



Farewell to the Season of Samhain

(To be said at the back door/window of the house on the last morning of the Samhain quarter, 31st of January)

Go with thanks and go with blessing,
Season of deep memory.
Souls with joy are deeply freighted,
Hearts are charged with heritage.
As ancestors you have travelled,
You have come to Winter's home.
Father Council, who has cheered us,
Mother Wisdom, who has smiled,
Touch the hidden seed within us,
May we grow as Spring's own child.



Threshold Invocation for the Festival of Imbolc

(To be said at the front door/window of the house on the eve of the Imbolc, 31st of January, in the evening)

Midwife of Mystery, open the door,
Infant of the Infinite, come you in.
Let there be welcome to the newborn truth,
Let there be welcome to the Spring of the Year.
In cold and darkness, you are travelling,
In warmth and brightness, you will arrive.
May the blessed time of Imbolc
Kindle the soul of all beings,
Bringing birth to innocence and integrity.
From the depths to the heights,
From the heights to the depths,
In the heart of every soul.

An excerpt from the Celtic Devotional by Caitlín Matthews

January



January 1 st	New Year's Day
January 6 th	Full Wolf Moon 5:09 p.m. CDT
January 8 th	The Sixth Source Sharing Circle Meeting-12:45 p.m.
January 14 th	HON Grove Meeting Pg. 2
January 16 th	Martin Luther King Day
January 27 th	National Holocaust Remembrance Day

Grove Happenings



This month's grove meeting will be at La Madeleine Restaurant, located at 7615 Jefferson Hwy in Baton Rouge from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm on Saturday, January 14th. We meet in the private dining room, and we hope everyone will be able to join us.

As we begin a new year, we will discuss upcoming events, such as guided meditation workshops, the annual Gulf Coast Gathering and other items of interest.

If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to join us in Zoom. To join Zoom, go to:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88338465418?pwd=TjFJb1h6NmKzSzUrN0czTzFuRVlvQT09>
Meeting ID: 883 3846 5418
Passcode: 319206



Artwork by Jen Delyth



The Wolf Full Moon

Friday, January 6, at 5:09 p.m. CDT

The full Wolf Moon rises on Friday, January 6, 2023, at 5:09 p.m. CDT. Learn more about when and where to howl at the January full Moon!

January Micro moon

January's full Moon is a "Micro moon" this year. Think of this term as the opposite of a "Supermoon." It simply means that the full Moon is at its farthest point from Earth (not the nearest point). In astronomical terms, we call this "apogee." Specifically, January's Micro full Moon is about 252,600 miles from Earth.

Why is the Moon nearer or farther (in this instance) from Earth? Simple: The Moon orbits Earth in an elliptical path. One side is nearer to Earth and one side is farther. This distance does affect the Moon's size and brightness, although it's probably not that visible to the naked eye. The perceived size of the Moon from Earth is more related to the "Moon Illusion" and how close the Moon appears to the horizon; in this case, it's high above the horizon so it may not appear to loom over us the way it appears when it's near the horizon.

Why Is It Called the Full Wolf Moon?

It's thought that January's full Moon came to be known as the **Wolf Moon** because wolves were more likely to be heard howling at this time. It was traditionally believed that wolves howled due to hunger during winter, but we know today that wolves howl for different reasons. Howling and other

wolf vocalizations are generally used to define territory, locate pack members, reinforce social bonds, and coordinate hunting.

Other traditional names for the January Moon emphasize the harsh coldness of the season: **Cold Moon** (Cree), **Frost Exploding Moon** (Cree), **Freeze Up Moon** (Algonquin), and **Severe Moon** (Dakota). **Hard Moon** (Dakota) highlights the phenomenon of the fallen snow developing a hard crust.

Canada Goose Moon (Tlingit), **Great Moon** (Cree), **Greetings Moon** (Western Abenaki), and **Spirit Moon** (Ojibwe) have also been recorded as Moon names for this month.

Image and excerpts taken from The Farmer's Almanac 2023 Edition
<https://www.almanac.com/content/full-moon-january>



The Sixth Source Sharing Circle

Happy New Year to everyone!

I'd like to introduce, if you haven't already heard about it, the Sixth Source Sharing Circle at the Unitarian Church in Baton Rouge. The group is dedicated to giving Unitarian Universalist Pagans a place to learn, explore, teach, and share the experience of being both a pagan and unitarian universalist. We hope to build a community that brings various traditions and paths together to help everyone walk their chosen path and give new perspectives on living in Baton Rouge as a UU and Pagan.

That's the short version. The long version is that Unitarian Universalism as a whole and locally, has had a troubled relationship with pagans and paganism. The UU churches tended to be very humanist and skeptical and in the 1980's and 1990's there was conflict between UU's who thought that paganism was superstitious claptrap, and UU's who wanted to explore this way of existing on the planet and relating to the unknowable.

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In the 1990's the Sixth Source was adopted by the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association). If you're interested, check out this link: <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/sources> for a better explanation than I could give.

The language of the Sixth Source is:

Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

And what we see now in the local UU congregation is a move to reclaim some of the religious language that we left behind in the last century. I'm hoping that this group will be able to help bring in the language of Druidry, Wicca, and other traditions to Sunday morning services. After my deconversion from Catholicism, the UCBR (Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge) became a place where I could find like-minded people and be a part of a larger community. It has become my home on Sundays; sometimes I'm surprised by how much affection I have for it. I hope to give a little back to it with this group.

—Salvatore Culotta



Final Thoughts

I feel that many of you might agree that 2022 has been quite the year. We have all had many things happen in our personal lives, ranging from elation and celebration to devastation, loss and every other emotion in between. But we carry on.

As we move closer to the mid-mark between Solstice and Equinox, it is at Imbolc and the celebration of Brigid that brings new hope, inspiration and renewed fires to each of us on many levels; whether it be personal, professional or spiritual. I wish all of you a safe, blessed and fruitful New Year!

Slainte!
Kate /\



Grant, O Spirit, thy protection;
And in protection, strength;
And in strength, understanding;
And in understanding, knowledge;
And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice;
And in the knowledge of justice, the love of it;
And in that love, the love of all existences;
And in the love of all existences, the love of God,
Gods and Goddesses and all goodness!