



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **AUGUST 24, 2018 OPEN FULL MOON**

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon in the Library Room at the **Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 Williams St., Denver, CO.** There are two small parking lots, to the north (next to the building) and east of the building (across the alley), each with spaces for 20 cars. Enter through the Main Door at the corner of Williams St. and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. **The door opens at 7:00 pm, and we must lock the door at 7:30 to secure the building.** Please be prompt as we don't want you to be locked out! This month's ritual is Friday, August 24, 2018.

Hawk Shadow invites you to join her for a ritual to embrace delight – your own delight. The rite will be of an essentially traditional Wiccan structure. You will be asked to participate, which will involve coming to the altar and saying something aloud – something that you will find in yourself during the ritual.

----*Catherine*

---

### **GREETINGS**

The saga of the car is finally over – as of last week. I am once again mobile in my own car. For which I am immensely grateful.

Lammas has been and gone – we're almost half-way to Mabon. We're in the middle of the harvest season. What have I harvested this year? Well, I've had at least two performances with the harp: I had let things go for a while. One of the performances was at our employee appreciation day. I pulled out a few songs that I hadn't sung in years. And found that I needed to transpose them down from the keys I used to sing them in. They worked nicely in the lower keys. Let me know if you want to hear an Irish nursery rhyme. In Irish.

During the saga of the car, I found that I had to rediscover patience. Parts will come in damaged and must be sent back. Appraisers work on their own schedule. Rental cars will develop slow leaks in their tires. (That last may have been the most annoying: it seems that the newer cars have system checks that will not let you alone until you fix it.) I discovered that bicycle pumps make for a good exercise system – fifty on the left foot; fifty on the right foot – repeat.

All in all, it's been a good summer.

Blessings,

–*Catherine*

---

### **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 confuses or 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 discuss it with the ritual leaders or one of the Board members (Catherine, Arynne, Morgan, Amy, Cynthia, and Deb) so that we may hopefully resolve and heal your concern.

---

## THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

The Hearthstone Community offers a special note of gratitude to Cynthia and Clyde Killingbeck who led Hearthstone in a ritual working with the Element of Water to work with our emotional body. Thank you, Cynthia and Clyde.

*--Catherine*

---

## ON DONATIONS

Hearthstone's primary expense is leasing the space for our monthly Open Full Moon rituals. Your donations to Hearthstone (and other Pagan organizations) make the difference between failing and thriving, as well as assure the organizers that our efforts are of value to you. We encourage you to donate to Hearthstone or to the organization of your choice.

We appreciate that many of you do donate to Hearthstone. Thank you! **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 running as long as possible, and we need your support to continue to serve the community.

We don't collect at the door, and no one will be turned away for not having a donation. However, we *suggest* a donation of \$5-10 per person. If you can't afford it, you are still welcome. If you can afford more, we'll be delighted to accept it.

Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. is registered as a church and your donations to Hearthstone are **tax deductible**. If you wish, you can write a check so you can keep track of your donations.

---

## Cat & Dog Spay/Neuter Clinics

<http://www.ddfl.org/spayneuter/>

Hearthstone cares about pet overpopulation! The Denver Dumb Friends League (DDFL) cares too, and through generous grants and donors, they offer **FREE cat spay/neuter surgeries** to anyone regardless of income. DDFL also offers **\$50 dog spay/neuter surgeries to lower-income dog owners**. The details, locations, and qualifications are at their web site above. It takes ALL of us to reduce the overpopulation problem and move toward a world where all pets are wanted and cared for. Thank you!

---

## FULLY PRESENT

Dragonfest 2018 was amazing. I'm still posting pictures of the native plants we identified in a multigenerational walk around the sacred land, and still enjoying the benefits of participating in community.

It was the first time for me to teach and share on the practice of walking meditation which blends so beautifully with my Druidic practices of knowing the sacred landscape and living in awareness of the seasons and lunar cycles.

I do a Buddhist-like, ten-minute, circumambulation (walking silently in a circle with even, deliberate pacing) at 7 am on the morning after the new moon, the day when the moon rises with the sun and will be in the sky (nearly invisible) all day at the beginning of the lunar month. The Irish phrase that means the moon is new, translates literally as "Life is changing there." Tá athrú ré ann. The practice of a simple, contemplative walk, on the first morning that the moon rises with the sun after the New Moon, signals a change to the soul, a welcoming of the possibilities of the month ahead.

I joked in Dragonfest morning announcements that the mediation is only ten minutes because I'm a Celt, not a Buddhist, but, in fact, the latest research shows that as little as 10 minutes can have a positive effect on the brain and the body.

We spent a lot of time singing and sharing stories and poems at Dragonfest. It filled my heart! Our full moon ceremony has always had space for poems and song, and I'm thrilled that these last few months people have shared even more. Moon after moon we have sung together and listened to heartfelt recitation. All around us the trees listened, the sky listened, our ancestors heard our voices. This path is a bardic path, words matter, music is magic. We will sing our way out of the summer and through the harvests of the Fall.

And what a difference it makes to be able to recognize and name the bounty of our sacred space! Irish tales are full of such specific plant and tree references that it inspired me to earn my CSU extension Native Plant Master Certification. An old Irish saying (seanfhocail) says: A nettle burns (stings) me. Dock will cure me. (Neantóg a dhóigh mé, copóg a leigheas mé.) For every ill there is a cure in the land. Together seventeen of us took time to recognize Colorado River birch, birch being the first in the tree ogham, as well as yarrow, raspberry, strawberries, chokecherries, gooseberries, currants, wild geranium, kinnickinnick, wild rose, vanilla-scented ponderosa pine, and so much more. Each of these has a story and a place, a use, and a history. It was wonderful to share. Being able to identify the individual plants is like finally recognizing friends in a crowded party, the whole landscape feels different. The story that it tells deepens with understanding.

Although the season for Celtic Plant Walks has ended, I'll do it again next year, and I will always be talking about how to be a little safer and more confident on day hikes in our environment, I've got it built into my workshops! We have so much wonder right at hand and a Druid's place is out in it!

More teaching makes better teaching. I am partnering, again, with Spiritways Metaphysical to offer four workshops on this Irish Polytheistic Path. I am continually tweaking the material as I learn and grow. Now there is more storytelling and I'm adding some additional practical information so that people can more readily engage with the material when the workshop is over.

Is maith an scéaláí an aimsir.

Time is a good storyteller.

You can keep up with the activities of the Denver Celtic Women's Circle on Facebook or Meetup:

<https://www.facebook.com/DenverCelticWomensCircle/>

<https://www.meetup.com/Denver-Celtic-Womens-Circle-Events>

The moon will be full on Sunday, 26 August, and we will be gathered again at 7pm, at the top of the hill in Genessee Mountain Park.

The next opportunity for the New Moon Walking Meditation is on Monday, 10 September at 7 am down at the Audubon Center at Chatfield.

Keep an eye on our social media for the dates and topics of our 4 upcoming weekend workshops!

Peace of the Mountains to you,

*Paulie Rainbow*

*founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle.*

<https://www.facebook.com/DenverCelticWomensCircle/>

<https://www.meetup.com/Denver-Celtic-Womens-Circle-Events/>

---

## **Should we perform ritual with those who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol?**

As pagans, there are certain times that ceremonial drinking or imbibing of other substances is not unheard of. However, this is usually done with extreme care and specific intent. The people that I know who have done so, have done it in a way that doesn't interfere with the rest of the group or the energy and intention of the ritual. That's because they've done this before in their own private work and haven't taken anything that they weren't used to prior to doing in rituals many times before. In other words, it didn't affect their functioning or the energies surrounding the ritual. Not being able to control the energy if one is not able to function just wastes the time of the others involved. The energy may also affect others in the group negatively unbeknownst to that individual. I've experienced vertigo and headaches due to this.

I've thought about this topic a lot in recent weeks because I have had the unfortunate experiences in the past of doing ritual with someone who arrived to group extremely drunk, high, or hungover. I doubt this was the first occasion that these folks had shown up under the influence, but I digress. I find it interesting to note that most of the offenders that I know of have been male. I'm not sure why this is.

There have been a few occasions (in different groups) where we had to accommodate some need of the person who was under the influence. During one ritual, we had to speak very softly because the person in question had a headache. During another ritual one of the individuals became hostile. I regret not saying anything openly those times because I felt like I was in the minority thinking that these high, drunk, or hungover people probably shouldn't have actively performed in ritual. My question to this day is why we enabled this behavior. It only led to the discussion of said person's behavior at a later date and made it way more uncomfortable than it had to be. Since I've not been a group leader, I'm not sure why this behavior was tolerated initially. I understand if there was a doubt but if it seems counter-intuitive to allow it especially after a pattern has been established. I get it. No one likes to be the bad guy. But this has happened in several groups that I have been involved with. It seems ridiculous to me, but maybe this behavior is what our community deems normal. It may be that paganism as a whole has a stigma of being a partying religious path and we should accept this. But if this is the case, then I might have to rethink my involvement in any group.

It is understandable that sometimes younger people experiment with ritual. It's part of learning the path. If someone is younger and new to the craft, then it goes without saying that they might make the mistake of imbibing too much prior or during a ritual, especially if they are solitary. Let me be clear. I've had many experiences with older folks who have questionable drinking habits that find their way into ritual. It's not enough to say they need to do so in moderation. Most likely these types of folks have issues of control regarding how much substances they ingest. Still, the fact is that I have

not ever experienced an effective ritual when there was someone who was significantly under the influence of a substance.

That being said, I wouldn't even blink an eye if someone who, as part of a ritual, imbibed some spirits as part of the ritual. These types of things are planned and are usually done responsibly. If done right, it shouldn't alter the energy level in the room or affect others in a negative way. However, when doing ritual and the person is inebriated or hung over, I've noticed that there was not enough power to raise any palpable energy.

A good example using alcohol in ritual properly, was when, many years ago, I lost a sibling. Ironically, they passed a few days before Samhain. I was over a friend's house a several days later when they noticed I was not right. We ended up having an impromptu blot. We imbibed a little as I spoke about my sibling. It absolutely made me feel much better...and I wasn't wasted afterwards. The healing energy that was raised was enough to get me through the funeral which was being held on the other side of the country. Moderation is key and we shouldn't be afraid to ask someone to sit out of the ritual if they appear extremely impaired, especially if they have a history of doing so.

---*Moon Gazer*

---

## **Turtle Monkey children's book series**

We're diversifying our brand. Stay tuned for changes! If you'd like to give us input, we'll be creating a survey on the new website that should be ready by July 1. Speaking of new websites, our new web address is: [www.jofontana.com](http://www.jofontana.com)

---

About Turtle Monkey: Turtle Monkey is a read to me book series. It's printed in the font in which children are taught to read and write. There's just enough pictures to hold their attention while being read to before they eventually read the books on their own prior to tackling chapter books. 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. Join us as Turtle Monkey learns about the world and how to cope with challenges.

---

Now available at Amazon: APPROACHING DARKNESS. This is an anthology of twelve short stories. Some are horror, some are bizarre, and some are unnerving. These stories will make you look under the bed and keep your feet from dangling over the edge at night. Read as a child fends off a horror from beyond the grave with just a nightlight, listen in as Gods debate the future of humankind, or root for twins who battle a lady made of plants. Written by Jo Fontana under A. J. Hallows, one of her many pen names.

Print book available on Amazon at: [https://www.amazon.com/Approaching-Darkness-J-Hallows/dp/197915001X/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1516143137&sr=8-4&keywords=Approaching+Darkness](https://www.amazon.com/Approaching-Darkness-J-Hallows/dp/197915001X/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1516143137&sr=8-4&keywords=Approaching+Darkness)

---

It's here! THE EGG QUEST. Book One of the Demon Coast series by Jo Fontana & Teresa Horton.

Reyden Frost leaves the sanctuary of the library to experience the world, despite the advice of Master Levik. His focus, a petrified egg, is stolen by a mysterious criminal his first night in the town of Hollow Harbor. Reyden reluctantly joins forces with a man of the law and another magic worker who was also a victim of the thief. The chase takes them across the continent of Ator, gathering new companions along the way. Will Reyden's past interfere with his future, or will he overcome it on the journey to retrieve the egg?

Print book available on Amazon at:

[https://www.amazon.com/Egg-Quest-Demon-Coast/dp/198354714X/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1518571543&sr=8-2&keywords=The+egg+quest](https://www.amazon.com/Egg-Quest-Demon-Coast/dp/198354714X/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1518571543&sr=8-2&keywords=The+egg+quest)

---

## Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir Open Rehearsals

Have you always wanted to sing with Orpheus?

This year will be sensational, and it is THE year to join the world's only Pagan choir! You'll sit in with the choir and, if interested, audition with our music director.

When?	Sunday, August 26, 2018; 3:00 pm
Where?	Sixth Avenue United Church

Plus!

When?	Monday, August 27, 2018; 7:30 pm
Where?	Sixth Avenue United Church

Please arrive early so we can get you music for the rehearsal.

---

## Orpheus MeadFest 2018

Join us for one of Denver's Tastiest Events

8 of Colorado's finest meaderies are bringing their newest and best meads for your tasting pleasure!

Visit our website for all info

[:http://www.orpheuspcc.org/orpheus-meadfest.html](http://www.orpheuspcc.org/orpheus-meadfest.html)

2018 MeadFest Competition Schedule

Entries Accepted: beginning Monday, July 23

Entry Deadline: Sunday, August 26

Judging: Friday & Saturday, September 7-8

Awards Ceremony: Saturday, September 29th, 2018

The 2018 MeadFest Tasting & Awards Ceremony  
Saturday, September 29th 4-7 PM  
The Tears McFarlane House  
13th Avenue at Williams Street  
on Denver's Cheesman Park

---

## **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 have a NEW start time for most rituals this year. Please arrive at the store between 6:30 and 7:00 pm, since the store closes and the door locks right at 7. Hope you can join us!

Sep 8  
Oct 6  
Nov 3  
Dec 8

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

---

## **WHOM TO CONTACT**

For Pagan or Wiccan clergy or for any other Hearthstone business, please contact Catherine by phone or email, or contact Arynne by email. Catherine's phone number is 303-886-7067, and her e-mail address is [fionnula.harp@gmail.com](mailto:fionnula.harp@gmail.com). If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at [ArynneD@aol.com](mailto:ArynneD@aol.com). At this point we have ritual leaders scheduled for all of 2018! Thank you all for volunteering your talents!

Hearthstone Community Church has a website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com> where our dates and newsletters are posted monthly. You can contact us through our web site. Hearthstone also has a Facebook page.

---

## **GUEST COLUMNS?**

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Catherine and Arynne edit it slightly, (generally for grammar and spelling: Catherine has been known to grammar-check television commercials) 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. We appreciate our contributors!

This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor and Publisher: Catherine Mock.
--

## **STANDARD DISCLAIMER and COPYRIGHT INFORMATION**

<i>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.</i>
--

*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.*

## **Upcoming Hearthstone Open Full Moon Dates**

August 24, 2018  
September 21, 2018  
October 19, 2018  
November 16, 2018  
December 21, 2018