

Thanksgiving Family Resources

Thanksgiving in 2020 may look different this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. While it might be another 2020 disappointment, it could also be an opportunity for a new tradition and creative ways to gather.

Family Activities

Encourage Sharing - give everyone a paper leaf with a prompt to share during your meal or time with family. For example: read Psalm 100, share a Thanksgiving memory, share something you are grateful for, etc.

Idea from <https://buildfaith.org/thanksgiving-activities-for-church-and-families/>

Notes of Gratitude - if you aren't able to gather with family or friends this year, make notes or cards or short videos to send to them. Be creative!

Read a Book Together - read *Gracias The Thanksgiving Turkey* by Joy Cowley, Illustrated by Joe Cepeda or watch it read on YouTube: bit.ly/graciasturkey

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Prayer & Ritual

Ritual for Gratitude and Prayer

In church, we light a candle to remind us that God is with us. Due to the pandemic, we may not be able to have family and friends with us as we normally do. You will need a candle (battery is better with little ones), pictures of loved ones (this will work the best if these are printed out on white printer paper about 3" in size), white glue, paintbrush or cotton swab. Cut out the pictures. Using white glue, brush the glue onto the back of the picture and place it on the side of the candle. Cover as much of the candle as desired with pictures of people you are thankful to have in your life. Use the candle as a table centerpiece. When you light it (or turn it on) say, "Today we light this candle to remind us that God is with us and of the love we receive from those we hold dear."

Idea from Melinda Shunk, Arkansas Conference, UMC

Thanksgiving Prayer "That We May be Renewed

Loving God,
bless our food and drink
our friendship and laughter
that we may be renewed
in body, mind, and spirit
to work together
for the coming of your kingdom
of justice, love, and peace.
Amen.

(Maureen Edwards, printed in Blessed be our Table, Wild Goose, 2003)

For additional ideas visit: <http://bit.ly/thanksgivingmiumc>



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