



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 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**. The Althea Center is easy to find, exactly four blocks east of our previous location. Enter through the Main Door at the corner of Williams St. and 14th 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, September 1, 2017.

Circle of Light and Shadow will be officiating at the Open Full Moon on September 1st.

We will be having a tea party of sorts, drinking our tea while we meditate with world leaders to ask for peace and cooperation in the world. As much as we seek peace and cooperation in our own lives, giving that blessing to another helps us to find that same blessing within ourselves.

Come join us for tea, and with Tara's help may we find peace together.

GREETINGS

Well, the weather has certainly been changeable this month. Sun and rain, followed by thunderstorms in the middle of the night and then more sun and rain. It has been nice and cool to sleep in.

It's kind of an in-between time right now. Lughnasadh has passed: the Lord has been sacrificed to ensure the prosperity and fertility of the land for the coming seasons. Harvest continues.

When I was growing up, my parents had an incredible garden. We had spinach and lettuce in the spring; strawberries in the summer; and cucumbers in July and August. We also had green beans, peas (some years), carrots, radishes, tomatoes, and lots of squash. LOTS of squash. Zucchini, spaghetti squash, yellow squash, pumpkins – and more zucchini. We had zucchini fried in butter, boiled, baked in bread, baked in cakes, sliced into salads and many, many other ways. Did you know you can use zucchini slices in place of pasta in lasagna?

This is the time of year I miss that garden. My father has passed and my mother is over eighty; she's just not up to the gardening she used to do. I'm not the gardener that my mother and father were and I'm not home enough to pay attention to one, so I rely on store-bought. While they're good, it's just not the same as going out to the garden and digging up a fresh carrot or radish. Or even making zucchini lasagna.

Happy Harvest!

–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

A Tip of the Hat to Deb H who led our August Open Full Moon ritual in celebration of both the full moon and the First Harvest, Lammas. Deb explained that ritually and symbolically, this is the time of sacrifice – the giving up of something of value to you for the good of someone else or the community. After circle was cast and God and Goddess were invoked, we were each given four pieces of paper and time to write four things precious to us. Then the Goddess asked us to sacrifice one of them to her, and a cauldron was carried around for each of us to place one of our papers into. Deb asked "How does this make you feel?" After a few moments contemplation, the Goddess requested a second sacrifice, and after the cauldron was carried to each, Deb asked again "How does this make you feel?" The emotions experienced each time...and the additional two times until we had nothing left...were distinct and worthy of contemplation. After, we chanted "Horned One, Lover, Sun, Leaper in the Corn; Deep in the Mother, die and be reborn." After sharing cakes and wine (another lesson in sacrifice), we all went outside and circled around the cauldron for the ritual burning of our papers, with the intention that we each will know what is important in our lives and what it would mean to give them up.

Thank you Deb as Priestess, and Cynthia and Clyde in the roles of Goddess and God, for sharing this rite with our Hearthstone community at this sacred Sabbat of First Harvest. The ritual was a learning experience that held our focus on the difficult subject of loss. I have often felt over the years that the three annual rituals of Harvest (Lammas/Lughnasadh, Mabon, and Samhain) are training for life, practices that build our skills and prepare us for the tough challenges life can bring us. For this, I am grateful to Wicca. Blessed Be.

---Arynne

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... and reassure 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 Community Church, Inc. 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 to 10 dollars 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 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.

NEW LOCATION FOR HEARTHSTONE OPEN FULL MOON RITUALS

Hearthstone is now meeting in the Library Room at the Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 Williams St., Denver, CO. It's simple to find, exactly four blocks east from our previous location. NE corner of East 14th Ave. and Williams St. There are two small parking lots on the north and east sides of the building. Enter through the Main Doors. Because there is no building representative present, we must lock the doors at 7:30 PM, so please arrive between 7:00-7:29! Come join us! We will meet for OFMs at the Althea Center for the remainder of 2017.

FREE Cat Spay/Neuter Surgeries

The Dumb Friends League is offering free cat spay/neuter surgeries regardless of income. Visit ddfl.org/catclinic to schedule your appointment. Hearthstone supports animal welfare and an end to pet overpopulation. Thank you! Please Adopt, don't Buy your next pet!

2017 Doreen Virtue hugs Jesus (Leave those Tarot cards alone)

The other day, I was on Facebook and saw a post from Mary K. Greer about a video (“Mystic and author Doreen Virtue—Transformed by Jesus, sharing about her new life”) on the YouTube channel, Maui Source TV, that was posted on August 15th, where Doreen Virtue talked about how Jesus recently told her to quit reading Tarot cards and misusing her spiritual gift of prophecy. As I write this, Mary’s post (done five days ago) has over two hundred comments and seventy-six shares.

Some people were surprised by her “conversion” to full-fledged Christianity. I wasn’t. Honestly, I was never much into her work because it was always a little too Christian for my taste. That and I am not heavily into New Age stuff because I am an old-fashioned evil witch. So for me, it would not be a great loss if she would have adapted a live and let live attitude.

But no, as Doreen Virtue points out, there will not be a live and let live attitude here because the whole story of the Bible is that there is only one God, Jesus Christ, and you are not supposed to worship pagan gods.

So after having a vision of bleeding heart Jesus, who is not the Teddy Bear Jesus that she was raised with, she got baptized on February 25th, and was told by Jesus, “No more Tarot cards, no more fortune telling, and no more Ascended Masters cards, etc.” And she obeyed, telling her publisher Hay House to remove her name from certain products (donating her share to charity), and to completely remove other products and books from publication. And with her being their biggest money maker, Hay House totally agreed and accepted the fact that from now on, she is only going to be writing Christian books.

One may ask why Doreen Virtue is doing a media blitz about her new-found Christian spirituality. I did. The answer probably rhymes with “Mornings with the Lord,” a book that comes out in mid-October.

Now I could be wrong. After all, I am a nasty pagan witch of a writer. And I have hung out with a bad crowd; or at least, periodically argued with a bad crowd. But I think that her conversion and media blitz is more about money than spirituality. Boo me if you like, but I am calling it the way I see it.

It makes perfect business sense for her to go full-blown Christian because Christian readers and seekers are a bigger market than the New Age market. And she would not be the first to have a conversion experience that just happened to open up a potentially bigger market than the one that she was previously operating in. And that is completely ignoring the political environment that we are all living in at the moment where being a Christian might be a good idea if one is solely concerned with the state of one's own skin.

Or it could be a true spiritual experience...though I am still annoyed by the "do not worship pagan gods" comment. After all, a lot of people do embrace their childhood religion more strongly after spending some time in the New Age environment and dabbling with the forces of other religions. I, myself, did a turn though a couple of religions during an earlier part of my life (Judaism and Buddhism) before coming full force back into my childhood religion of Wicca. I am a walking talking example of why I believe that our kids need to know what the heck we are doing.

I wish Doreen Virtue success in her new spirituality, but I will not be joining her. After all, I wasn't interested in her New Age angelic spirituality stuff, so it getting a whitewash of Jesus juice is not going to make me more likely to buy her new stuff. In fact, it is just going to make me cross the street to avoid it. But then again, I am just an old-fashioned evil witch.

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](#); [Gleamings 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>

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

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.

Ritual dates 2017

September 23

October 21

November 18

December 23

*---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. If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at ArynneD@aol.com

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

GUEST COLUMNS?

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Catherine 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. 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

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.

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.

2017 Open Full Moon Dates

At the Althea Center, 14th Ave & Williams St:

September 1
September 29
November 3
December 1
December 29