

50 Best Ways for Your Church to Commemorate the Plymouth 400 Landing and First Thanksgiving

1. Use US postal forever Mayflower stamps (Scheduled for release in September, 2020)
2. Plant a huge rock on your church property – name it Plymouth Rock – take photo of your church family around the rock and promote through your local paper/media outlets
3. Use weekly bulletin inserts of liturgy and historical bios found on NACCC website. Following link to “400 Years of Congregationalism in America”
4. Print P400 bios in your church newsletter
5. Post P400 bios on your church website/Facebook page/social media
6. Watch Truelove Brewster video with your Sunday School class
7. Use Truelove Brewster video as a Children’s Moment during worship. (More videos are currently in the works.)
8. Volunteer to speak at a local service club – telling the Pilgrim story – see talking points on NACCC link on P400 page
9. Proudly wear P400 swag. Found at <https://naccc-apparel.itemorder.com/sale>
10. Congregational Influence on America – speech available on P400 website
11. Invest in new children’s books for your church library that tell the story. Bibliography available on the P400 website
12. Connect with the Congregational Library in Boston
13. Have a church dinner on a Mayflower moving van
14. Map out the size of the Mayflower on your church lawn or parking lot
15. Place P400 logo in your email default signature plate for all church staff email
16. Talk about what it means to be a Pilgrim.
17. Use your First Thanksgiving print in Facebook and emails, and newsletters. (Contact Will Lange or the NACCC office if you need to buy one.)
18. Use the First Thanksgiving print as a prop for sermon or class or children's moment
19. Invite students to create their own First Thanksgiving poster
20. Have a showing of the Ric Burns documentary, “The Pilgrims”
21. Plan a future group trip to Plymouth and Boston (and even to the UK to London, Scrooby, Boston, Plymouth, etc and to Leiden in the Netherlands)
22. Plan to attend the International Congregational Fellowship Conference in July 2021 at Curry College near Plymouth, Massachusetts.
23. Promote 400: 400 pennies, 400 minutes, 400 bottles/cans for deposit, 400 Minutes of service whole (6 hrs, 40 min) or split, 400 Minutes of Prayer, 400 Minutes of Song
24. Print names of the first 400 or most recent 400 of your church members perhaps in lots of 100.

25. Expand the 104 biographies in the P400 pool with a favorite local or national person or yourself
26. Write bios of people from your church history
27. Create a 400 day prayer calendar of persons or places
28. Create a 66 day prayer calendar Beginning Sept 16 (that was the departure date for the Mayflower on its 66 day crossing)
29. Form a study group and use the Plymouth's Pilgrims Curriculum at <http://www.congregationallibrary.org/>
30. Write 66 prayers the pilgrims might have said
31. Substitute 4 for four or for
32. Explore resources on The Mayflower Society pages <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/>
33. Use resources from <Plymouth 400, Inc.>
34. Have a program that focuses on the losses of the indigenous peoples.
35. Invite local indigenous peoples' descendants to speak to a church group.
36. If you have something with food, don't have turkey, focus on corn, beans and squash
37. Use the NACCC's 400th Anniversary Logo on everything you can
38. Begin organizing for a really special or big Thanksgiving Eve Service in your church Nov 25th, 2020
39. Begin organizing for a really special or big Thanksgiving Eve Service in your church Nov 24th 2021
40. Remember to Commemorate vs. Celebrate, think about it, discuss it.
41. List 400 Missionaries, some in American, some around the world
42. Treasure hunt for Congregationalist on Wiki and the Web
43. Map out the distance of their journey on a world map from both Plymouths, see same distances to other points (use string & pin)
44. Get the names of the Pilgrims and write stories about what it might have been like for them.
45. Include all ages & or make special events & experiences for each age
46. Learn the archaic personal pronouns and have a conversation using them
47. Read a play out loud or some history and have people in your group be the characters. Discuss how it was to represent them.
48. Find coloring pages for children on the Plimoth Plantation website, <https://plimoth.org/learn/plimoth-online-historyhome/coloring-pages>
49. Check out Barnicle and Husk educational resources to teach children about American history and the Wampanoag culture <https://www.barnicleandhusk.com/educational-resources>
50. Tell this joke: "If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?"
"PILGRIMS!"