

Thanksgiving Poll – Stories and Comments

One year [I] made the grown boys do the dishes alone - they put everything in different spots even though they knew where things went. Hung cups from door handles. Water fights, towel hitting. Maybe it was a mistake to leave them alone in the kitchen!

I love the memory of my aunt, who was a "high society" woman, playing football with us in the backyard and thoroughly enjoying it.

Our Thanksgiving isn't terribly traditional. One year we had unknown guests from Finland (my mother was a Fulbright Scholar). I think they were expecting a more solemn occasion.

As a child (born 1964) my aunt would always take us Christmas shopping on Friday.

My Dad and his sister were the "glue" to our family and we shared holidays for over 50 years. They both passed away the summer of 2017 and it has caused a huge loss in all of us to where we can't even find a way to celebrate together without it causing sadness.

This will be the first year that I've decided to spend part of my day delivering meals on behalf of a local agency that helps out those who are homebound or might not be able to afford a Thanksgiving meal. I am really looking forward to reaching out into my community, especially since I know some of the folks from around town.

When it's nice out, we go for a quick walk after the main meal and then settle in to play games and drink apple cider all afternoon.

Depending on weather, some of us go for a long long walk in the country after big meal. Lovely tradition (and healthy).

The day after Thanksgiving is the time to decorate the house and stay away from Black Friday sales.

If you can, rent dishes from a local event rental company. They do all the washing and sanitizing. All you have to do is scrape the dishes and put everything back in their crates. It makes for a much happier experience with less clean up and mess. Plus it is more sustainable than using disposables. Also, if you need more tables and chairs to seat your guests, you can get those too.

I cook all side dishes in crock pots. I just have my counter full of crock pots and the turkey is in the oven. I cook the rolls while the turkey is setting. Makes it so much easier on myself. I just have a schedule for when each thing should be plugged in and turned on.

Fried turkey is dangerous... yes, just like in the movies, it can shoot out of the fryer if it has not been thawed completely!

On my first Thanksgiving after getting married, my wife tried to BROIL the turkey by mistake. She had pushed the wrong buttons on the oven. We had to eat the sides without the bird!

Coming from a large family (7 children and grandparents lived with us), Thanksgiving was a big deal...we did not have a large enough table one year so my dad put two doors together on top of sawhorses to have enough seating-this was after marriages/children from my oldest two siblings and even more people joined us.

We love our Thanksgiving Tradition. It seems to be the one fairly extended time that we all have off with time to gather together.

An oven fire is one way to liven up the day.

In the past few years, our family has included in-laws of my sons' I didn't really expect that and it has made things . . . interesting.

Dropped the turkey one year getting it out of the oven when done - 5 second rule! Picked it up, wiped it off and still ate it. Thank God I washed the floor the night before.

One year my husband had a few drinks and decided to cook turkey parts that you find in the turkey just like Martha Stewart for making gravy, only he grabbed a bottle of dish soap, not cooking oil to use to fry the turkey parts, good thing I was sober and threw the mess away before he had time to try to fry it.

Most memorable: We were hosting a Korean family new to America for Thanksgiving dinner, and my husband and son came back from their traditional Thanksgiving morning deer hunt with a freshly killed deer back right before our noon meal. Our guests willingly participated in the evisceration process since they wanted to experience every aspect of American culture!!

One thanksgiving my grandmother brought the Turkey into the dining room on a platter and yelled my dad's name as the turkey slid off the plate and landed in my dad's lap and she yelled at him for not catching it.

Last year, my father-in-law insisted there not be any alcohol present all weekend. Not a huge deal for me, however don't think his three sons thought it was a good deal! I usually have left on Friday to take our son to basketball practice at home (90 minutes away) and then he and I have time together. He is in college now, so we will stay the entire weekend at my father-in-law's. He is a lovely man!

Broken chair at the dining table during an intense card game-spoons :) The guys go hunting in the morning.

I like ice cream on pumpkin pie better than whipped cream – yum.

Looking forward to being together again after the Covid year away.

Always fun to ask grandparents their memories of earlier Thanksgiving weekends and ask what they did to celebrate, what they did with and out... humbling and important.

Our Thanksgiving celebration is getting smaller, but our youngest daughter is getting married the weekend after Thanksgiving, and we are looking forward to a fun time with some little ones in the future!

Our usual Thanksgiving during years we don't travel to family is a picnic at the Valley of Fire State Park near our home and then returning to the house for a pie buffet.

We use Thanksgiving gathering to "draw names" for the Christmas gift exchange.

Very thankful to be able to spend time with family...not everyone has that opportunity.

We started covering the tables with paper to have everyone write down their thanks and blessings.

One giant annoyance is when family members eat my husband's vegan food! He is a strict vegan due to a cancer diagnosis, and people help themselves to his clearly labeled foods and leave him with very little to eat. The carnivores in the family need to leave the veg-based food alone.

Thanksgiving Day 1989 was my first date with my husband. My mother knew we had planned a date for the weekend, but she insisted he come over for Thanksgiving with the family. Talk about awkward!

WE play cousin football outside. a well-loved tradition. rain, shine or snow.

I'll never forget how angry I got at one of my uncles who took BOTH turkey drumsticks, at the same time. Such an aloof lack of courtesy!

My Thanksgivings have changed over the course of four and a half decades. When I was very young, we used to drive to Iowa to see my mother's family until her parents passed away. Then we traveled out of town for several year (largely during my high school and college years), mostly to Colorado but once to Mexico! In my thirties we started taking part in the large (anywhere between 30 on an 'off' year and 60 or more) dinner hosted by my father's side of the family. Now it is just my parents and me every other year when my brother and his family of eight are with his in-laws and we order our meal from Whole Foods, though I still bake my aunt's bread recipe from scratch every year.

Canadians celebrate thanksgiving in October. It's not the same enormous "deal" that our US counterparts seem to have. For most of us, there are not a lot of big Thanksgiving traditions or expectations around hosting it or attending it. I look at the movies, magazines and TV specials and all the folklore from the South and it seems like it's a stressful time where things have to be perfect. My wish for all of you is to relax and enjoy the day in whatever way makes you and yours happy.

When my family (my side) gets together there is always dancing involved. I wish my husband's side did the same.

Tradition is important - my family has gathered for 6 generations in our homes - we make it work no matter how many. We sing the Doxology for our prayer - wonderful sound of thanks.

Here's another weird tradition: Halstead, KS, is the type of tiny town where you have to create your own fun outdoors as a kid. We used to walk to the bridge and pick items in the creek to aim hedge apples at, and we'd try to see who could throw the farthest. When my sister was in preschool, her teacher asked her favorite Thanksgiving tradition, to which she replied, "Throwing hedgehogs in the creek!" My mom received some questions later.

One year, many years ago, I was having Thanksgiving dinner with my sister and her elementary aged children. She, her husband and I were asking the kids various Thanksgiving related questions and their answers were totally wrong and incredibly funny. We had so much fun and it was a positive memory. I wish I could remember the answers!

My husband comes from a family that always had some farm project that needed to be done regardless of the day. My husband carried this forward, though I insisted that "work" would be finished by Noon. Now that the kids are grown, when they return they always bring their work clothes in anticipation of one of dad's projects. He has softened over the years. Now it is usually helping to put up these 12-foot-tall snowmen in the yard. They are made out of metal and are extremely heavy. It takes 2-3 people and the backhoe to position them. They remain in place until Easter.

Mom has always hosted Thanksgiving. At least 20 years ago she confessed that every year, the smell of the roasting turkey made her nauseous to the point of getting sick. But she felt it was her duty to do the turkey. It all went back to my parents' first Thanksgiving after getting married. They invited both sets of their parents to their apartment for dinner. My Mom was pregnant with my sister, and the smell of the turkey made her ill. Every year after that she had the same reaction, whether pregnant or not. I told her that I would start making the bird at my house (we love the smell), and wrapping it up, driving it across town (giving it time to rest), then carving it up upon arrival. Mom has not been sick on Thanksgiving since I took over the turkey prep/cooking.

In Hawaii, family is important, so when my kids were little, we felt obligated to spend time with both sides. Lunch with husband's family and dinner with mine. My family changed their traditional lunch gathering to dinner so that we could attend (more pressure). The kids were so cranky and exhausted by evening, we would question every year if it was worth the effort. We didn't feel we could start our own family tradition, the expectations were so great. Now that I am a grandparent, I have encouraged my daughter (mother of my grandkids) to make decisions that are best for her young family, even if it means not attending ANY of the family functions. She and her husband have worked out a pretty good compromise: Dad/Step-Mom's family for lunch (which goes through dinner), Friday dinner with me, and Saturday dinner with husband's mom. Kids have fun, parents are relaxed, and we "grands" (grandparents) have quality time with all of them. We are blessed that the "grands" are on the same page and are willing to be flexible for the sake of family, something we are truly thankful for.

I like the simplicity of the celebration. Christmas is always so hectic with presents and decorating. I find Thanksgiving is more intimate.

Thanksgiving is a great day to count your blessings.

Family matters! Make the most of your time together!

I have already shampooed carpets, bought new table cloths - bring it on!!!