning committee for the apple and plum butter for Shenk's Nursing Home.

**November 29** - Greene Center Book Store invites you to help celebrate it's 10th anniversary December 3rd, 4th, and 5th at Wellman. S. C. Yoder's new book "The Days of My Years" will be released Dec. 3rd. Katie wishes to thank all those who have taken an interest and given support to this working during this time.

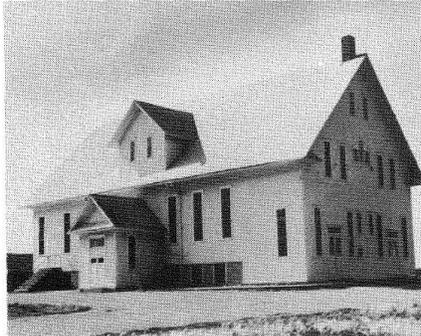
## 50 years ago: 1969

**November 2** - Mr. and Mrs. John Kauffman are the parents of a daughter, LaDonna Sue, born October 27.

## 40 years ago: 1979

**November 4** - This being Missions Week, Roy Kiser, a Board member from Stuarts Draft, VA, will bring us a Missions sermon this morning.

**November 11** - John Joel was born to Julie and John Beachy on Sunday, November 4. We extend to them our congratulations.



## 30 years ago: 1989

**November 5** - The Southeast Iowa Young Adults will be having a potluck supper and square dance on Sat. evening, Nov 11 beginning at 6:00 at the B-4 Building in Kalona.

**November 12** - We welcome Ivan Troyer from Beemer, NE to our service today. Ivan is our IA/NE Conference Minister.

## 20 years ago: 1999

**November 21** - Mennonite Women invite you to contribute toward Kitchen Kits for Colombia earthquake victims. There is a kettle in the back of the sanctuary for your donations. MCC is rebuilding 200 homes and Mennonite Women are helping with the stoves, dishes, pots and pans needed for the kitchens. Thank you for your participation in the project.

## 10 years ago: 2009

**November 1** - There is a thank you card on the bulletin board from Teen Challenge in Pella.

**November 1** - Coming up in adult SS : Roger & Mary Lou Farmer from Washington, IA will give a visual presentation of the European Anabaptist Study Tour in which they participated last spring. There will be time for questions and discussion as well.

Unfortunately, there are no easy answers to surviving the most consumerist time of year. However, one way that some attempt to reframe this time is by donating to a cause rather than purchasing gifts for themselves. Is there a nonprofit organization that is doing good in the world that you would consider giving to? Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service, Central Plains Mennonite Conference, Mennonite Church USA, Crooked Creek, Pleasantview, Hillcrest Academy, the Heifer Project, and so many others are worthy organizations that provide for people here and around the globe. May we consider the needs of others this season, even as we give thanks for what we have. My hope for myself, for my family, and for East Union is that we may find small ways to subvert and disrupt the pattern of consuming in November, December, and January by offering our sincere gratitude for what we have. May it be so.

Peace and blessings, Joel Beachy

## Sharing the Stories with the Johnson County Historical Society

October 13, 2019



# What's Happening



**All Saints  
Remembrance Day**  
**November 3**

**Mennonite Women Meeting - Nov 5**

 **A Vision  
before Sight**

*Scripture:* Jeremiah 29:11  
*Devotional Leader:* Carolyn Detweiler  
*Project:* Cash for Crisis Center  
*Lunch:* Pizza (basket to cover expenses)



**Mid-Week  
Potluck**  
**November 6**

**Annual Business Mtg**  
**November 13**  
**6:30 pm**

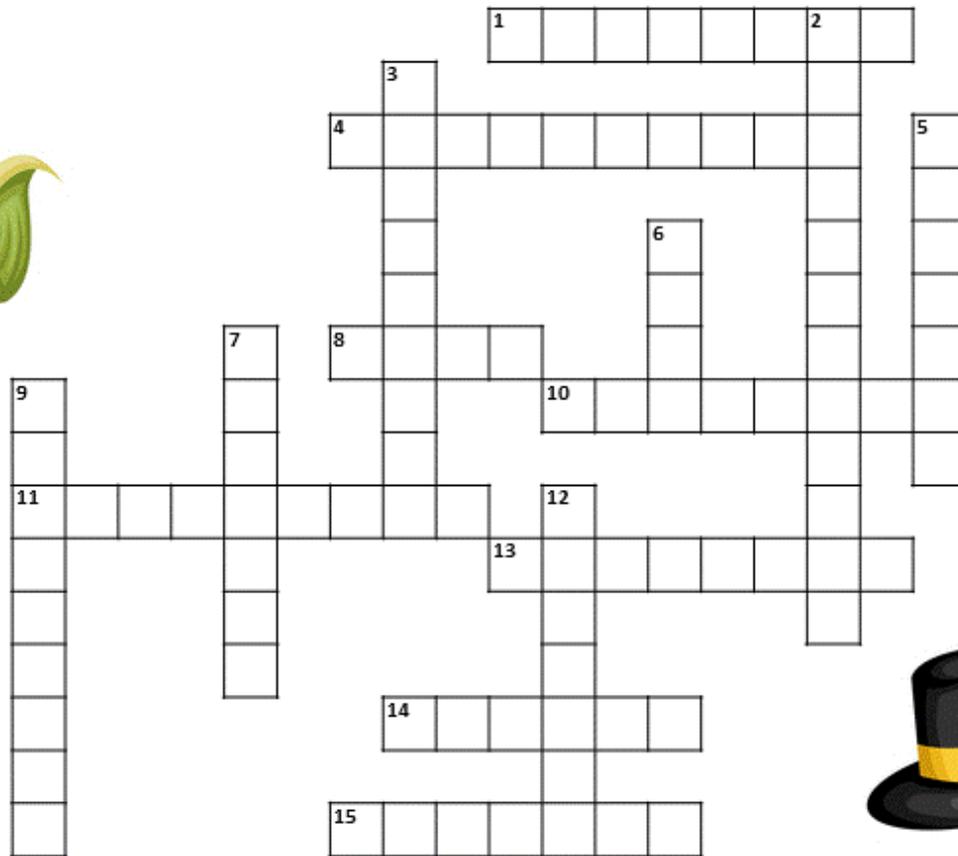
**CHOW**  
**November 20**



**East Union Mennonite Church Contact Information**

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# Thanksgiving Crossword



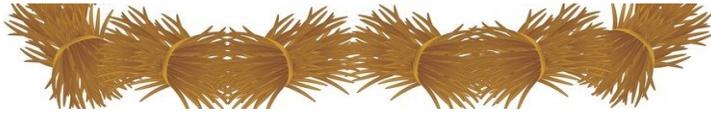
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## Across

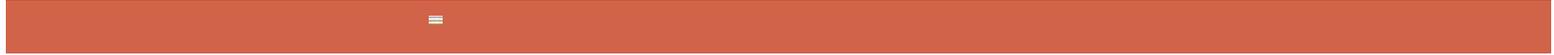
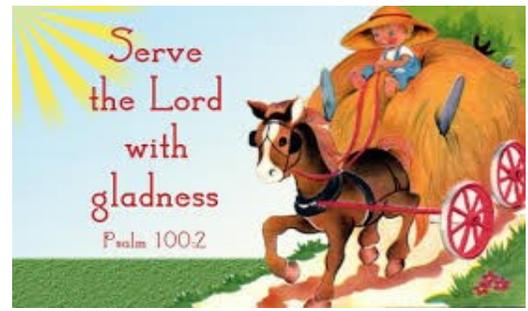
1. First village established by the Pilgrims
4. Symbol of abundance and nourishment
8. An essential grain in the New World diet
10. Literally, travelers going to a holy place
11. The Pilgrims' boat
13. 16th and 17th century English Protestants
14. The traditional holiday bird
15. Indian who taught the Pilgrims many things

## Down

2. 4th Thursday of November
3. A traditional Indian dwelling
5. Gathering of crops
6. Season for harvesting
7. Country the Pilgrims left behind
9. Indian tribe that was present at the first Thanksgiving
12. Bright orange squash used to make pie



# NOVEMBER 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Norman Schrock Ruth Boller	2
3 <i>Morning Worship 9:30am</i>  <i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i>  All Saints Remembrance Day	4 Joel Beachy Denise Litwiller	5  Mennonite Women	6  Mid-Week Potluck	7  Gilbert Troyer	8 Joel Miiller Norman & Joyce Schrock '75	9 Grace Rempel
10 <i>Morning Worship 9:30am</i>  Heidi Gingerich Detweiler	11 Donald Zook Logan Troyer	12	13 Janet Geyer Cindy Fisher  Annual Business TownHall Mtg 6:30 pm	14 Josie Miller	15	16 Nyle & Lauralee Kauffman '02
17 <i>Morning Worship 9:30am</i>  Charlene Rhodes Will Higdon	18 Alvin & Marianna Miller '55	19 Darlene Logan	20 Lisa Yoder Colleen Stoltzfus  CHOW	21 Kara Porter Brad & Alyssa Hershberger '15	22 Iris Yoder	23 Henry Yoder Greg & Sarah Yoder '01
24 <i>Morning Worship 9:30am</i>	25 Marcia Gingerich	26	27	28    Lou Miller Cade Groenewold	29	30 Steve & Tina Dachtler '91