



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JANUARY 6 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. This month's ritual is FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012.

Welcome to the first Open Full Moon of the calendar year! We have made it through the darkest night and light is slowly returning. Join Alia in a participatory ritual to celebrate. If you have suggestions for a part of the ritual, come prepared to share them as Alia recruits members of the circle to assist in presenting a celebration of the Full Moon and the return of the light.

--Alia

GREETINGS

The light has returned! Mornings are already brighter, although it still gets dark too early to suit me.

It's also a new year – according to one calendar. I love the idea of a new year: we can let go of old things that do not help and welcome in new things that may. According to the most commonly used calendar, that time occurs on January 1st. Of course, according to the Wiccan calendar, the year begins (as much as a wheel can begin) on November 1st. And you could say that for each person, the year begins on their birthday. So many chances to let go of the old and welcome in the new! I welcome each chance to renew my life.

Happy New Year!

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone's December Open Full Moon offered participants the experience of speaking with the Goddess via the technique of Drawing Down. Our gratitude to Priestesses Cerridwen and Alia for offering themselves in Her service this way, and opening this opportunity to all the Hearthstone community. We also thank Catherine for leading the Circle, and thank those who assisted the priestesses.

Blessings to All as we enter the new year.

—Arynn

HEARTHSTONE RITUALS

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

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



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.



"The Full Moon Folk"

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.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Welcome to a brand new year; welcome to an election year. Actually, every year in the United States is an election year; it is just that some years are more interesting, more frustrating, more significant than other years. This promises to be one of those years. It might be the American form of the ancient Chinese curse.

One of the things I learned talking to pagans over the years is that a large number of them feel that it is a complete waste of their time to vote. One of my dear friends argues against this position using instances where a single vote determined the election. Personally, it is not the argument that I prefer to present. I am just not good at remembering that dates and issues of previous elections.

The most important reason I can think of for getting involved in the messiness of voting is that a lot of politicians do not think that our concerns matter; yet we have to live with the decisions that politicians make all the time. As a pagan, you should not feel all alone; at the moment, politicians are ignoring the concerns of a lot of people. In fact, the non-voter can reasonably make the assumption that one is being completely ignored by politicians---after all, if you don't vote, you can't affect the outcome of the election. Therefore, they are free to pursue a course that appeals to their voter base while ignoring those of us who will be terribly inconvenienced if they succeed.

I won't go into the things that politicians are pursuing. After all, the things that inconvenience me may not be the things that inconvenience you. One of the CCD professors likes to remind his students that all politics are local. For instance, I tend to vote in favor of property taxes supporting the school system because my wife is a school teacher---it is a personal concern, and I completely understand why someone without kids will vote against such tax measures. Obviously, "local" means "personal concerns." Yet while I do not want to tell you how to vote, I do want to see you vote in this year's election.

I have a fantasy that one day pagans will be actually listened to by politicians. For this fantasy to come true, enough of us have to vote that politicians sit up and take notice. Given the fact that there are so few of us, in order to hit a critical mass, most of us would have to be active voters.



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.



"The Full Moon Folk"

Independent voters, outside the mainstreams of the political parties regularly determine the outcome of elections. Why should pagans not join the ranks of those who determine the political course of this country?

And the first step towards voting in the upcoming election is being registered to vote. One of the things that I have learned, as a writer who occasionally dabbles in political writing, is how quickly the deadline for voter registration sneaks up. On a couple of occasions, I have thought about writing an article about registering to vote, only to look at the calendar and realize that registration deadline was actually before the publication issue date.

Therefore, I encourage you to think about voting this year. And if you are not registered to vote, I encourage you to register the very first time that you come across someone manning a table trying to get people to register to vote. Do not put it off. Register to vote as soon as you can.

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 celebrates New Moons and Sabbats. With the exceptions noted below, our rituals are held at our NEW location: Full Moon Books and Event Center, 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. We start announcements at 7:30, and then start ritual when announcements end. Our dates are all Saturdays. Hope you can join us!

Event	ET date
New Moon/Imbolc	Jan 28
New Moon	Feb 25
New Moon/Ostara	Mar 17
New Moon	Apr 21
Beltaine	May 5**Location TBA
New Moon	May 19
New Moon/Litha	Jun 16
New Moon	Jul 21
Lughnasagh	Aug 4
New Moon	Aug 18
New Moon	Sep 15
Mabon	Sep 22
New Moon	Oct 13
Samhain	Nov 3**Location TBA
New Moon	Nov 17
New Moon/Yule	Dec 15

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. 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>.



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.



"The Full Moon Folk"

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

2011 Open Full Moon Dates

January 6
February 3
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
June 29
July 27
August 31
September 28
October 26
November 23
December 28