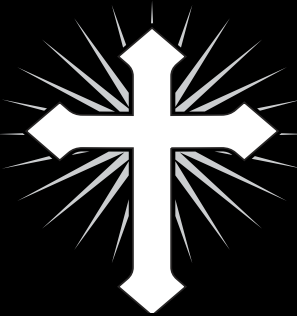


Devotional pages

nesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services.



South Broadway Baptist Church

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Giving Thanks

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."
Psalm 107:1 NIV

The Spanish name for the Thanksgiving holiday is "El Día de Accion de Gracias," which translates roughly to "The Day of Giving Thanks." The Spanish name for the holiday drives home the active nature of giving thanks, whereas the English name seems a bit more passive. We are often asked to contemplate on Thanksgiving Day what we are thankful for but might neglect to actively thank God for those things. Thanking is indeed an action, whereas being thankful can be a passive state of mind. So how might one actively thank God for all the blessings in one's life? Perhaps the simplest way is to share those blessing with others. If you have been blessed with talents and material wealth, consider how you can share them with friends, family, and those in need in your community. The Pilgrims who originally celebrated this holiday had suffered greatly since their arrival off the coast of what is now Massachusetts. Less than half of them survived the 66-day voyage across the Atlantic and the brutal first winter. In the Spring of 1621, members of several native American tribes helped them to plant corn, collect maple syrup, and celebrated the first Thanksgiving as a harvest festival. We can learn a lot from that first Thanksgiving. If people who had suffered so much can find it in their hearts to give thanks, then so should we. And if people whose customs are so different as were the Pilgrims and these native Americans can help each other, then perhaps we can find it in our hearts to do the same. Thank you, Lord, for all that you have given us!
— Christopher Simon

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