

## Virtual Adult Storytime

Theme: Thankfulness

The purpose of the Virtual Adult Storytime is to provide older adults in the Wadsworth Community with content to facilitate sharing and reminiscing during a time we cannot meet in person.

**Story/ Book/ Folktale** (People of all ages benefit from hearing stories read aloud. For older adults it can be a chance to stir memories and use their imagination)

Here are fun facts about Thanksgiving to share:

- The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.
- Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries (but not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!).
- Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had A Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for 17 years.
- The history of U.S. presidents pardoning turkeys is patchy. Harry Truman is often credited with being the first president to pardon a turkey, but that's not quite true. He was the first to receive a ceremonial turkey from the National Turkey Federation – and he had it for dinner. John F. Kennedy was the first to let a Thanksgiving turkey go, followed by Richard Nixon who sent his turkey to a petting zoo. George H.W. Bush is the president who formalized the turkey pardoning tradition in 1989.
- The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.
- Butterball answers more than 100,000 turkey-cooking questions via their Butterball Turkey Hotline each November and December.
- The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920.

Video Link of books read: <https://youtu.be/xhTd9YaaWwg>

Book: *The Blessing Cup* by Patricia Polacco

**"Tell Me a Story" Pictures** (A picture can truly say a thousand words; the pictures included here can spur older adults to remember and even be creative in describing a story from the image. After prompting them, let them become the storytellers)

Use leading statements and questions such as:

“What is happening in this photo?”

“Who has seen this before?”

“Tell me if you had one of these?”

“This one is funny.”

Etc.

**Video Links** (These are provided for enrichment of the theme. Music, dance, etc. enrich auditory, visual, and memory in older adults. Entertainment and engagement are enhanced with these tools)

**Harvesting Wheat Traditionally:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdBBFMtJzDA&ab\\_channel=TheColumbusDispatch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdBBFMtJzDA&ab_channel=TheColumbusDispatch)

**Modern Harvesting:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FpV6XMWDzU&ab\\_channel=WelkerFarms](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FpV6XMWDzU&ab_channel=WelkerFarms)

**Facts about Thanksgiving:**

<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/a12779428/why-we-celebrate-thanksgiving-facts/>

**Theme-related Activities** (Continued enrichment of the theme provided)

**Gratitude Jar** -- decorate a jar or basket with fall-themed decor. Print **Gratitude Slips** (attached below) and cut apart. Every day write about someone or something down you are thankful for and add to the jar. Review your slips every so often to remind you of the good things in your life.

**Library Resources** (If you are interested in this topic, here are some resources that can be provided to you. Please contact the outreach team at [outreach@wadsworthlibrary.com](mailto:outreach@wadsworthlibrary.com) and the items can be placed on hold or delivered to

you.)

**Books:**

Snoopy's Thanksgiving by Charles M. Schultz

Thanksgiving: An American Holiday, An American History by Diana Applebaum

Thanksgiving; a Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey

This Land is Their Land by David Silverman

Harvest by Belva Plain

Harvest of Blessings by Charlotte Hubbard

In Time of Harvest by John Sinclair

**DVDs:**

An Old Fashioned Thanksgiving

The Spirit of Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving Treasure

Great American Wheat Harvest

Beneath the Harvest Sky

Harvest Moon

**CDs:**

A Classic Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Dinner Music

We Gather Together: 14 Thanksgiving Hymns

I am *grateful* for \_\_\_\_\_

I am *thankful* for \_\_\_\_\_

I am *grateful* for \_\_\_\_\_

I am *thankful* for \_\_\_\_\_

I am *grateful* for \_\_\_\_\_







