

Where has the year gone? It's already November.

To many people's surprise, we've already had a Christmas story in the paper.

I'm sure with the economy, the Delphos Community Christmas Project will need every bit of time they have to pull together a nice holiday for those who need a little boost.

It's tough out there and every penny will count.

It will be that way for many of us, I fear. Most of us are fortunate and have jobs. It may not be the one we want or need but a job none the less.

I've written several times of how I feel perhaps one of the most necessary of holidays — the one where we are supposed to count our blessings and be thankful for what we have — is going to be lost in the commercial frenzy known as Christmas shopping season.

Stores are already offering Black Friday pricing to move as much merchandise as they can before the dreaded Christmas markdown. Trees and tinsel have popped up everywhere.

Enter Facebook. If you're a fan, you've been seeing all the "thankful" posts.

In my little corner of the world, I'm already plotting and planning that special meal that brings our families and loved ones together for food, fellowship and yes, football.

The turkey will roast and fill the house with that delectable, mouth-watering smell. The potatoes will be bubbling on the stove and the deviled eggs will disappear before the meal hits the serving dishes.

We'll bow our heads and say a prayer of thanks for all who are around our table and those who could not be there — for whatever reason.

My mom, friends and my sister-in-law and I will chat while we clean the table, put away leftovers and do the dishes.

The men will head into the living room to watch a game and soon the soft contented sound of snoring will waft into the kitchen as us girls play Spite and Malice.

Now that's what I'm talkin' about.

Thanksgiving will be a tough holiday for some, too. A Thanksgiving feast may be out of reach and some will find little to be thankful for. But it's the little things we need to give thanks for.

If you are breathing, be thankful. Many will face a Thanksgiving with one or more empty chairs.

If you have a roof over your head, be thankful. Many are homeless.

If you have food, be thankful. Many people are wondering where their next meal will come from.

If you have a job, rejoice. You all know what it's like out there.

If you have your health, dance.

There is always someone else who has less and is more thankful for it than those who have more.