What place will Thanksgiving have this year?

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. After all, they lose a whole week of sales this year. Trees and tinsel have popped up everywhere.

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

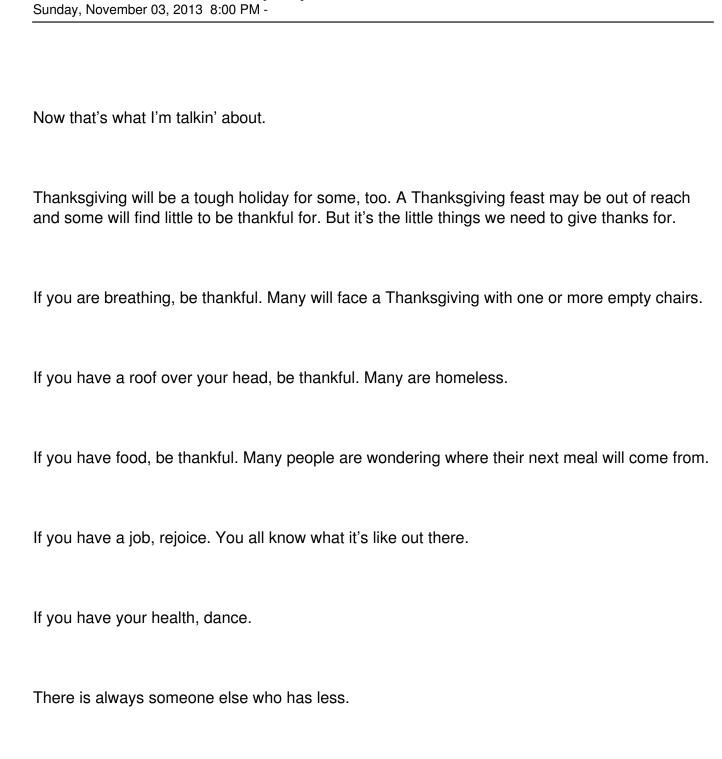
This year is a little more special than most. My husband's sister and her family will be here. I haven't seen them in almost three years and it's about time.

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 sisters-in-law, mother-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.



Counting all those little blessings add up to something big!