The eleventh month in our calendar sweeps in bearing the aroma of wood fires, the musky bouquet of fallen leaves and the earthy scent of pumpkins and squash. It is the harbinger of winter that usually brings the year’s first snowfall.

Two US Presidents were born in November: James Polk, November 2, and Zachary Taylor, November 24. Topaz and citrine are the November birth-stones and the chrysanthemum is the flower of the month.

November is Native American Heritage Month. Two special celebrations are held in November: Veterans’ Day, November 11, and Thanksgiving Day, November 26.

The day following Thanksgiving is called “Black Friday,” when many people begin their Christmas shopping.

Federal elections are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of the month (between Nov. 2 and Nov. 8). In even-numbered years, members of the U.S. House of Representatives are elected for two-year terms, and almost a third of the U. S. Senate is elected for six-year terms. Our President is elected in even-numbered years, and most state and municipal elections occur then, as well.

In a letter dated November 13, 1861, The Reverend M. R. Wilkinson, petitioned the U. S. Treasury Department to add a statement “recognizing Almighty God in some form in our coins.” Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase acted in favor of the proposal, and “In God We Trust” first appeared on U. S. coinage in 1864, replacing “E Pluribus Unum” (“Out of Many, One”).

“In God we Trust” has been printed on our paper money since 1957 when the 84th Congress, with the approval of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, declared in a Joint Resolution, that the motto must appear on all U. S. currency.
Would you like to join a team of space observers on November 13 to watch a piece of space junk fall into the Indian Ocean? On its website, Scientific American states that the discovery of this event is “sheer coincidence.” It seems that the object is something that was overlooked until recently. Named WT1190F, it is one of the few objects of space debris orbiting far beyond the moon and whose return to earth can be accurately predicted.

An independent astronomy software developer, Bill Gray, claims that WT1190F will hit the ocean at 6:20 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) about 65 kilometers off the southern tip of Sri Lanka. Gray says that much, if not all of it, will burn up in the atmosphere, but adds, “I would not necessarily want to be going fishing directly underneath it.”