



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### DECEMBER 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 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, December 1, 2017.

On Friday December 1, Carri & Martin will be facilitating the Hearthstone Open Full Moon. We will be celebrating with a traditional Wiccan Full Moon Ritual, with a meditation and a Drawing Down. Please join us as we worship the Goddess and the God. We hope to see you there.

---Catherine

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### GREETINGS

My goodness, where did the year go? We're already at the beginning of December. Of course, in the "real" world, the stores have already started holiday music. Come to think of it, they've been playing Winter holiday music since early October. It does get to be a bit much.

I'm especially conscious of the earlier sunsets since the beginning of November. Not only have the nights gotten longer, but our society's nod to Winter has become the change from Daylight Savings Time to standard time. I do understand the origin of DST: it was to allow more time during the Summer to allow for more daylight during the work day. But when standard time rolls back around, suddenly I must walk to my car in the dark.

This season also marks the "official" time I gain a year in age. Yes, I know that we age every second, but the time we mark it is important. I am now officially 60. Yep, I've reached another of the "0" years. I'd like to feel old, but somehow I don't. I went out to lunch with my 83 year old mother earlier in November and no one believed that either of us had reached those milestones. Maybe I'll get younger as I get older? I guess not.

We are slowly approaching Yule. Shortly, we will be singing up the sun for its rebirth. Yet another birthday! With song and feasts, we celebrate the longest night, knowing that the days will begin to lengthen again.

And in a couple of months, I won't have to walk to the car in the dark!

Blessings,

---Catherine

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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 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.

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## THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

We Tip our Hat to Hawk Shadow, assisted by Sarajane and Kat, who led the Hearthstone community in a beautiful, dimly-lit, black-and-silvery Samhain ritual. Sarajane started us all singing a chant song, leading us to focus on entering this dark season of death and renewal. Then Circle and participants were cleansed, Circle was cast, Elements invoked, and God and Goddess called. We were invited to answer the call of the Dark Mother in meditation. We chanted "Hecate, Cerridwen, Dark Mother, Let us in; Hecate, Cerridwen, Let us be reborn." During the quiet time of meditation we were invited to ask for what we need, and to ask for understanding.

After meditation, Hawk Shadow made a statement that has stayed with me: If we are very lucky, we grow old. If we are very, very lucky, we grow old with people we love and who love us.

We were invited to remember our departed loved ones, those who have passed beyond the veil. May they, and we, be blessed.

Thank you, Hawk Shadow, Kat, and Sarajane, for your gift to us of the rich experience of this Samhain rite. Blessed be.

---Arynne

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## 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 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.

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## 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. Enter through the [Main Doors](#) at the NE corner of East 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Williams St. There are two small [parking lots](#) on the north and east sides of the building. Because there is no building representative present, we must lock the doors at 7:30 PM. Come join us! We will meet for OFMs at the Althea Center well into 2018.

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## **12<sup>TH</sup> NIGHT: A YULE CONCERT AND VIKING FEAST ORPHEUS PAGAN CHAMBER CHOIR**

12th Night 2018 is Here!

With a new home and a sparked up menu, this year's 12th Night with Orpheus will be better than ever!

Renovations at Jeffco Fairgrounds sent us searching and we've come up with a gem! The beautiful Rosa Auditorium at Skyview/Academy High School is a state of the art theater with lots of comfortable cushioned seating, excellent sight-lines and sound, plenty of free parking, and easy access for the disabled.

The sparkling new banquet hall is huge, so we'll all be feasting together in one wonderful place. And we're working with our amazing caterer to add some twists to our traditional menu.

All this, and all the exceptional music and joyful camaraderie that makes 12th Night with Orpheus such a unique experience!

Skyview High School, also known as Academy High School, is easily reached from all metro Denver highways: I-25, I-76, I-270, I-70 and Route 36.

Until November 30th, tickets are just \$49 per person or \$450 for our ever-popular party tables of 10. On December 1st, the prices will be \$55 per person and \$495 for a party table of 10.

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## **Hearthstone Monthly Discussion Group**

Want to join us? Since January, Arynne has been hosting an open discussion group one weekend afternoon per month. The intent is to offer small group discussion opportunities for those who enjoy Open Full Moon rituals and who would like to discuss topics and questions about Wicca, ritual, magick, deity, the local community, etc. Not all of us have like-minded friends and family with whom we can discuss these interests. This has been an open forum for whatever participants want to talk about in more depth, in a safe small group setting. We usually have 2-6 people attend, and we've had good, fun discussions and batted around interesting ideas with interesting people.

Now we are announcing the discussion group to our entire Hearthstone Community, rather than only announcing it at OFMs. We welcome all who might be interested to attend our Dec. 10 meeting from 2:30-5:00 pm at Goddess Isis Metaphysical bookstore, 2775 S. Broadway, Englewood CO (on a public bus line).

After this next open discussion group, we are considering "closing" our discussion group and transitioning into a consistent study group so we can dive deeper into the topics we choose together. If this might appeal to you, please come Dec. 10. Please direct any inquiries to Arynne at: [ArynneD@aol.com](mailto:ArynneD@aol.com)

We hope to also see/meet you at Hearthstone's upcoming Open Full Moon rituals.

Blessed Be!

----- Arynne

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## **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!

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## **GRIEF IS SELFISH.**

I started writing this in my head when we had a death in my family. It was clear that, as much as we were being there for each other, that the experience of grief is an intensely personal thing for everyone.

Even as you grieve and celebrate a life and share memories together, no one else can really understand your pain.

I confess, I picked a ridiculous fight over the recycling within forty eight hours. I realized it right away, too. It gave me some perspective on other ridiculous things that would arise for other people and that gave me a little compassion.

So now we find ourselves in a world that is deeply divided and it seems like every day there is more information to arouse our passions. Personally, I feel deeply about the developments in climate change, the ongoing lack of accountability in too many police forces, the endless wars, the possibility of losing access to affordable healthcare, the potential for losing ground in civil rights. To have this much uncertainty feels a lot like grief.

And grief is selfish. As much as we have acted together over this last year, protesting, calling, coming together in ritual, knitting simple, square hats that surprisingly appear to have cat ears when pulled over a round head, we still have our own moments when it just feels like too much. It's too easy to get sucked into ridiculous arguments over recycling, or take offense over the wording of a Facebook post. As much as we share our pain, nobody else gets to feel it for us.

Now more than ever is the time to turn to the tools of our faith. Regardless of your feelings about the U.S. Christmas season, gratitude has no denomination and it has every benefit. Some people get solace out of making a gratitude list as they lay down to sleep. Other people find that expressing gratitude, even for the simple things, to the people in their lives puts them back in touch with the goodness that they have around them. I expressed my thanks to every person whose life intersected mine on Thanksgiving simply because they showed up to work. I really did notice that someone else showing up to work made my life easier on that holiday. I'm behind on my thank-you notes, but that's one of my favorites. It's like getting a gift twice because when I have to sit down and write something coherent I have to think about the gift I was given and what I appreciate about it.

The next is faith itself. I have been on this path in one form or another for almost forty years. I have had many periods of time when I felt no connection at all, the feeling just left. But my experience has shown me that my faith is not make-believe, it is not misplaced and that it does return. Generally it returns when I take action to engage with it. At moments my conversations with the spirit world start off with, "If you are listening," and, in no time at all I see that my words are very much heard. It comforts me to feel like I am not alone, that I am understood, that I am valued. I have to take some action sometimes to open that experience back up for myself.

Finally, I know how healing it is to take part in traditions, to be a part of something more than myself, to do things that make a rhythm out of the unfurling of time. Like the downbeat of a drum pattern in circle, taking part in annual traditions draws me in, keeps me whole, makes me a part of something living, vibrant, connected.

I hope that everyone in our community finds what they need during these dark months. Grief is selfish, but taking care of ourselves brings us back into the circle of light. You are worth it. I am worth it. We are in this together.

Peace of the mountains to you,

---*Paulie Rainbow*

Founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

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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:  
December 23

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

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## 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 an active 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.

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## 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.

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### Upcoming Hearthstone Open Full Moon Dates

December 1, 2017  
December 29, 2017  
January 26, 2018  
February 23, 2018  
March 30, 2018  
April 27, 2018