FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florence sets one table for Thanksgiving, and the whole city is invited to give thanks together

Fourth annual One Table Florence, a free dinner built on gratitude and community, returns to Timrod Park on Nov. 26. Organizers are preparing for 1,500 neighbors.

FLORENCE, S.C. (Nov. 16, 2026). On Thanksgiving Day, Timrod Park becomes Florence's dining room. One Table Florence returns for its fourth year on Thursday, Nov. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., inviting the whole city to sit down at long shared tables behind the Lawton-Chase House, share a free Thanksgiving dinner and give thanks together. There are no tickets, no reservations and no cost.

The idea behind it is simple: gratitude is better shared, and no one in Florence should spend Thanksgiving alone. Every year neighbors from across the city come to the table to connect with old friends, meet new ones and enjoy a beautiful day in the park.

"Thanksgiving is the time of year when we focus on gratitude for the blessings of the year," said Jody Ransom, who founded One Table Florence with her husband, Bryan. "We wanted a place where we could all come and give thanks together. There is room for you at the table."

The table has grown quickly. About 600 people came to the first One Table Florence in 2023. About 1,200 came last year, and organizers are preparing for 1,500 neighbors this Thanksgiving.

"It's more than giving back to the community. It is building solid bonds of friendship through gratitude," Ransom said. "Whether you would otherwise be home alone for the holiday or you are bringing three generations of your family, you are welcome at the table."

The dinner is assembled by the community. One Table Florence provides the turkey, dressing and gravy, with the turkeys smoked by Bo Myers of Junebugs Care. Everything else comes from home kitchens across the city: more than 150 casseroles and sides and about 1,200 desserts, delivered to the park that morning. More than 200 volunteers cook, set the tables, serve the plates and then sit down to eat. Every cook and volunteer spot for this year is already filled. There is live music throughout, and a few short moments of thanks along the way.

Nothing is wasted. Unserved food goes to My Brother's Keeper, a One Table Florence partner, which sends it back out to neighbors in need across the community.

Signs of the event are already up around town. Businesses, civic organizations and churches that partner with One Table Florence have placed yard signs reading "IS AT THE TABLE" under their names, and 105 partner signs have gone up so far, a measure of how much of the community it takes to set this table. In the park itself there are no logos and no banners. The day stays focused on the meal and on gratitude.

The dinner ends at 1 p.m., early enough for families who cook at home to do both.

IF YOU GO

What: One Table Florence, a free community Thanksgiving dinner

When: Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Timrod Park, 558 Spruce St., Florence, behind the Lawton-Chase House

Parking: First Presbyterian Church, 700 Park Ave., a short walk from the tables

Cost: Free. No tickets, no reservations.

More: onetableflorence.com

MEDIA CONTACT

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Photos: high-resolution event photos are available on request. Credit: Photo: McKenzie Bell.

ABOUT ONE TABLE FLORENCE

One Table Florence is a free, community-wide Thanksgiving dinner held every Thanksgiving Day at Timrod Park in Florence, South Carolina. Founded in 2023, it exists to combat loneliness, build connections across the community, and grow a culture of volunteerism, bringing neighbors of every age and background to one table to share a meal and give thanks. The event runs on three roles: Cook, Serve, and Attend. Hundreds of volunteers prepare and serve the food; local businesses, churches, and civic organizations provide the support. There are no tickets, no reservations, and no barriers. Everyone in Florence has a seat. One Community at One Table.

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