



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

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 10, 2017.

Amy will be officiating at the February ritual. We will be working with the energies of the full moon as they relate to inspirations found at Imbolc.

—Catherine

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### **GREETINGS**

It's Imbolc and I can tell that the days are becoming longer – and warmer (at least some of the time). I have good reasons to notice such things.

January was a difficult month for me because the day after the last OFM, I managed to trash the clutch in my car, so I've spent the month using shared transportation – whether public or otherwise.

My limitations on transportation have resulted in an interesting phenomenon: Even using ride share services, in addition to RTD, I'm saving some money. It seems that not being able to do impulse shopping forces me to save. I must plan my trips to the grocery store and skip those trips that are really not necessary. I can enjoy the warm days walking to the train or to light rail. And it's funny how not having access to personal transportation keeps me from hitting the fast food places.

Of course, I did manage to get some Girl Scout cookies. I'm just eating a few at a time so I can enjoy them as long as possible.

I hope each of you had a wonderful Imbolc!

—Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

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

Hearthstone tips our hat to Vella Rose for leading our early January Open Full Moon ritual in celebration of the New Year's blessings and new beginnings. After cleansing, casting, and calling,

Vella Rose gave each participant a small vial of saltwater, and led us in self-blessing from 3rd Eye to toes! We chanted "When I breathe in, I breathe in peace. When I breathe out, I breathe out love." This chant brought all our hearts into a beautiful shared feeling of accord with one another. We each then received a beautiful calcite crystal. Vella guided us in charging our crystals with the energy of connectedness to each other and to the Earth. The accompanying chant began "Every part of the Earth is sacred to my people". We were invited to take our crystals home to symbolize our sacred connection to one another and to the Earth.

Thank you, Vella Rose, for sharing your gentle, song-filled spirituality with our Hearthstone community! May the New Year indeed bless each of us, just as we seek to bring blessings and peace to our world.

*Arynn*

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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 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.

*-Alia*

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## ORPHEUS PAGAN CHAMBER CHOIR



### "It's Elemental!"

A concert for the entire family!

Join Orpheus for a special one-hour celebration of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water for the whole family, with elemental dragons, story-telling, and exciting tunes from our upcoming concert, "It's Elemental!" on May 13th.

Thanks to the SCFD, we can happily offer family-friendly tickets:

Adults: \$10 and Children are free!

\*All adults must be accompanied by a child

Buy your tickets here: [www.orpheuspcc.org](http://www.orpheuspcc.org)

It's Elemental! A Family Concert

Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 11:00 AM

Wash Park Center for Music & Art

400 S. Williams St (at Dakota Ave.) in Denver

To reserve seats for your family, go to [www.orpheuspcc.org](http://www.orpheuspcc.org)

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## BELTANIA

[Beltania 2017](#): May 18-21, 2017, Our 10th Anniversary Beltane Festival

It's 4 days of music, magic, spiritual connection, camping, and community. [Special guests include Amber K and Azrael K](#), spiritual teachers who are well known throughout the Earth religions community. We have [musical performances](#) from Celtic singer Celia Farran, the lovely Ariana Saraha, and local performers like Michael Heartsong and Joyous Pool, Kaedrich Olsen, and many more. Concert performances are outside once again, near our [Merchant's Row](#)! We invite you to participate by [joining the staff](#), becoming a [merchant](#), or [presenting a workshop, class, or ritual](#).

Come weave the ribbons around the maypole, dance and drum around the fire, lift your heart in song and ceremony, learn and grow at dozens of workshops and classes, shop at Merchant's Row, hang out in the adults-only Wild Woods or join your kids at our greatly expanded children's activities. Visit the Rainbow Welcome Center that celebrates our diversity, visit the HearthFire Sanctuary or Ancestors Shrine. Walk the labyrinth with us, enjoy soaring views of Pike's Peak amongst the towering pine trees, and commune with centuries-old Native American prayer trees and medicine trees. All of these are explored on our [Spaces and Traditions](#) page.

We have yurts, cabins, RV parking, and tent camping for those who get 2, 3, and 4-day admission tickets and single day tickets for Friday or Saturday are also available. Get [info on](#)

[admission and lodging](#). Tickets are available now for Beltania. Prices go up on Feb 1, March 22, and May 1 so early registration has the best prices.

Beltania is unique in that we are especially supportive of our diversity. Those who are differently abled will find many ADA accommodations, from the comfortable heated cabins and powered yurts to the many indoor cabin facilities to the free shuttle all around the grounds. We have an [Accessibility Coordinator](#) and ASL sign language interpreter available before and during the festival to provide assistance. Our special [Senior ticket prices](#) we hope will encourage more of our Elders to feel welcomed and valued. Many different spiritual paths are represented at Beltania, and if you don't see our diversity expressed on our [Master Schedule](#) we invite you to offer a workshop or ceremony to help make that happen. The [Rainbow Welcome Center](#) is here to celebrate love and individuality in all its forms, and really bring us together as a community. We offer [rites of passage](#) for both young men and young women. We have greatly expanded [Children's Activities](#) too! ALL ARE WELCOME!

It's May 18-21, 2017 on one hundred of private acreage at [La Foret Conference and Retreat Center](#) located in the Black Forest between Denver and Colorado Springs.

Future Year Special Guest Info: We have Selena Fox returning to Beltania in 2018, and Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone returning in 2019!

[Get Tickets](#) - [Learn More about Beltania](#) - [www.beltania.org](http://www.beltania.org)

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## ON BRIGID

“I am under the shielding of Brigid each day  
I am under the shielding of Brigid each night  
Brigid is my comrade-woman  
Brigid is my maker of song  
Brigid is my helping-woman  
The choicest of women  
My guide.”  
*- From: the Mantle of Brigid - traditional*

With the inspiration of these words, I welcomed Brigid as a patron/matron of my women's circle. I have come to know Her protection, Her lessons, Her complex nature, in my own way, but it was these words that set me on a new path of relating to the Goddess, not as Divine Mother, but as Divine Sister. She stands beside us.

This opened for me a whole new sacred kinship. I found myself in the company of the most excellent guide, a Sister who knew the path ahead better than I could ever perceive it, but One who expected me to take the information that She provided and make my own choices, face my own fates.

My attention became more focused and my spiritual senses were opened in new ways. I became a curious seeker, an adventurer on a spiritual journey, seeking to map out new environments and learn new ecologies of the sacred. I understood myself to be responsible for my own safety and direction, and I understood the value of listening to greater wisdom when making my choices. I put aside many of the metaphysical books that had been my mainstays and sought out books on leaves, on plants, on languages, on raw translations of ancient myths.

The path has been as rewarding as any wilderness trip. I have known surprises and disappointments. I have found myself less well equipped at moments than I had thought I would be, and more skillful than I had given myself credit for.

But on the path of open awareness, of curiosity, and of deep appreciation, I find my heart more fulfilled than it could possibly be on any other. My spiritual path is an adventure and I have, in Brigid, a Sister and a Guide. She has Her shield and Her staff, She has Her forge and Her poetics. She has the finest of skills and much to share in teachings.

I often wish people the Peace of the Mountains, but I know that this peace is best found with a carefully stocked pack and a knowledgeable guide.

Peace of the Mountains to you!

*--Paulie Rainbow*

Founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

Member: Celtic Druid Temple of Ireland

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## **ALL ABOUT THE WHATNOT**

The other day, on Facebook, I saw an interesting question: Do pagan clergy have a duty to speak out and rally their church around issues of civil rights and whatnot?

Even more interesting was the number of people I saw who declared that religion had nothing to do with civil rights and social justice, and that pagan clergy should not be involved in such matters.

I am going to let you digest that for a second. You OK? Perhaps a drink of water? Let us begin...

Look, I realize that some pagans would like to think of ourselves as being better than the other religions. You know the ones that insist that they are all about morals and justice and whatnot...yet are completely OK with people that they don't like getting trampled by whatever outrageous law that is needed to put those filthy dirty sinners in their proper place, living a hell of a life that is just a taste of what is to come for them after they croak and are judged in the afterlife. Yes, we like to think that we are better.

And yes, it would be wonderful if our clergy could be above such matters. It would be so nice not to have to get our hands dirty with the messy, sloppy world outside our circle of light and love. But, and it is a very big but, we live in an unjust world. Nature is not fair – it is cruel. It is not all unicorns and rainbows. In fact, I have not seen too many unicorns, and the rainbows seem to be mirages.

There is this funny thing called evolution. Despite what some might think, evolution is not about moving towards some type of perfection. It is about what traits are needed to survive current conditions and continue our lineage. And unlike creatures that depend on claw and fang to be at the top of the pile, humanity is a thinking social creature. Our strength and ability to survive depends on being smart enough not to poison, stab, shoot, or blow ourselves up, and getting along with other human beings long enough to accomplish the really big jobs.

Unless you cut yourself completely off the grid, move out into the wilderness, and harvest everything you need directly from the wild or from stuff you have cultivated, you are connected to the rest of the human tribe. And today even someone who has isolated themselves completely from civilization is affected by what is happening elsewhere on the planet. Global climate changes, nuclear fallout, and pollution will not pay any attention to you moving away from all the other humans – the big problems are still going to find you. And there is nothing to stop government forces and big

businesses from showing up and deciding that your land and resources look really good for their next project, and gifting you with bully sticks, bullets and blankets to convince you to leave your land in their tender care.

History is full of examples of bad things happening to people, done by bad people, who used religion to justify the bad things that they were doing. And the only way to stop people from believing that religion says it OK to do bad things to other people, if they are not whatever religion says is the perfect human being, is for religious people, including pagan clergy, saying, “No, that is not nice.”

And yes, it can be taken too far. But the world is hardly in danger at the moment of pagan clergy enabling the worst excesses of humanity, big business, and government. Yes, there is a danger, but it is not the pagans.

No, it is your properly elected President and his evangelist supporters; you know, the ones that given half a chance would bar anyone that does not fit in their perfect little box from having any civil liberties at all. You know, the ones that think that you, a pagan, deserve fire and brimstone in the afterlife, as well as hefty criminal penalties for simply continuing to breathe in this life.

For instance, President Donald “Jesus” Trump has promised his evangelist supporters that he is going to do away with the Johnson Amendment. The Johnson Amendment says that any religious organization that directly (or indirectly) gets involved in a campaign to support or oppose a political candidate can lose their tax-exempt status. The law came into being because some non-profit organizations attacked [Lyndon Baines] Johnson by accusing him of being a Communist when he was running for the Senate (this is the same LBJ who later became a President of the United States).

Now, the Johnson Amendment has not been enforced strictly by the IRS, but there have been instances. For instance, in the 1990s, an organization called Americans United for the Separation of the Church and State, a Christian church in New York, took out full-page advertisements that called for Christians not to vote for Bill Clinton. The IRS took away the organization’s tax exempt status, and a federal court upheld the IRS decision. And this is what the evangelist supporters want Trump to make disappear, so that they can raise funds in their mega-churches, donate massive amounts of money to their chosen candidates, and outright tell their membership and viewers exactly what candidates to vote for. Just imagine a world where such things are allowed to happen – OK, they might not burn witches and pagans in the street, but I am sure that a full conversion to “the proper type of human being who knows their proper place under the watchful eyes of their righteous church” will be required if you actually wanted a full set of civil liberties for yourself.

And yes, I see the irony of me talking about this matter, and civil rights, and other outrages that are currently happening. But trust me, if you think that I am a loud mouth, you haven’t been paying attention to those loud mouths who look upon your pagan beliefs and would love to get you outlawed for having them. Remember that the best way to ensure that you keep your civil rights is to ensure that other outsiders continue to have them. Remember, we are all in this together, whether you want to admit to it, or not – so buckle up – the ride is just getting started.

(For the record, I would like to point out that not once during the last Presidential campaign, did I actually endorse a candidate. I expressed outrage; I expressed horror; I painted science fiction dystopic stories; I encouraged people to vote; but not once did I actually come out and say who to vote for. Yes, I predicted the flaming ball of wax that has happened, but not once did I outright tell you not to vote in favor of the Chinese interesting times curse. After all, by electing Trump, ‘Murica has given me four years [eight years...a lifetime] of injustice to rage about. While I am an angry writer, howling at the moon from my little soap box, I am also a lazy writer, so Trump is actually the perfect gift that keeps on giving. Thank you ‘Murica!)

**Morgan Drake Eckstein**

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: [Musings from the pen: The writer blog of Morgan Drake Eckstein](#); [Gleanings from the Dawn: Thoughts about Golden Dawn from one of its members](#) and [Book Reviews by Morgan: My archive for the book reviews that I have done](#)

*Editor's note: As usual, the foregoing column reflects only the views of Morgan and are not necessarily those of Hearthstone or any of its other Board members. Please direct all comments to Morgan.*

**[Morgan's wife, Khari, sells mundane pottery on Etsy at:**  
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/celticsouljewelry> and witchy pottery at:  
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/Khariswiccantreasure>

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## HOW DO WE FIX THE DIVIDE BETWEEN US?

What options does one have when they discover their friend of twenty plus years is racist, bigoted, misogynist, isolationist, and xenophobic? I recently realized a very close friend of mine has radical beliefs. Don't misunderstand me, I knew we had differences of opinions since the beginning of our friendship; I'm very liberal where as she is very conservative. I am also aware that I have biases of my own and try to take note of them and not let it cloud my judgment. I knew she preferred to date those of her own race, and I understood her not wanting to shake the boat if things were working for her; I do that sometimes too. But I cannot do that now. We're all in jeopardy of losing rights. My concern with this friend mirrors the concern I feel about the current divide among us as Americans.

My friend always seemed to be the voice of reason. Until one day, I got slapped with a first-hand view of her closely-guarded belief system. I don't understand how seemingly intelligent people buy into the idea that if they don't see it hurting other people, then they should be able to keep their privilege or oppress others just because they can. As if allowing those of other beliefs into our country would lessen their own beliefs. Or that equal rights and opportunities for everyone will somehow make them less happy and prosperous in their own lives. I'm not sure my friend got that memo and I'm pretty sure that part of the country didn't get it either.

Indoctrination appears to make it reasonable to believe in "alternative facts." Most holy books are filled with it. I believe this is how some people, in which the process has worked too well, can ignore cognitive dissonance. In other words, these folks are used to thinking in contradictions. That seems to make any unsavory decisions about viewing people and treating people less humanely because they're different okay. As if being different or living differently than how they've chosen to live, or worse, differently than some old moldy tome dictates, is all the excuse needed to persecute them.

My issue with this friend isn't that we disagree, it's that she doesn't care to explore other possibilities. This isn't to say that she must think just like me, but she is not open to being tolerant of what she doesn't agree with. Her celebration of the fact that LGBTQ folks may lose rights is nauseating. Defriending her would be the coward's option. Being as obnoxious about my beliefs and having her defriend me may make me feel better in the short term, but it solves nothing. Maybe things were changing too fast for some people to accept, but not fast enough for others. The only thing that is constant is change and we must adapt. In the end, we must keep the dialogue going. Silence will never do.

--AJ Hallows

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## TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S BOOKS



### **Introducing the Turtle Monkey children's book series.**

Turtle Monkey and Mama Monkey are the only green monkeys in the village. Turtle Monkey has lots of gas. She received Fuzztastic, her cat, as a Yule gift. Fuzztastic also has lots of gas—but he's afraid of it! Turtle Monkey spends most of her time outside when she isn't in school. Turtle Monkey's Uncle Red and Aunt Tawny live a ferry's ride away, and her Grandma and Grandpa live at the beach. Aunt Fuchsia and Uncle Titian are honorary family members that live down the street from Turtle Monkey and her mother. Turtle Monkey and her friends Coco Monkey, Cap Monkey, and Squirrel Monkey hide in the forest when Little Ape and his friend, Orangutan, are outside. Little Ape is mean, and Turtle Monkey and her friends avoid him as much as possible. Turtle Monkey is mischievous, this gets her into many awkward situations for which she has to think and talk her way out of. There are certain situations that Turtle Monkey cannot talk her way out of, and the results are hilarious. Her hobbies include hunting fairies, catching her own pets, and meeting new friends. Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter at [www.turtlemonkeybooks.com](http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com)

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## **EARTH TEMPLE**

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood, for New/Dark Moon ritual work. We normally begin our rituals right on the dot at 7:30 PM. Join our Meetup Group for reminders and information about specific rituals: [www.meetup.com/EarthTemple](http://www.meetup.com/EarthTemple).

Ritual dates 2017

February 25  
March 25  
April 29  
May 27  
June 24  
July 22  
August 19  
September 23  
October 21  
November 18  
December 23

--Chris, Dara, and Michelle  
the Earth Temple steering committee

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## WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-521-6620. Catherine's is 303-886-7067. 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 [teal.cuttlefish@gmail.com](mailto:teal.cuttlefish@gmail.com); Catherine's e-mail address is [fionnula.harp@gmail.com](mailto:fionnula.harp@gmail.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 is simply a fanatic) please feel free to submit your writing to [fionnula.harp@gmail.com](mailto:fionnula.harp@gmail.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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### 2017 Open Full Moon Dates

February 10  
March 10  
April 7  
May 5

June 9  
July 7  
August 4  
September 1  
September 29 (for October)  
November 3  
December 1

*The first full moon of 2018 is January 1, but due to the fact that a December 29 OFM would mean 13 in a year, and how busy everyone is around the end of the year, we will not have an Open Full Moon on that date.*