



ARISE! MINISTRIES

Mount Up On Wings - Isaiah 40:31

Tom Stiles, Editor

November 27, 2024

The Story of Thanksgiving

“Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” - Psalm 100:3-4

The first Thanksgiving service known to be held by Europeans in North America occurred on May 27, 1578, in Newfoundland, although earlier Church-type services were probably held by Spaniards in St. Augustine, Florida.

Some historians believe that the Popham Colony in Maine conducted a Thanksgiving service in 1607. We do know that the Jamestown settlers held a thanksgiving service that same year, celebrating their safe arrival in America. They also held a second thanksgiving service in 1610 when a supply ship arrived after a particularly harsh winter. But it is the 1621 Thanksgiving Feast of the Pilgrims that most of us think of as the “first Thanksgiving.”

The Pilgrims had left Plymouth, England on September 1620, carrying 102 passengers – men and women seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith.

After 66 days at sea in truly unpleasant stormy conditions, the Mayflower and its [passengers](#) finally reached North America on 21 November, 1620.

But instead of laying anchor in New Virginia where they had permission to colonize, storms had forced the Mayflower far off course, and the ship landed near Cape Cod. They spent a month looking for a good location for their colony.

That first winter in New England was brutal. While the men went ashore to build a fort and homes, the women stayed on board the Mayflower. By spring, half of their number had died.

In March 1621, an English speaking Native American, called Samoset, entered the Plymouth colony and introduced himself. He later brought a friend, Squanto, who in turn introduced Wampanoag Chief Massasoit.



The Pilgrims were able to establish a peace treaty with Massasoit and the Wampanoag Indians, and they taught them how to hunt, plant crops and how to get the best of their harvest, saving the Pilgrims from starvation.

Following a successful harvest that fall, the Pilgrims decided to celebrate with a three-day festival.

William Bradford, Plymouth’s governor in 1621, wrote briefly of the event in *Of Plymouth Plantation*. But it is through **Edward Winslow** that we know most of what we know about that first Thanksgiving.

According to his account, a three-day feast was held somewhere between late September and mid-November 1621. Chief Massasoit and 90 Indians joined the surviving Pilgrims (22 men, 4 married women, and 25 children and teenagers) in the celebration.

A second feast of Thanksgiving was held on November 29, 1623. Governor William Bradford’s Proclamation thanked God for an abundant harvest, bountiful game, protection from “the ravages of savages...disease” and for the “freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.”

Festivals of Thanksgiving were held sporadically in New England and elsewhere in the colonies for the next 150 years.

During the American Revolution, after the Americans declared independence from Great Britain, the United States’ Continental Congress issued a Thanksgiving proclamation every year from 1777 to 1784 to beseech and thank God for His continued assistance and mercy for the new nation.

When the revolution ended, Congress asked first President George Washington to recommend to the people of the United States “a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful

hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness

Although other regional days of Thanksgiving were observed in the nation, it was not until 1864 that an annual Day of Thanksgiving began with a Proclamation by **President Abraham Lincoln**.

In his Proclamation, he not only encouraged the American people to thank God for his manifold blessings but also:

"I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union."

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day 2024. Don't just make it a day for football, family, and food; make it a genuine day of Thanksgiving to God for His manifold blessings!

Eagle's Eye on the Nation

"The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going." -- Proverbs 14:15

GAETZ OUT – BONDI IN

In a stunning turn of events, Matt Gaetz pulled his name from consideration for the Attorney General role. The announcement came from Gaetz himself on X

"I had excellent meetings with Senators yesterday. I appreciate their thoughtful feedback – and the incredible support of so many. While the momentum was strong, it is clear that my confirmation was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/Vance..." — Matt Gaetz (@mattgaetz)

Because Gaetz resigned from the 118th Congress and was elected to the 119th Congress, he could return to the House of Representatives in January.

President-Elect Trump quickly announced Pam Bondi to take his place. She served as Attorney General of Florida eight years ago, and was the first woman to hold that post. She was previously assistant state attorney for Hillsborough County, with a focus, said Trump, on curbing immigration and combating the opioid epidemic.

"For a misogynist Trump sure does pick a lot of strong women to serve in his cabinet." —Kevin Sorbo

Eagle's Eye on New York

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" - "Isaiah 5:20

ANOTHER ABOMINATION

Earlier this month, Governor Kathy Hochul proclaimed November to be "**Transgender Awareness Month**". Last week, she noted that "Transgender Awareness Month is an opportunity to celebrate the invaluable contributions that transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary communities have made to our state and its history."

With all due respect, Governor, What invaluable contributions have these individuals made to our state?

MORE BILLS

Before they left the Capitol in June, the Legislature had passed nearly 900 bills, each requiring action by the Governor. Usually, they send her a dozen or less at a time, but right now she has over 140 bills on her desk that must either be signed or vetoed by Thanksgiving Day. *The Capitol Confidential* estimates that leaves close to 280 to go before January.

LIBERAL LOGIC

"They're not doing this to protect people. They're endangering women. They're endangering girls of all kinds." —Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez regarding sex-exclusive bathrooms

Ministry Report

The Week of November 17-23

I preached at Adirondack Baptist Church in Gloversville, NY on Sunday. This is a dynamic church led by Pastor Nate Peterson. It is always a special honor to preach in this church.

On Monday and Tuesday, I hosted the NYS Independent Baptist Fellowship at Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church. Our theme was "The Way Forward" and the four pastors I asked to preach gave us four great messages. It was very encouraging.

I spent the rest of the week working on my 2025 calendar, studying, and answering calls.

My wife and I will be going to our son's home in Pennsylvania for Thanksgiving, so there will not be a new edition of "Arise!" next week.

My wife and I pray you will have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Tom Stiles Speaking Schedule

December 1 Calvary Heights Baptist Church, Elma, PM

December 9 Seneca Falls Baptist Church, Seneca Falls

December 10 Metro NYC Independent Baptist Fellowship