



**Sunday, November 20, 2016**

**A harvest festival** is an annual celebration that occurs around the time of the main harvest of a given region. Because of the differences in climate and crops around the world, harvest festivals can be found at various times at different places.

Harvest festival is traditionally held on the Sunday near or of the Harvest Moon. The celebrations on this day usually include singing hymns, praying, and decorating churches with baskets of fruit and food in the festival known as Harvest Festival, Harvest Home or Harvest Thanksgiving.

In British and English-Caribbean churches, chapels and schools, and some Canadian churches, people bring in produce from the garden, the allotment or farm. The food is often distributed among the poor and senior citizens of the local community, or used to raise funds for the church, or charity.

In the United States, many churches also bring in food from the garden or farm in order to celebrate the harvest. The festival is set for a specific day and has become a national holiday known as Thanksgiving which falls on the fourth Thursday in November.

In both Canada and the United States, it has also become a national secular holiday with religious origins, but in Britain it is both a Church festival giving thanks to God for the harvest and a more secular festival remembered in schools.

At HCC for the past several years, we have celebrated Harvest Sunday on the third Sunday in November by church members bringing different fruits and nuts to help make a bountiful basket and everyone sharing the bounty at the close of service.

If you are able to make a contribution or give a monetary donation, please contact me and I will let you know which items we still need so we don't all bring the same things. You can text me or call me at [917-913-4224](tel:917-913-4224). Thank you so much and have a blessed day! Dea. Helen Barksdale