



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



FEBRUARY 22 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, FEBRUARY 22, 2013.

For the February Open Full Moon, Alia had a scheduling mix-up, so she invites you to join her for a Wing It ritual planning for the upcoming growing season. Come with your plans for the spring and summer, and we'll create metaphorical seeds to plant, as well as charging seeds for planting. If you have a brief ritual idea related to growing or nurturing plants or ideas, please bring that with you and we will find a place in the ritual for your contribution.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

I hope your Imbolc was lovely. We're already half-way to Ostara! The daylight lasts longer, although the weather seems just as cold. We still expect a drought though. It could snow every day until May and we'd still have a drought this year. I know I sound like I'm harping on this, but every cold day without snow reminds me of this.

Meanwhile, I'm also looking forward to the promise of Ostara. In my mind, spring begins at Imbolc and ends at Beltaine – which is when Summer starts. Ostara is the middle of this cycle; when we can really tell that the year has been reborn in its glorious youth.

On these cold/warm days without snow, remember that the year has been reborn. The cycle of the year continues drought or no drought.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone offers our gratitude to Damien and Kindra, who led our January OFM in celebration of the Wolf Moon. In this time of winter's darkness, the intent of the ritual's guided meditation was to journey to the center of our minds, cast aside the baggage that keeps us from reaching our spiritual potential, and prepare ourselves to bloom in the spring. In meditation we entered a snowy forest at night and were befriended by a white wolf who led each of us on a journey past regret and fear, moving us forward to success. We were invited to become one with the wolf, and channel the magick of the ritual into a clear marble that we each received to keep. We chanted "Strength through darkness, Strength through light; Inner fire burning bright!"

Thank you, Damien and Kindra, for leading our Hearthstone community on this magickal journey of inner cleansing and strengthening.

Special appreciation for these two -- who I believe are in their early twenties -- for their willingness to give of themselves in service to our community and in service to the God and Goddess. Bless you!

Warm blessings to all members of our Hearthstone community as Winter melts into Spring!

---Arynn



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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

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.

NO MOCKING YOUR RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL SUPERIORS

Over the last six months, I have found myself increasingly disturbed by a trend. I first noticed it in politics. Suddenly it became wrong to mock, make fun of, and criticize politicians, especially those who wrapped themselves up in the Bible and were running on the "Moral Superiority" platform. Suddenly one could not post anything political on Facebook without wondering how many friends such an act was going to cost you.

I thought that this trend was over until a few days ago. For the one person who has been living under a rock, or reading this column six months from now, the current Pope has resigned from his



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office. The resignation of the Pope created a spike of bad Catholic jokes on Facebook. And just like late last year, people were defriending others because they had the guts to pass on a joke, or criticism of the Catholic Church.

For me, this is slightly confusing. After all, my father, an ex-Catholic (or was he merely lapsed), used to tell jokes about the Catholic Church. My father used to say that the Pope was either the most enlightened man on the planet or the most corrupt. I never asked him which one he thought the Pope was, but I have a good idea where his bet was placed.

Now, some of my readers might say that it does not matter. After all, I am not Catholic. Sorry, whoever the Church decides to make Pope will affect us all; the Catholic Church is still the biggest Christian denomination in the world. And I am more concerned about the larger trend, for I have also encountered it in esoteric and pagan circles — thou shalt not make jokes about your religious and spiritual superiors; nor shall you call their judgment into question. Even if they are witches.

To say the least, such an idea worries me — if only because I am a clown on the best of days, a fool on the worst. And not only do I make jokes about my religious and spiritual superiors, I also double-guess their decision making ability twice a week. Sometimes thrice a week. There are some people who lately seem to consider such acts a burning offense.

The problem with removing clergy, Adepts, and politicians from the realm of humor and criticism is that, despite their rhetoric to the contrary, they are still human. And human beings make mistakes. It is not that human beings are naturally evil; it is just that we tend to be selfish and unable to think further than ten minutes into the future. There is also the little fact that humans may not actually like having to think for themselves — which is probably why the human race invented priests, priestesses, magicians, and politicians in the first place...or at least allowed them to continue to exist after they invented themselves.

If we lose the ability to mock, ridicule, heckle, and generally complain about those who are leading the human herd, we will lose one of the fundamental characteristics that make us human. History is full of letters complaining about the ill-conceived decisions that church and state has made. Some of our greatest freedoms came about when enough people have decided that enough was enough, and communicated this idea to other people. History also records what happens when we lose the freedom to talk nasty about our superiors.

Now, some of my readers may wonder how I would like to be heckled and mocked. As I told someone on Facebook, I am such a big clown; I am not sure that anyone would notice. But then again, I occasionally skip hand in hand with one of the trickster gods; being part court jester is part of my charms, however small they are. Besides, I am not sure that I will hear your shouts; after all, I am too busy mocking other people...or sharing funny cat pictures, which is the entire point of Facebook anyways.

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 meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. All of our dates are Saturday evenings. Please arrive at the store before 7:30 pm, since the store closes and the doors lock right at 7:30. Please check out our Witchvox page for more info about us: http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?pa=usco&id=35084. Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!

| Event | ET date |
|---------------|---------|
| NM/Ostara | Mar 16 |
| Beltaine | Apr 27 |
| New Moon | May 11 |
| NM/Litha | Jun 15 |
| New Moon | Jul 6 |
| NM/Lughnasagh | Aug 3 |
| Mabon | Sep 14 |
| New Moon | Oct 5 |
| NM/Samhain | Nov 2 |
| Yule | Dec 14 |

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; 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

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2013 Open Full Moon Dates

February 22

March 22

April 19

May 24

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 13

October 18

November 15

December 13