

Hello November!

Dear November,

I will not forget you. Even though the stores have moved onto Christmas I refuse to ignore your importance in the calendar year.

My blog post today will focus on this wonderful month. To me, it's the quiet time before the holiday rush ~~I'm a traditionalist about starting the Christmas holiday the DAY AFTER Thanksgiving. Please take time this month to enjoy the change of season and the calm this month offers.

My sister and her husband took this photo in New Hampshire~~such gorgeous colors!



I have been so swamped with opposing a local zoning issue, I have had little time to do much else. When stress levels rise, I tend to bake. Being in the kitchen comforts me.

During our last trip to see our son in Virginia, I purchased several varieties of apples from [Carter Mountain Orchard](#) and stuffed them in my roller bag.



My first baking adventure was an apple pie. Pinterest has featured so many innovative pie crusts that I thought I would attempt this. I used my go-to pie crust recipe which you can find [here](#).



What I learned: Layering the leaf cut-outs was fun, however, the top "crust" was too thick. If I were to do this again, I would make sure my leaves were rolled very thin. However, it was still delicious and so pretty when I took it out of the oven.



With more apples in the refrigerator, I thought it might be fun to use my Pocket Pie mold from William Sonoma, which has been sitting unused for years. I made the crust recipe on the back of the box which includes quite a bit of butter.



The hinged plastic mold cuts (with some level of difficulty) both sides of the pocket pie pastry.



You can add whatever filling you want as the recipe suggests canned pie filling. However, since I had fresh apples, I made my own. Initially the apple pieces were too big and needed to be cut down.



Add a few tablespoons of filling, egg wash the edges, add the matching top and crimp.





In retrospect, these pies were a bit of a pain in the neck to make. The dough is much easier to use while it is cold. Once it warmed up, it stuck to the mold and the pockets were hard to handle. [William Sonoma](#) doesn't offer this mold any longer, however they have other types. After making a couple of dozen I would have gotten better, but I quit after making 8.

Please enjoy this month. We still have Thanksgiving to look forward to where we will share our gratitude with family and friends.



Mary