



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **JUNE 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. This month's ritual is FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012.

The late June OFM will be led by Morgan Drake Eckstein (BIORC). The ritual will combine techniques from Golden Dawn and Wicca, and will focus on remembering the dead, both human and animal familiar, who have recently passed from our community.

--Catherine

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### **GREETINGS**

I hope everyone had a happy Litha. It seems we're already getting July weather – hot and hotter. Colorado has broken several temperature records already. It seems we are burning up – both because of the temperatures and literally: wildfires have developed all over the state. I have family in Fort Collins and friends in Colorado Springs, which adds to my concern.

Meanwhile, I must spend a good deal of this hot, sunny weather indoors working on my thesis. I'm probably learning more than I ever thought I would about my thesis topic. I'm also growing from this learning.

Litha is the time that we experience our maximum growth. I'm growing intellectually and, I hope, we're all learning about our warming climate. Stay cool folks.

---Catherine

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### **THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT**

Thank you to Paulie Rainbow and the Celtic Women's Circle for their lovely early June ritual. We celebrated the flowering of hawthorn tree with a wonderful ritual in the Celtic tradition, welcoming the Summer with meditation and song. What an inspiring way to begin the Summer!

—Catherine

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### **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

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### **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



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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.

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### WICCAN BASICS CLASS

Sacred Stone Circle <http://sacredstonecircle.org/> is once again providing Wicca Basics classes! For those interested, please go to the website and fill out the New Student form at: [http://sacredstonecircle.org/?page\\_id=1063](http://sacredstonecircle.org/?page_id=1063). We will contact you with the particulars. Check out our other offerings as well. There is lots of information on the site.

Stay tuned for exciting news from Sacred Stone Circle in next month's Hearthstone Newsletter!

In service to the Goddess and God,  
---*Sage and HavenWood*  
*High Priestess and High Priest of Sacred Stone Circle*

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### MODERN PAGAN TV

"Denver is host to Modern Pagan TV, a weekly, live interactive webcast on Tuesday nights at 7PM, MST. Modern Pagan TV covers a great variety of topics including different Pagan religions, different Pagan holiday celebrations, Pagan parenting, authors and books, ritual tools, drum making, metaphysics, Pagan cooking and crafts, mini music concerts, Pagan sexuality and more! Go to the MPTV website at [www.modernpagan.tv](http://www.modernpagan.tv) for more information, to view archived programs, or to watch the program live -- you'll find links to YouTube and several other streaming sites.

"You may contact MPTV with comments, or if you wish to appear on the program, at [info@modernpagan.tv](mailto:info@modernpagan.tv)."

---*Jackie*

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### WHO PROMISED YOU A SAFE WICCA?

Earlier this year, my attention was drawn to an online conversation started by someone who was upset that there was a skull on the cover of a popular book. The person felt that a skull misrepresented the form of Wicca that she was practicing. The most interesting response was by a



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dear friend of mine, who pointed out that she was not promised a safe Wicca. I had to agree. I was not promised a safe Wicca. Nor was I promised a safe Golden Dawn, or any safety in any of the other esoteric traditions that I have studied over the years.

Since this event, the phrase "I wasn't promised a safe Wicca" has become a watchword among the group of students that I hang out with. It gets used whenever someone points out a symbol or technique that could create havoc in one personal universe. Take for instance, the Tarot. To make it a safe Tarot, one would have to remove the Fool, the Wheel of Fortune, the Hanged Man, the Wheel of Fortune, Death, the Blasted Tower, the Moon, and Last Judgment from the Major Arcana at the very least. In fact, one would need to scrap the entire Major Arcana, and most of the Minor Arcana if one desired to make the Tarot perfectly safe. Of course, making the Tarot perfectly safe would also make it utterly useless.

We were not promised a safe Wicca. Or a safe Tarot. Or a safe anything. No one can promise you a safe esoteric system—not if it is going to accomplish anything.

For many people, comfort is safety. And the thing that makes most people uncomfortable is change. In the Tarot, change is represented by the Death card. Even someone who realizes that the Death card seldom has anything to do with physical death will shy away from that card. The Death card signifies that change is coming to your universe, whether you want it or not. People say that they want changes in their lives, but often they will fight change because change is uncomfortable.

One of the hallmarks that I use to judge the merit of a religion or spiritual system is how it copes with the unpleasant things. Does it teach and help you to deal with the discomfort that change throws at you? Or does it ignore the unpleasant? In the case of the person who objected to a skull on a Wiccan book cover, I am betting that their version of Wicca does not address the unpleasant. It would not be a system that I would like to be in when the discomfort hits the fan.

A lesson I was taught was to look at the symbols that you find uncomfortable. Odds are that if some symbol, such as a skull, causes you discomfort, you need to work with the energies that empower that symbol. In the case of a skull, it is a reminder that conditions change. The biggest change that can happen to someone is physically dying, but there are all sorts of events that can occur that will result in the death of the universe as one knows it. Change is unpleasant, but it is part of life and death. And as such, one needs to be carefully about removing it from one's religion and spiritual practices.

### **Morgan Drake Eckstein**

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: <http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

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## **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**



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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

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### 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>.

Alia's e-mail address is [alia@fnorky.com](mailto:alia@fnorky.com); Catherine's e-mail address is [catherine@fnorky.com](mailto:catherine@fnorky.com)

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### 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

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#### 2012 Open Full Moon Dates

June 29

July 27

August 31

September 28

October 26

November 23



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*"The Full Moon Folk"*



December 28