The Witness

Circleville First Church
436 East Ohio Street
Circleville, Ohio 43113
(740) 474-2250 circlevillefirstchurch.com

November 2026 Issue 324

Jay Neff, Senior Pastor	(740) 804-1482
Andrew Hottinger, Associate Pastor	(740) 403-3166
Andrew Byerly, Music/Worship Ministry	(740) 601-7405
Kim Buchanan, Director of Growth Groups	(740) 701-6105
Lisa Burroughs, Director of Youth Ministry	(740) 412-4149

Your help is needed

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

Friday, November 20
Saturday, November 21



Nelsonville High School
2 Buckeye Drive, Nelsonville, Ohio

Sign-up at the Welcome Center
Contact Joy Atwood for questions

Operation Christmas Child

SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY

November 11

7 pm

FC Hall





Reminder: Shoeboxes are available year-round.
Please contact Brittany Graul for a box(es) and details.

"He chased after me…"

So, who's the new face that is a part of the worship team? Well, his name is **Tyler Bowens.** He has worked as a union carpenter for eight years. Tyler and his wife, **Makayla** are recently married, five months ago. The couple reside in Washington Court House.

Tyler came to attend Circleville First Church through **Brittany Graul** approximately 4 or 5 years ago, but has been consistently attending for at least a year.

He said that while singing in worship service one Sunday morning, God laid on his heart to serve on the worship team. He talked to **Pastor Jay Neff** and was directed to **Andrew Byerly.** Andrew placed him on the platform to sing. He also serves on the security team.

Tyler was saved 1 ½ years ago and was baptized in August 2025. "He (God) chased after me," he explained, "about three months before I was baptized, something just told me to go to church, so I did. He chased after me."

"I enjoy working on things that need fixed; I love to help people that are in need of help," stated Tyler. His birthday is July 10. He enjoys fishing and his favorite color is blue. Tyler likes steak therefore it makes sense that his favorite place to eat is Texas Roadhouse. His Bible verse is Romans 12:2. "Will the Lord Remember Me?" by the Red Clay Strays is his favorite song.

"To serve and to be a part of the church. This also keeps me consistent and accountable," said Tyler when asked about why has volunteered to sing and also a part of the security team.

GIVE THANKS

Stories from Elizabeth's Hope

Walking Alongside Them

There was a young couple I had gotten to know over the course of a couple of years. I had the privilege of providing them with ultrasounds and support through two pregnancies, both of which sadly ended in miscarriage. When they told me they were pregnant again, they were so nervous. I watched them carry so much hope, fear, and anxiety throughout their pregnancy journey. At one point, they told me, *"We can't explain how amazing you are. I know my anxiety has been a lot, and you're the only person who hasn't made me feel like a burden for how much I panic."* Those words have stayed with me. It doesn't take a lot to make a difference in someone's life. Sometimes, it's simply lending an ear, truly listening, and being present when someone needs to know they aren't alone.

Thankfully, they made it successfully through this pregnancy, and after a long, difficult labor followed by an emergency C-section, finally held their beautiful baby girl in their arms.

It was such an honor to walk alongside them through this journey—to listen to their fears and frustrations, to reassure them when anxiety took over, and to offer support and encouragement whenever they needed it. Their journey was not an easy one, which made the moment they finally met their daughter that much more meaningful. I'm so grateful I got to be a small part of their story.

Blessings,
Kristie Steck BSN, RN
Mobile Nurse Manager
740.656.3396 nurse@ehprc.org

Thank you for your service!!



Isaac Bennett, Ryan Dean, Cameron Kilbarger and Tanner Wilson are serving our country. Please pray for them and their families.

We want you!
Men's Prayer Meeting

Saturdays 8 am

DO NOT GIVE UP!

Bible study

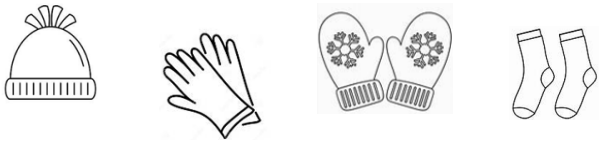
Wednesdays at 1 pm Ferguson/Clark Hall

Women's Ministry

November 3	**Ladies Lunch**	11 am at OCU Dining Hall
November 12	**Ladies Night**	6:30 pm FC Hall Bring a friend and snack to share. Please bring 2 – 3 items to put in our blessing box
December 1	**Ladies Lunch**	11 am at OCU Dining Hall
December 10	Details to come	
January 5	**Ladies Lunch**	TBA
February 2	**Ladies Lunch**	11 am at OCU Dining Hall
March 2	**Ladies Lunch**	11 am at OCU Dining Hall
March 12 & 13	**Ladies Spring Retreat**	--information at the Welcome Center
April 6	**Ladies Lunch**	11 am at OCU Dining Hall
April 27	**Ladies Conference**	- information coming
May 4	**Ladies Lunch**	TBA

Shoebox items of the month

hats gloves mittens socks



Community cupboard needs

Pasta & Sauce, Peanut Butter & Jelly



a tote is located in the overflow for donations

JOY (just older youth)

November 14	**Thanksgiving/Christmas Carry-In**	4 – 7 pm
December 6	**Guardian Concert**	2 pm Leave church – Lunch before concert

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

Founded in 1987, Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. The process is as follows: donations are given by people to fund the meal ingredients. Volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are then donated to partner organizations around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved!

The organization's founder, Richard Proudfit, had traveled to Honduras after a 1974 hurricane and witnessed the survivors' misery. In 1987, he assembled scientists from General Mills, Cargill and other companies to create a food product tht provided all the nutritional requirements to sustain the famished. The group created a winning formula of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and chicken flavoring--plus vitamins and minerals—that is still used today.

In July 2015, a team of 13 from Circleville First Church traveled to Titanyen, Haiti with Healing Haiti. At the site of the mass grave from the January 2010 earthquake, the male members of the team handed out MannaPack meals to the Haitians who had come out of their homes in the mountains to receive the meals. These meals were so precious and needed by this community that there were outbreaks of arguments and squabbles over getting the meals.

We have had many opportunities over the past several years to serve at MobilePack events. The next event will be held on **Friday, November 20 & Saturday, November 21** at Nelsonville High School in Nelsonville, Ohio (approximately 50 miles from Circleville). Sign up at the Welcome Center.



submitted by **Joy Atwood**

"Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil." **Isaiah 56:2**

Men's Prayer Breakfast

November 21

8 am

FC Hall

speaker: Steve Good



Jokes of the month



What do you call a running turkey? Fast food!

Why don't turkeys trust each other?
Too much fowl play!

Why is it much easier to weigh fish than chickens?
Because fish come with their own scales.

Why do French people eat snails?
They don't like fast food. (from Ruth Keller)

If a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure? (from Jenny McCalla)

I replaced my rooster with a duck…
Now I wake up at the quack of dawn.





submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

Kid Power Offering – November 1



On October 4, **Lucy Lynn,** daughter of **Mason and Terra Spencer,** granddaughter of **Pastor Jay and Tonya Neff** and great-granddaughter of **Blake and Nancy Neff** was dedicated to the Lord.

Congratulations!!

Hey, get connected to our church…
Get involved with a Growth Group class at 9:45 am

Verse of the month



"I repeat, be strong and brave! Don't be afraid and don't panic, for I, the Lord your God, am with you in all you do." Joshua 1:9 NET

submitted by **John Adams**

S A B B A T H

From poverty to parliament and the pulpit

"As a poor child in Granada Devon received a shoebox gift, heard the Gospel and came to faith in Jesus. Devon committed his life to serving God and helping others first as a senator and now as a pastor."

Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child (Shoebox Ministry). Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ."

The boxes go to poverty-stricken areas, orphanages, remote villages, the poorest of the poorest and the neediest of the needy as well as disaster-stricken areas. Shoeboxes are now allowed in Muslim countries, but Christian materials are not permitted. If the box has been prayed over, it will have a Christian influence.

So, let's get started



First, decide whether to prepare a box for a boy or a girl. Next, decide what age of the three age groups: 2-4 years; 5-9 years and 10-14 years.

So, what should I put in the box? **The most important thing to place in the box is prayer.** Pray for the child, his family and every person who touches this box. Pray for the items you should place in the box (what the child needs).

Next place **toys** include items that children will immediately embrace such as toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), dolls, stuffed animals, etc. Also **school supplies** such as pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc. You can include **non-liquid hygiene items** like toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, etc**. Accessories and crafts** such as T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), hair bows, finger puppets, etc. **Other items** such as tools, hammers, nails, screwdrivers, nuts, bolts, screws, soccer ball & air pump (must deflate).

Information taken from Samaritan's Purse.org

Please Do Not Include: food, candy, gum, toothpaste, bar soap, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, wearable traditional camouflage items, seeds, organic matter, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosols, matches, fire starters, saws or razor blades.

The things children ask for the most are washcloths, soap and school supplies, believe it or not.



National Collection Week
November 16-23



Shoebox Packing Party
November 11 at 7 pm FC Hall

submitted by **Brittany Graul**



11 – 1 Time Change --fall back 1 hour
set clock the night before



11 – 3 Election Day- Remember to Vote
Ladies Lunch 11 am Ohio Christian University



11 – 11 Veterans' Day – Thank a Vet for our freedom!!!
Shoebox Packing Party 7 pm FC Hall

11 – 12 Ladies Night 6:30 pm FC Hall

11 – 14 JOY – Thanksgiving/Christmas Carry-in 4 – 7 pm

11- 20 & 11 – 21 Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

11 – 25 Bible Study - Dismissed

11 – 25, 11 – 26, 11-27 Church Office-closed



11 – 26 Thanksgiving—Give Thanks to God

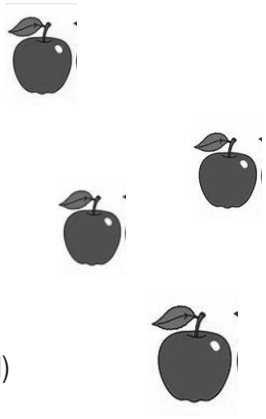
11 – 27 Black Friday-Christmas season begins

11 – 29 Advent begins
Communion
ECL Fundraiser Lunch following 10:45 am service
Concert of Prayer 6 pm

Kitchen delights

This Apple Bread is the best fall breakfast or snack recipe!

Apple Bread



1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup light brown sugar (packed)
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
2 large eggs
1 1/4 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup milk or applesauce
1/2 cup unsalted butter (melted)
2 cups chopped apples (cored, peeled)
3/4 cup sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 5 loaf pan very well with non-stick baking spray.

In a medium-size bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Whisk together to combine, then set aside.

Combine the melted butter, sugars, eggs, vanilla extract and milk or applesauce and whisk together to combine. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir to combine. **Don't over-mix.**

Fold in the chopped apples.

Pour the batter into the loaf pan and bake for 60-65 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

Remove the loaf from the oven and allow to cool for about 10 minutes and then remove to a cooling rack to cool completely.

Apple bread can be served warm or at room temperature. Store at room temperature, well covered. Best if eaten with 4-5 days.



submitted by **Nancy Johnson**

Ladies Night

November 12

6:30 pm FC Hall

Bring a friend and snack to share
Please bring 2 – 3 items for our blessing box to help our community have a better Thanksgiving

A prayer for our veterans

Oh God, our heavenly Father, you have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May your protection and grace surround them each day.

Let your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries.

May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in your holy presence.

Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the precious lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them.

Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers and friends.

Amen

submitted by **Dan Namowicz**
U.S. Navy Veteran
served in Vietnam





Ladies Spring Retreat

March 12 and 13, 2027 at the Deer Creek Lodge. Dinner, room and breakfast are covered in the payment.

We will take the van. We like to leave the church around 3 pm but you can always drive yourself or carpool. Dinner starts promptly at 6 pm, seats will be saved, so you have one.

If you set aside $20 a month in an envelope, starting today, the expense will not seem too big.

You may want to bring extra money for the auction, which is always fun. There is also a silent auction to find multiple "goodies" for purchase.

Interested? See Joellen Byerly. The church is doing a monthly fundraiser to give everyone $75 towards their registration. Information found at the Welcome Center.

Help needed! If you are interested in taking over the Ladies Lunch ministry, please contact **Joellen Byerly**.

Church Extension

A word from the Director (for October)

What a joy it is to greet you as we begin the month of October. September was an encouraging month for Great Commission ministry across our denomination. As summer came to a close, we rejoiced in answered prayers, the official opening of new churches and reports of many baptisms from across the country.

The Church Extension President's Handbook has been completed and mailed to our pastors and Church Extension Presidents. We also had the privilege of traveling with pastors and their spouses to the East Lake Prayer Conference at East Lake Church in Moneta, Virginia. In addition, more churches are considering the commitment to become official Great Commission Churches. God is doing great thing among us. I rejoice in His goodness and favor and I look forward to all He will do in the days ahead.

In The Power of One,
David Dean, Director of Evangelism & Extension

CHURCH of the MONTH



Brookside Espanol – Chillicothe, Ohio

For many years, Brookside Church in Chillicothe, Ohio has supported ministry among Hispanic communities. The congregation has provided supplies to the El Semrador Boys School and Farm in Honduras and sponsored several missions trips to the Texas-Mexico border. The longstanding commitment has now taken a new form close to home. Pastor Ryan Bash and the Brooside congregation took a bold step of faith by establishing Brookside Espanol Church on their campus. Pastor Juan Carlos Arias and Elva Arias lead this new congregation, the first Hsipanic church in Ross County.

Brookside Espanol gathers for Sunday worship in the Port Center on the Brookside Church Campus and participates fully in Brookside's food pantry ministry. Pastor Juan Carlos has also established a Hispanic Leadership Center at the church, connecting with Hispanic leaders across the United States, Mexico and Latin America.

Let us celebrate what God is doing through the Brookside church family and pray for the continued growth and witness of Brookside Espanol.

Prayer Requests

CCCU Churches in North Carolina—seeking to plant a new church in the region
The Hispanic Church in Metairie, Louisiana—strength through significant challenges
Small Churches that are Struggling—give pastors and congregation renewed strength and vision
New Churches to be Planted—that God will call and equip new pastors
Fall Revivals—that God will draw people to Christ and renew believers

Great Commission Resources

*The Great Commission Action Plan: A Guided Pathway to Building a Great Commission Church
* The Church Extension President's Handbook: What Does a Church Extension President Do?

To order these and other FREE digital resources, contact the Church Extension Department.

Praise Points

*Redeemed Community Church in New York has secured a building. The papers have been signed and the congregation has moved from its tent into a permanent place of worship.

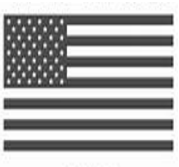
*20 new believers baptized at Sharp Town Church in New Jersey on September 20, 2026.

*11 new believers recently baptized at Community Bible Church in Pierrepoint, New York. When Pastor Babcock began his ministry there, attendance was only 10. The church is growing and is now considering an expansion of its sanctuary.

*15 pastors attended the Multiply Conference at East Lake Community Church with Pastor Troy Keaton. They returned encouraged and inspired to build Great Commission Churches.

submitted by **Cathy Marck, Church Extension President**

Give thanks to God for all things



Freedom is not free. Veterans Day is November 11. "The Witness" would like to take a moment to thank our veterans of Circleville First Church. Thank you, Veterans from the bottom of our hearts!

Upcoming events

12 – 13 Children's Christmas Program

12 - 13 Christmas Fellowship

12 – 24 Christmas Eve Service





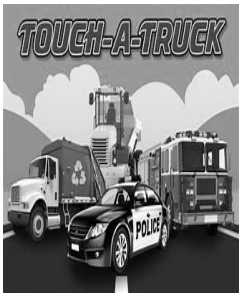
November 1
set clock back the night before

Save the date

Ladies Conference

Saturday, April 27
Crossroads Church

You will want to attend – Amber Kasper will be ministering to us



Touch-a -Truck was held on October 4; it was a huge success. We served close to 400 sandwiches (that's almost 100 lbs. of pulled pork). There were over 20 vehicles to see or "touch".

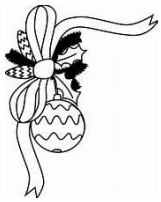
Thank you to everyone who showed up to help or just talk to those from our community. You made a difference.

ECL fundraiser lunch on November 29, make your lunch plans with us for pulled pork and mac and cheese, with a few other goodies. $5 per person, $20 per family. All proceeds go to our Ladies ECL fund to help out with multiple ministries and to ease the cost of the retreat.



On October 18, we were blessed to have over 25 people gather at the Pumpkin Show Park for **a prayer walk.** We walked the streets together, stopping and praying at multiple places throughout the downtown area. Pumpkin Show will bring in over 100,000 people and we want to be a witness for the love that Christ has given





Christmas decorating time is just around the corner, **believe it or not**. **Sunday, November 22,** immediately following the morning service we will need help bringing items up from the basement. All able bodies please stay to help.

If you are interested in helping with the actual decorating, please let Joellen Byerly know 513-680-6012. Thank you.

*The cornucopia (a horn-shaped basket overflowing with fruits and vegetables) is a typical emblem of Thanksgiving abundance that dates to ancient harvest festivals. Many of the images commonly associated with Thanksgiving are derived from much older traditions of celebrating the autumn harvest.

*Domesticated turkeys cannot fly. Wild turkeys can fly for short distances up to 55 miles per hour and can run 20 miles per hour.

*According to the USDA, the French, the Italians, the Germans and the British all follow the U.S. consumption of turkey (in that order).

*Turkeys weren't introduced into Europe from the Spanish colonies in South America until 1523. By 1524, turkeys imported from South America were eaten at the court of King Henry VIII of England.

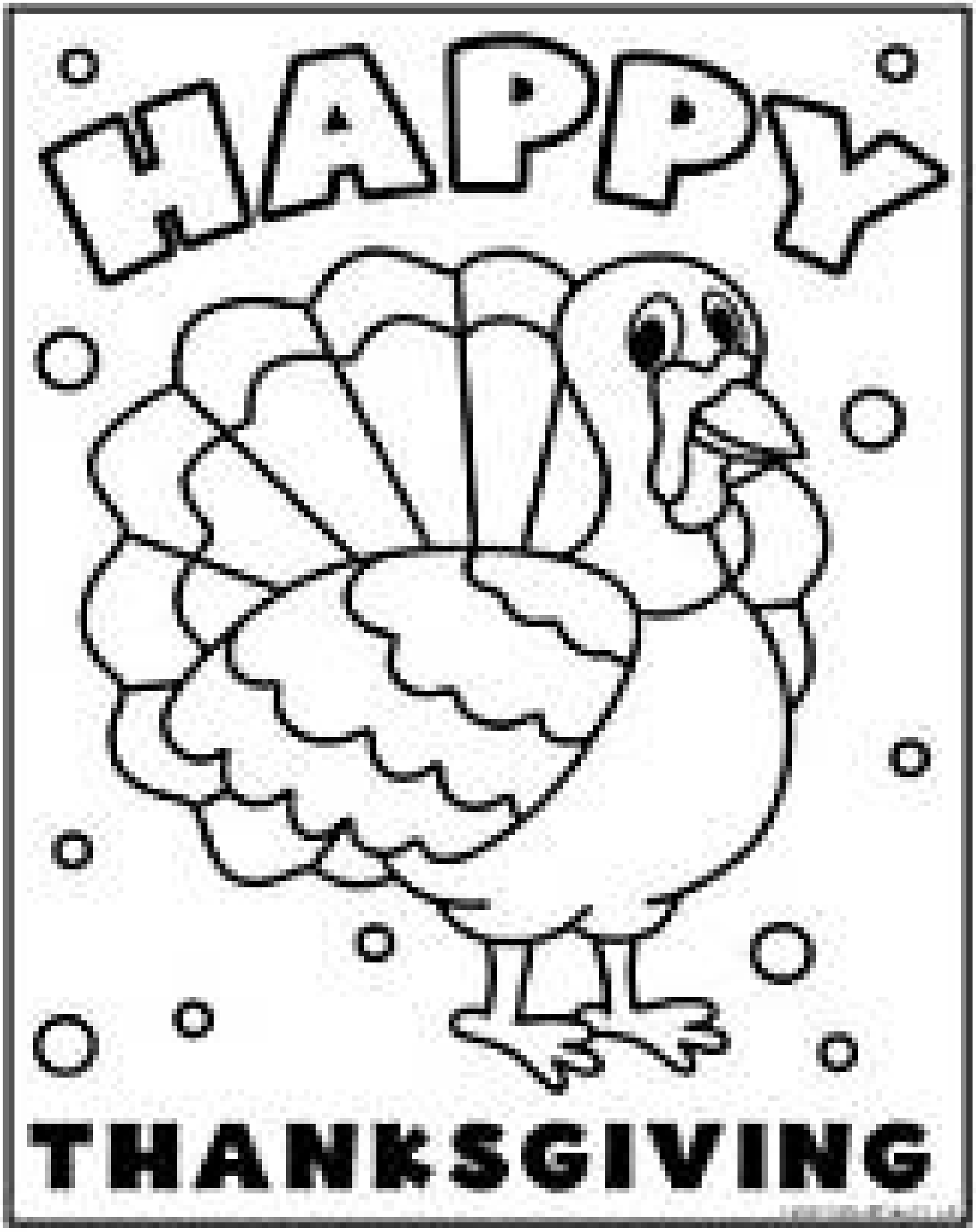
*Because Canada is north of the United States, its harvest comes earlier in the year. Accordingly, the Thanksgiving holiday falls earlier in Canada than in the U.S. The Canadian Parliament set aside November 6 for annual Thanksgiving observances in 1879. In 1957 the date was shifted to an even earlier day, to the second Monday in October.

*The turkey was originally domesticated in Mexico. The ocellated turkey is native to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and adjacent Guatemala and Belize.

*June is National Turkey Lovers' Month.

Taken from www.squidoo.com




HAPPY
THANKSGIVING