



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### SEPTEMBER 13 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, SEPTEMBER 13, 2013.

At our September ritual, Nyterose will be leading us on an inner journey to contemplate what leaves we need to drop for successful self-improvement during our winter studies and hibernation.

As always, children are welcome, but please remember to keep them in the room with us. There will be entertainment supplies for them, as needed.

—Catherine

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### GREETINGS

"Step by step around the circle  
Touching darkness, touching light  
Twice each year we rest in balance  
Make choices on this night.  
Make choices on this night"

*Marie Summerwood*

That's right, it's September; the Harvest Moon. Traditionally, this moon is the closest to Mabon: this year it's three days before the holiday. We're coming up on the Second Harvest; one of the "balance" days in the Wheel of the Year. In farm country, it's the height of the harvest. Pumpkins and other squash plants are ripening (okay zucchini is probably coming out everyone's ears by now). Several years ago, when I was driving through Colorado's northeastern plains, I realized that, unlike the eastern part of our country, our Mabon season is green, brown, and gold. It's truly beautiful, even without the brilliant reds of other areas of the country.

We have 2 "balance" days in the wheel; days when the day and night are equal. Two chances each year to make choices in how we will live our lives: what to keep and what to leave behind. What is gold in our lives? What is brown? What will make it through the winter months? We have the choice.

—Catherine

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### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A Tip of Hearthstone's Hat to Ada and her volunteers for her August Full Moon ritual. Ada led us in a guided meditation focusing on the accomplishments and positive aspects of our lives. We wrote the accomplishments and things that we were grateful for on pieces of flash paper, which were then burned to release our thanks out into the universe. Using white face paint, each of us drew a full moon symbol on the person next to us. For some of us, the ritual was our first exposure

to the possible uses of face paint and flash paper in ritual or magic. Hearthstone thanks Ada and her volunteers for performing this informative ritual.

–Morgan

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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 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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## MY EXPERIENCE WITH TRICKSTER GODS

A few days ago, I was watching a video clip on YouTube. It had Tom Hiddleston and the Cookie Monster in it. For those of you who do not remember who Tom Hiddleston is, he is the actor that played Thor's evil adopted brother, Loki, in the recent movie adaptations of Thor and the

Avengers (based loosely on the Marvel Comics version). Of course, having seen these movies I could not help but picture that it was Loki and Cookie Monster interacting in the YouTube clip.

Now, a few years ago, I learned a neat little trick for those circles where individuals are free to call upon any god or goddess that they want to. I can literally get the people standing next to me in a circle to take at least one step away from me by simply naming Loki as the god that I am calling upon. I first observed this behavior in a Norse based group, but I have since learned that it holds true for other pagan groups. The mere mention of Loki makes people step away from me.

It should not be a surprise to anyone that I had dealings with trickster gods. In fact, if there is a trickster god (or goddess) in a pantheon, they seem to be the deity that is most interested in talking to me. It makes for an interesting life. But here is the deal: because of this trend, I have learned two things: one, trickster gods are not as evil as people think that they are; and two, most gods and goddesses have a trickster aspect to them – it is just that most people are blind to that aspect.

Take Loki for instance. All the great treasures of the Norse gods, except for a couple, came into the gods' possession because of Loki. The couple that did not, the Runes and the Poet's Mead, were prizes taken by Odin, operating as a trickster. In fact, some students of Norse mythology consider Loki to be Odin's shadow side. As for Loki's role at the end of the world, during Ragnarok, one needs to remember that the tale does not end with the destruction of the world; rather, it ends with the beginning of a new world born from the ashes of the old.

But that is the problem with trickster gods in the first place; they destroy old worlds to make way for new ones. The old comfortable ways of looking at things, in the hands of the tricksters, give way to new ways of perception. The trickster gods do not believe in leaving the comfortable and familiar order of things, and our lives, intact if there is a better and more expansive way to exist and think. While a lot of grief is caused by the trickster gods, the truth is that they are a force of growth and expansion.

As for the video clip with Tom Hiddleston and the Cookie Monster, there is a trick played and a lesson taught – a trick that depends on the trickster knowing something that the other person does not know, and a lesson that is hard for all of us (delayed gratification). And the tone is exactly the same as my own personal dealing with the entity that is called Loki.

For those who are curious about the video clip that I am referring to, it is located at: [http://youtu.be/b\\_ubVVnWglk](http://youtu.be/b_ubVVnWglk)

### **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?a=usco&id=35084](http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084). Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!

<b>Event</b>	<b>ET date</b>
Mabon	Sep 14
New Moon	Oct 5
NM/Samhain	Oct 26 (6:30 – 9:00 p.m.)
Yule	Dec 14

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## **WHOM TO CONTACT**

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. 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 [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 is simply a fanatic) 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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### **2013 Open Full Moon Dates**

**September 13**

**October 18**

**November 15**

**December 13**