



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### GREETINGS

It seems like a long time since the last OFM – and yet a very short time. The holiday season was very full with the usual holiday stresses.

I adopted a second dog over the holidays. Kate is a mischievous joy who keeps me amused most of the time. She's been a wonderful companion for my other dog, Misha; although I cannot, yet, convince her not to chase the cat.

I spent the coming in of the western New Year watching a series of classic films. I fell asleep during the fourth or fifth, I believe. It was a quiet beginning to the year. I hope the year continues so quietly.

—Catherine

---

### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Thanks and a Tip of the Hat to the many people who worked to make late November's Multiple Drawing Down a success! Our vessels, the priests and priestesses who housed Deity for audiences, were: Havenwood, Greyhart, Judith Brownlee, and Alia. Catherine, Morgan, and Jo coordinated the main ritual room, where people waited for their visits. Each of the vessels had at least two other people working for them, one as a battery and one as a walker; while we do not have everyone's name, we do appreciate your efforts as well.

For those of you who did visit with one or more Gods and Goddesses, should you see the person who was hosting that deity and wish to, please do let them know how the visit went. Most of the time, the person providing the body is not aware of what is going on, or only vaguely aware, and they do like to hear the outcomes of their trance work when possible.

---

### JANUARY 29 OPEN FULL MOON

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon in the upstairs chapel at the First Unitarian Church at 14th

and Lafayette in Denver. The church doors open at 7, and we like to start at 7:30. (We are NOT big proponents of Pagan Standard Time, but if there is weather related driving trouble or a problem on the freeway, we've been known to wait a bit longer.) This month's ritual is FRIDAY, January 29, 2010.

Remember, please, that Hearthstone doesn't expect everyone to enter in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, as there are people you don't know there, but to enter with a willing heart and an open mind, and leave your differences at the door.

Some traditions are more controversial than others, or may contain a component that disturbs someone attending an Open Full Moon. It is one of the risks of exploring different traditions. Should anyone be uncomfortable, unsettled, or upset about any ritual presented by Hearthstone, please contact Alia or Catherine to discuss -- and hopefully resolve and heal -- the issue.

—Alia

For the January 29<sup>th</sup> OFM, please join Brook and members of our Reclaiming community as we explore the dynamic tension of the Feri Divine Twins. In this ritual, we will move through the heart of our own personal paradox. The push and pull of the Twins in each of us will fuel our journey.

This will be an intense ritual which will include a trance meditation, movement, singing, and dancing. All ages are welcome.

—Catherine

---

### ON DONATIONS

Many of our local Pagan organizations run on a shoestring. Your donations do make a difference, and the cost of a movie ticket to one of these organizations from several of their patrons can make the difference between failing and thriving. (Not to mention making the organizers excited and happy that their efforts are of value to you.) If you'd prefer not to donate to Hearthstone, I encourage you to donate something to the organization of your

choice. Your donations can make the difference between an organization thriving and folding.

We appreciate that many of you donate to the church. **We ask that you please give what you can to support the work and service of the church to the community. The more you can spare, the longer we will be around, and the more we can help those who need it. We will keep Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. running as long as possible, and we need your support to continue to serve the community.**

We aren't going to start collecting at the door, and no one will be turned away for not having a donation. However, we would like to suggest a donation of 5 to 10 dollars per person. (The extra is to cover the pagans that are unable to donate.) If you can't afford it, you are still welcome – if you can afford more, we'd be delighted to accept it.

**NOTE:** Hearthstone is a church and your donations to Hearthstone are **tax deductible**. If you would like to write a check so you can keep track of your donations, we can certainly handle that as well.

---

## **THE USE OF POSITIVE STATEMENTS IN RITUAL**

Years ago, I read a book about positive affirmations. The author, Shad Helmstetter, Ph. D., said that the average person growing up heard the word “No” or other negative statements 148,000 times by the time that they were eighteen. Furthermore, Helmstetter said that research revealed that seventy-five percent of our thoughts were negative, and that seventy-five percent of our health issues are self-induced.

Studying the field of positive affirmations and self-help literature, Helmstetter came to the conclusion that the reason most self-help and motivational programs are ineffective is simply that they do not stand a chance against the static that our childhood programming and our own internal self-talk creates. This conclusion has disturbed me for years, simply because I think that he might be right.

So what can we do about it? How can we overcome the massive weight of negativity that our brains float in?

One of the methods that we can use is the use of positive statements during ritual. One of the initiated secrets is that statements proclaimed during a ritual carry more weight than a statement uttered during ordinary conditions. The reason for the additional weight is the emotional charge that a properly conducted ritual impacts upon the statement.

Let me be clear. When I speak of a properly conducted ritual, I am not talking about a ritual where every word and gesture was letter perfect. A ritual can be letter perfect and still be a complete dud. If we are to effectively use positive statements in ritual, we must be emotionally stirred. Without the weight of emotional excitement, a statement said during ritual will not have a chance against the sea of negativity that we bathe in on a daily basis.

Now, I will admit that an initiate does have an advantage over a non-initiate. The initiation ritual(s) when properly conducted awakens an emotional response in the initiate. This emotional response can be reawakened by the use of the same symbols and words that were used in the initiation ritual itself.

This does not mean that non-initiates cannot be affected by ritual, or rituals that are not based on an initiation ritual are useless. The advantage that an initiate has is that they have a programmed response, a response that grows stronger the more times that the rituals are used. Non-initiates can get to the same place; they just have to figure out their own path for themselves.

Good leaders and actors in a ritual will use anything that helps create an emotional response in those taking part or observing their rituals. Audience participation, music, dancing are all ways to heighten the emotional response and the weight of positive statements proclaimed in ritual.

### **Morgan Drake Eckstein**

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery

traditions on his blog at:  
<http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

## EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple rituals are held at Ye Old Firehouse, 3232 Depew Street, Wheat Ridge. With a few exceptions, all of our rituals will be held at this location. Also with a few exceptions, all dates are Saturdays, with community announcements starting at 7:30 pm, and ritual starting when announcements conclude. Here are the remaining dates of ET's 2009 schedule with the exceptions and locations listed.

### Earth Temple 2010 dates

Event	ET Date SATURDAY
New Moon	Jan 16
Imbolc	Jan 30
New Moon	Feb 13
New Moon	Mar 13
Ostara	Mar 20
New Moon	Apr 17
Beltaine	May 1
New Moon	May 15
New Moon	Jun 12
Midsummer	Jun 19
Lammas/NM	July 31
New Moon	Sep 11
Mabon	Sep 25
New Moon	Oct 9
Samhain/NM	Nov 6
Yule	Dec 18

## WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. Southwynde's is 303-698-1066. Catherine's is 303-534-5264. If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, for Pagan or Wiccan clergy, or for any other Hearthstone business, please contact either Alia or Catherine.

Hearthstone Community Church has a website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>.

Alia's e-mail address is [alia@fnorky.com](mailto:alia@fnorky.com); Southwynde's is [Southwynde@yahoo.com](mailto:Southwynde@yahoo.com); (it is not frequently checked). Catherine's e-mail address is [catherine@fnorky.com](mailto:catherine@fnorky.com)

## GUEST COLUMNS?

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Alia or Catherine edit it slightly, (generally for grammar – Alia has the soul of an English teacher and Catherine wants to be one) please feel free to submit your writing to [catherine@fnorky.com](mailto:catherine@fnorky.com). Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices.

This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny

## STANDARD DISCLAIMER and COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

*Please note that information and opinions contained in the articles in this newsletter are the responsibility of the authors only. No endorsement by Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. is implied.*

*All writings are copyright to their respective authors. Please obtain permission before reprinting anything here with the exception of the Open Full Moon Dates. Those may be copied and transmitted as needed.*

### 2010 Open Full Moon Dates

**January 29, 2010**  
**February 26, 2010**  
**March 26, 2010**  
**April 23, 2010**  
**May 21, 2010**  
**June 25, 2010**  
**July 23, 2010**  
**August 20, 2010**  
**September 17, 2010**  
**October 22, 2010**  
**November 19, 2010**  
**December 17, 2010**

This space intentionally left void of content.

***Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.***  
***3071 S. Dexter Way***  
***Denver, CO 80222***  
**POSTMASTER: Address Correction Requested**