We Gather Together

(A Dutch Hymn)

by Amy Smith

This popular Thanksgiving hymn was written in 1597 by Adrianus Valerius during the Eighty Years' War, a struggle for Dutch independence from Catholic Spain. Originally titled "Wilt heden nu treden," it was first printed in 1626 in Valeius's collection, *Nederlandtsch Gedenck-Clanck*. The tune of the hymn was set to a pre-existing Dutch folk tune later known as KREMSER, after Eduard Kremser's 1877 arrangement of the piece. In 1984, American musicologist Theodore Baker translated the hymn into English, giving it the familiar title, "We Gather Together."

It quickly became popular during World Wars I and II, when its themes of deliverance and perseverance resonated with American congregations. There are other themes that make it one of the most popular Thanksgiving Hymns. The lyrics cover divine providence and protection, communal worship and gratitude, and perseverance under oppression, to name a few. Today, "We Gather Together" is widely sung in churches during Thanksgiving services, and throughout the Thanksgiving season.

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

New Display in the History Room – Living Waters for the World

Visit the History Room to explore information and photos about our church's involvement with the Shalom Foundation and Living Waters for the World. Several church members traveled to Guatemala between 2009 and 2013 to participate in this outreach, while another group worked on a Living Waters project closer to home in Rose Hill, Tennessee, in 2013. The display includes trip information and photos, along with a progress update for 2026. If you participated in these projects, come reminisce and learn more about the impact of your work. Others can discover how a small group from First Pres made a meaningful difference in both Guatemala and Rose Hill. Special thanks to Nic Clemmer, Bill McClure, and John Porter for their help with this project!

Chancel Flowers for 2027

January 24
January 31
February 28
March 7
March 14
April 11
April 25
May 16
May 23
May 30
June 6
June 20
August 1
September 5
September 12
September 19
October 3
October 31
November 14

Call Vickie in the church office (423-245-0104) to schedule a date.

Been Looking for These?

If you have been missing these items, you can pick them up any time. They are on the credenza in the breezeway hall.



Trick or Treat 2026







