

November
2019



W. James Steen, CFP®

jim@petrafin.com

(O) 937.294.9000

www.petrafinancialsolutions.com

Thanksgiving has always been about being thankful for what you have. Even before it was set as an official holiday, it was a centuries-old tradition to have a feast celebrating a good harvest, victory in battle, or some other momentous occasion.

The custom of celebratory feasts is almost as old as civilization itself. For most of our history, we have depended on good harvests to get us through tough times. Winter, famine, war, upheaval – people have long worked hard to “get ahead” of the adversity life always throws our way. These days, of course, most of us don’t have to worry so much about things like starvation. Yet the idea of “Thanksgiving” is still as important as ever.

All of us still face setbacks and obstacles, adversity and hardship. Giving thanks for what we have – for whatever good fortune we’ve enjoyed this year – helps strengthen our resolve to deal with today’s challenges and tomorrow’s trials. I think that is why Thanksgiving has evolved from being a harvest celebration to something much grander.

Thanksgiving is a celebration of life.

But what about all those who have no good fortune to celebrate?

One of the best things about Thanksgiving – both now and in the past – is that it has also been a time for ensuring those less fortunate than us have something to celebrate as well. Even in medieval times, thanksgiving feasts gave much needed respite for beggars, debtors, widows, orphans, and all those who could not provide for themselves. In the modern age, record numbers of people volunteer food and time to ensure others can eat.

So, this Thanksgiving, please join with me in looking back on our good fortune, not just this year, but in all the years stretching back to the beginning of history. Join me in giving thanks that we have each other to help build a world that makes almost every year better than the one before. On behalf of all us of here at Petra Financial Solutions, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

A graphic featuring the words "Happy Thanksgiving" in a large, orange, cursive font. To the right of the text is an illustration of a brown cornucopia overflowing with various autumnal items, including pumpkins, gourds, and baskets of produce.

Happy
Thanksgiving

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