



JAMES ISLAND
Presbyterian Church

November, 2025

As a nation, we recognize the first Thanksgiving as the meal shared by the Pilgrims after surviving their first arduous year. Just eleven months earlier they arrived at the tip of Cape Cod, as author Nathaniel Philbrick describes, "fearful and uniformed." Philbrick goes on to write, "They spent the next month alienating and angering every Native American they happened to come across. By all rights none of the Pilgrims should have emerged from the first winter alive." However, leaning on their faith and the extraordinary help from Native Americans, the Pilgrims survived. When the final harvest was in, the Pilgrims took a day off from their labors to eat and celebrate together and to give thanks to God.

Eating together to celebrate and praise God is as old as the Bible. For some of us, these past eleven months brought another grueling year, while others of us thrived, and still others of us experienced a combination of joy and heartache. Whatever your experience has been in 2025, we survived, and that is always worth praising God and celebrating. As we approach Thanksgiving, we invite you to celebrate and praise God with JIPC this month:

1. **November 2, All Saints Day**, 10:15 a.m., sanctuary (The Lord's Supper). One of my favorites - a Sunday we set aside to give thanks to all the saints who have died.
2. **November 9, New Member Installation**, 10:15 a.m., sanctuary. That is always a reason to give thanks and celebrate.
3. **November 9, Celebration of JIPC Ministries** by turning in **Pledge Cards**.
"**Thank You Lunch**" immediately after worship in the gym. With gratitude and joy, we pledge our time, talents, and money with anticipation to where God is leading us.
4. **November 16, Community Thanksgiving Service**, 4 pm, St. James Episcopal Church. JIPC and other churches in our community will gather to celebrate and give thanks to God. Money raised will go to **James Island Outreach**.
5. **November 23, Christ the King**, 10:15 a.m. sanctuary (The Lord's Supper). This is the last Sunday of the Christian Calendar.
6. **November 30, Advent** begins, 10:15 a.m., sanctuary and 5:00 p.m. dinner and wreath making in the gym. This year's Advent theme is "Our Family Tree."

I hope to see you at each of these gatherings this month. However, if your calendar will only allow you to do a few of them, begin with setting aside the Lord's Supper as a priority. None of us can predict what will take place over the next twelve months, but we know by starting at the Lord's Supper, there is hope through Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Barrett

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