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Joann Butler of Bernardsville makes some Thanksgiving place cards out of clementines with her son Cameron. This will be the first Thanksgiving in 49 years that she won't be with her mother.

Joann Butler is reluctantly accepting that this will be the first Thanksgiving in 49 years without her mother. No hugs, no video chats.

"We're all Zoomed out," says Butler, 50, who lives in Bernardsville and works in video production. But she is looking forward to a care package of her mother's famous stuffing and turnips.

The family usually gathers at a table of at least 22 at her sister's house (she's the youngest of five). With the celebration broken up, Butler's mother isn't comfortable choosing between houses, so she's staying home. Butler, her husband and two kids will host her mother-in-law and a cousin. She's excited about cooking her first turkey (and plans to deep-fry it outside).

"Necessity is the mother of new tradition," Butler says.