

## Thanksgiving Information

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by Wayne Goff

- Life was hard in the new world. Out of 103 pilgrims, 51 died in the first terrible winter. After the first harvest was completed, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving and prayer. By 1623, a day of fasting and prayer during a period of drought was changed to one of Thanksgiving because the rain came during their prayers. The custom prevailed in New England and eventually became a national holiday.
- The state of New York adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom in 1817. By the time of the Civil War, many other states had done the same. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of Thanksgiving. It is always the fourth Thursday of November.
- Founders of America were dedicated to Christian principles in their lives. In a sermon by John Winthrop in 1630, we read: “For the persons, we are a Company professing ourselves fellow members of Christ . . . . For the work we have in hand, it is by a mutual consent through a special overruling providence, and a more than ordinary approbation of the Churches of Christ to seek out a place of Cohabitation and Consortship under a due form of Government both civil and ecclesiastical.”

– information via “Thanksgiving Quiz” by Kerby Anderson, 1996

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