



THE STEEPLE BELL

November - 2017

Dennis Union Church – United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

**WITH JESUS AS OUR ANCHOR AND COMPASS,
GOD BIDS US TO BE A BLESSING IN THE WORLD**

The Dennis Union

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"The First Thanksgiving"

Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims seem to go together, but the truth is, the Pilgrims never held an autumnal Thanksgiving feast. Before you cancel the turkey, take a look at the origin of that particular myth. In some ways, the truth is even more intriguing.

The Pilgrims did have a feast in 1621, after their first harvest, and it is this feast which people often refer to as "The First Thanksgiving". This feast was never repeated, though, so it can't be called the beginning of a tradition, nor was it termed by the colonists or "Pilgrims" a Thanksgiving Feast. In fact, to these devoutly religious people, a day of thanksgiving was a day of prayer and fasting, and would have been held any time that they felt an extra day of thanks was called for. Nevertheless, the 1621 feast has become a model that we think of for our own Thanksgiving celebration and we do know something of the truth about it.

We can assume, for example, that the harvest feast was eaten outside based on the fact that the Colonists didn't have a building large enough to accommodate all the people who came. Native people were definitely among the invited guests, and it's possible, even probable, that turkey (roasted but not stuffed) and pumpkin in some form, found their way to the table. And it gets better. This is the way the feast was described in a first-hand account presumably by a leader of the colony, Edward Winslow, as it appears in Mourt's Relation:

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, Many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

From this we know that the feast went on for three days, included ninety "Indians", and food was plentiful. In addition, to the venison provided by the Indians, there was enough wild fowl to supply the village for a week. The fowl would have included ducks, geese, turkeys and even swans.

Much of the information we have about the feast, and this period in the lives of these people, is the result of research conducted by the staff at Plymouth Plantation. From this research we know about the foods that would have been available to them, and from two first hand accounts (the second was written by William Bradford, Governor of the colony for 33 years, and can be read in *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*), we have a good idea of how the village looked, what the colonists wore, how they spoke, what animals they owned and how they lived. We even know what games they played, what their views may have been on everything from their new home to religion and politics.

The modern American Thanksgiving tradition grew over time taking on mythical elements. It functions as a myth of beginnings, very similar to the Passover celebration. An origination myth like the story of the Pilgrims has roots in historic events and has the power to unify persons from all backgrounds, immigrants from different cultures and languages. People with ethnic roots in Europe, Africa, Australia, Asia, Latin America along with native American people can come together on Thanksgiving Day to find meaning and strength in a common story of origin in which they can all partake by celebrating it.

From: *The Desperate Preacher*.

Join us for
WORSHIP
SUNDAYS 10:00 AM

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November 5 @ 10:00 – Stewardship Sunday

Sermon: Growing in Generosity

Text: II Corinthians 9:6-8

Choir

November 12 @ 10:00

Sermon: Be Prepared

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Women's Song

November 19 @ 10:00 – Ingathering Sunday

Sermon: The Joy of Thanksgiving

Text: Matthew 6:25-33

Bells

November 26 @ 10:00

Sermon: Make Me A Blessing

Text: Matthew 25:31-46

Choir

***WE INVITE YOU TO COME AS YOU ARE...
AND DISCOVER WHO YOU CAN BE.***

**ADD YOUR VOICE TO
ONE OF OUR CHOIRS**

If you enjoy singing, we invite you to add your voice to one of our fine choirs.

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. and on Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M.

Women's Song and the **DUC Singers** rehearse usually one Thursday each month at 5:00 P.M. and at 9:00 A.M. on the Sundays they are scheduled to sing.

Bell Choir rehearses weekly on Wednesdays at 5:15 P.M. and at 9:00 A.M. on the Sundays they are scheduled to ring.

Please speak with Maggie Bossi, Bette Anne Crowell, or Barbara Wells if you have questions.



FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 5 Given by John and Judy Livingstone
"In loving memory of our parents."

Nov. 12 TBA

Nov. 19 Given by Jerilyn Chinault
"In loving memory of my husband."

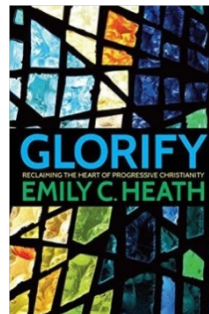
Nov. 26 Given by Rick Ross & family
"In loving memory of Art and Norma Ross."

NO APPLAUSE, PLEASE

Curious minds have asked: Should we applaud during worship?

It is not appropriate to applaud during worship unless you are truly moved by the power of the Spirit. The prelude, postlude, anthems and solos are all part of worship. They are an offering to God, not entertainment for the congregation.

BOOK DISCUSSION



Following worship on the first three Sundays in November at 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. there will be a group meeting to discuss: GLORIFY – Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity by Emily Heath. All are welcome to participate, but

please read the assignments in advance:

Nov. 5 – Part One (chapters 1 – 3)

Nov. 12 – Part Two (chapters 4 – 7)

Nov. 19 – Part Three (chapters 8 – 10)

PARKING

- If you are able, please park a short distance from the church to allow those who have difficulty walking to park closer to the church.
- Please fill the Carlton Hall parking lot before parking along Old Bass River Road.



When in worship, please consider "checking in" with Facebook.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Search Committee has been working hard to find the next settled pastor for Dennis Union Church. Almost 100 profiles (resumes) of interested candidates have been reviewed, and a few candidates have been interviewed in person. We will keep you informed as we narrow the search. Although we can't share with you the identity of any candidates, we welcome your comments and questions. Feel free to speak with any of us about the process.

Patti Goyette, Lyle Ashby, Carole Bohn, Sam Crowell, Luke Furey, Judy November, Jean Tripp

PASTORAL VISITS

Please call the church office if you would like our interim pastor to visit with you at home or if you would like to receive communion at home.

You can also request a conversation with the pastor at the church office.

Regular visits are made to nursing homes and the hospital. Please keep the church office informed about new admissions.



Early in November Church members and friends will receive a mailing from the Stewardship Committee. The mailing will include a pledge card for 2018. We hope to receive completed pledge cards during worship on Sunday, November 19th. If you will not be in worship on the 19th, you may return your pledge card in the mail.

In 2018 you may fulfill your pledge by cash or with check. You may also fulfill your pledge with a credit card or by automatic withdrawal from your bank account, which means that you can set it up so the bank will send the church a check for a fixed amount on a weekly or monthly basis. For more information about credit card payment or paying by automatic withdrawal, please be in touch with Peter Berrien in our finance office.

SUPPORTING THE CHURCH

Have you fulfilled your pledge for the kitchen renovation project? The sooner all pledges are paid, the sooner we can pay off our loan to the bank.

Did you know that you can make a gift of stocks and/or annuities to your church?

Have you considered including Dennis Union Church in your estate planning?

D-YECH SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS

Have you tried our easy way to do your part in homelessness prevention? Using our gift cards helps to provide necessary funds to the Housing Assistance Corporation in their effort to minimize family homelessness. Five percent of card sales go directly to this much needed program. Cards can be purchased during our Fellowship Hour or in the church office. In addition to supermarket gift cards, we can order gift cards for many other stores.



CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Yes, it's time to think Christmas!! The annual **Christmas Cookie Sale** will take place on Sunday, December 10, after the 10:00 service. This is a wonderful opportunity to get a jump start on your Christmas baking or to buy a yummy gift for a neighbor, a shut-in, or just some special person. The Columbia mission team will once again host this event with all proceeds going to support our school library project in Ararca (Cartagena), Colombia. We will need LOTS of bakers, so think about your favorite Christmas cookie recipe or try out a new one and add to the magnificent array of cookies that will be displayed in Fellowship Hall. The cost to purchase cookies is \$5.00 for the first dozen and \$3.00 for each additional dozen. This is a wonderful holiday event; make sure it is on your calendar!!

Usher's Ministry

- 11/05/17 Wilfred/Adele Diaz, Elsa Erickson
- 11/12/17 Betty White, Louise Armstrong,
Ken Mills
- 11/19/17 Francis Sellers, Gary Forrister,
Elaine Simoneau
- 11/26/17 Lois Andre, Earl Springer,
Linda Gillespie

USHERS

Are you willing to usher once every six weeks or so? Please contact one of the deacons or the church office to be added to our roster of ushers.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Richard Burnham	Nov. 3
Melissa Burgess	Nov. 4
Darlene Fisk	Nov. 8
Joanne Ashby	Nov. 9
Pam Thibodeau	Nov. 11
Christian Herwig	Nov. 13
Deb Rilea	Nov. 14
Betty Boothe	Nov. 17
Frank Larson	Nov. 17
Dot Simpson	Nov. 19
Tristan Williams	Nov. 20
Peter Simoneau	Nov. 21
Marge Beyler	Nov. 23
George Cappola	Nov. 26
Paula Degree	Nov. 26

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

John & Sue Schofield	Nov. 7
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IT'S TIME TO DECORATE!

Please help us decorate our church for Christmas! We will, once again, set up and decorate six trees to enhance the beauty of our church for the Christmas season. This gathering of workers will take place on **Tuesday, November 28, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** This is always a fun, spirited project, and we enjoy having many hands!

COMING UP IN DECEMBER

Details are forthcoming, but the December dates to put aside are: December 10 for the Children's Pageant, the Cookie Sale, The Dennis Stroll, and the Messiah Sing. December 16 for the 4:00 Christmas Concert followed by the Living Creche. December 17 for Music Sunday. December 24 for our regular 10:00 worship service in the morning, and then 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH SCHEDULE

November is Pageant Prep Month!

Christmas Pageant is December 10th!!

Youth Overnight on November 4-6:00pm

Special Overnight and Mission Project

Youth StreetReach ~ Homelessness Awareness-
November 17 & 18

Could you help us out by bringing in a package of socks?? It is the MOST REQUESTED item!!

Youth Meeting on November 19

SALVATION ARMY'S DRESS A LIVE DOLL

This year, we have 4 children to dress!

Alanna – age 2, size 3T

Kaden – age 3, size 4T

Lillian – age 5, size 5T

Connor – age 10, size 14

I will have their names, sizes, and clothing options available all month!

EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST



The Deacons are gathering emergency contact information for those who worship and/or live alone.

We also invite others to provide their emergency contacts, not just those who worship and/or live alone.

Emergency contact forms are available by the guestbooks in the sanctuary. Completed forms are kept in a locked closet by the Deacons.



APPLE FESTIVAL 2017 NEWS

Our annual Apple Festival was held on Saturday, October 7. It was a wonderful day on the Village Green with the Spinners and Crafters. The Apple Festival Committee deeply appreciates everyone's efforts to make it a success. More than \$5,000 was raised. The committee decided, this year, to give 10% of our proceeds to Disaster Relief. We, to whom much has been given, can share in the spirit of Luke 12 verse 48. The balance will go to the church budget and programs for the coming year.

It was a cloudy day, but the rain stayed away, and "Mac" (aka Terry) made the day perfect. Betty Boothe and Enid Guilmartin spearheaded the Quilt Show in the sanctuary. So many of our members shared their quilts and the histories of them. Betty would like to present the show again next year. Thank you, Betty and Enid.

All of our fresh pies were sold out by 11:30, and the frozen pies by 12:15. The grill and café completely sold out of food by about 1 p.m. Maggie's boutique sold all of her stock. The Great Pumpkin, donated by Karen and Cal Mutti was won by their neighbor!

So many people made the Festival a success, from our devoted bakers, to our salespeople, café and grill workers, plus our boutique crafters and pumpkin grower! Not to mention all the folks who helped to set up and take everything down. The Apple Festival Committee: Judy and Peter Berrien, Maggie Bossi, Sue Schofield, Jane B. Wilson, Emily Woudenberg and Judy Chesley, thank each and every one of you for all you did to make the Festival such an exciting day in our church life.

FINAL WEEKEND!
EVENTIDE'S "THE WAVERLY GALLERY"

Be sure to get tickets for Eventide's presentation of "The Waverly Gallery" by Kenneth Longergan. From the director and writer of "Manchester by the Sea" and the screen writer of "Analyze This,"

Gladys, the elderly matriarch of the Green family, has run an art gallery in a small Greenwich Village hotel for many years. The management wants to replace her less than thriving gallery with a coffee shop. Always irascible but now increasingly erratic, Gladys is a cause of concern to her daughter, her son-in-law and her grandson, from whose point of view this poignant memory play is told.

Go to www.eventidearts.org for tickets, or call the Box Office at (508) 398-8588.

