

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE - NOV 6, 2011

# Reflections

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## 'THANKSGIVING APPROACHES!'

BY REV. JEAN WADE & THE RMCUCC STAFF

The Thanksgiving Holiday is fast approaching! This year it will be on November 24. According to Wikipedia,

“Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Day, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, has officially been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863, when during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26. The event that Americans commonly call the “First Thanksgiving” was celebrated to give thanks to God for guiding them safely to the New World. The first Thanksgiving feast lasted three days, providing enough food for 53 pilgrims and 90 Native Americans. The 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.”

Many people consider Thanksgiving their favorite holiday. The consuming of huge quantities of turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie is almost as important as gathering with family to celebrate their blessings. Stuffing is a vital part in more than one way!

This holiday is one of the few that is dedicated to giving thanks for the blessings we have received. While this is a secular holiday, it is also distinctly Christian in its perspective. Every day we should thank God for all that we receive purely through grace.

Who has blessed your life? Have you made plans to tell them, even if they do not sit at the table with you on the 24th? How will you share with them?

Many congregations express their gratitude for the leadership of their churches through gifts at Christmas time, giving an annual gift. To show concern and gratefulness for all your minister has done to help you and your church family is not a new concept. The apostle Paul, in Ephesians 4: 11 says, *3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,* Thanksgiving may be a wonderful time to reverse the roles and give unselfishly to your pastor. One way might be to give them the opportunity to attend the Conference Clergy/Partner Retreat on April 16-19. It will be held at St. Malo's Conference and Retreat Center. If your congregation could bless your pastor with the cost of the registration, it would give them a time of rest and rejuvenation and gratitude would be shown ten-fold. (Letters have just gone out to Church Moderators to encourage their assistance with help.)

*Just an additional word—Don't forget them at Christmas either!*

Have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving!  
Tom, Lorraine, David, Chance, Tracy, and Jean



Interested in submitting your own Reflection for the RMCUCC to use? contact us:

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