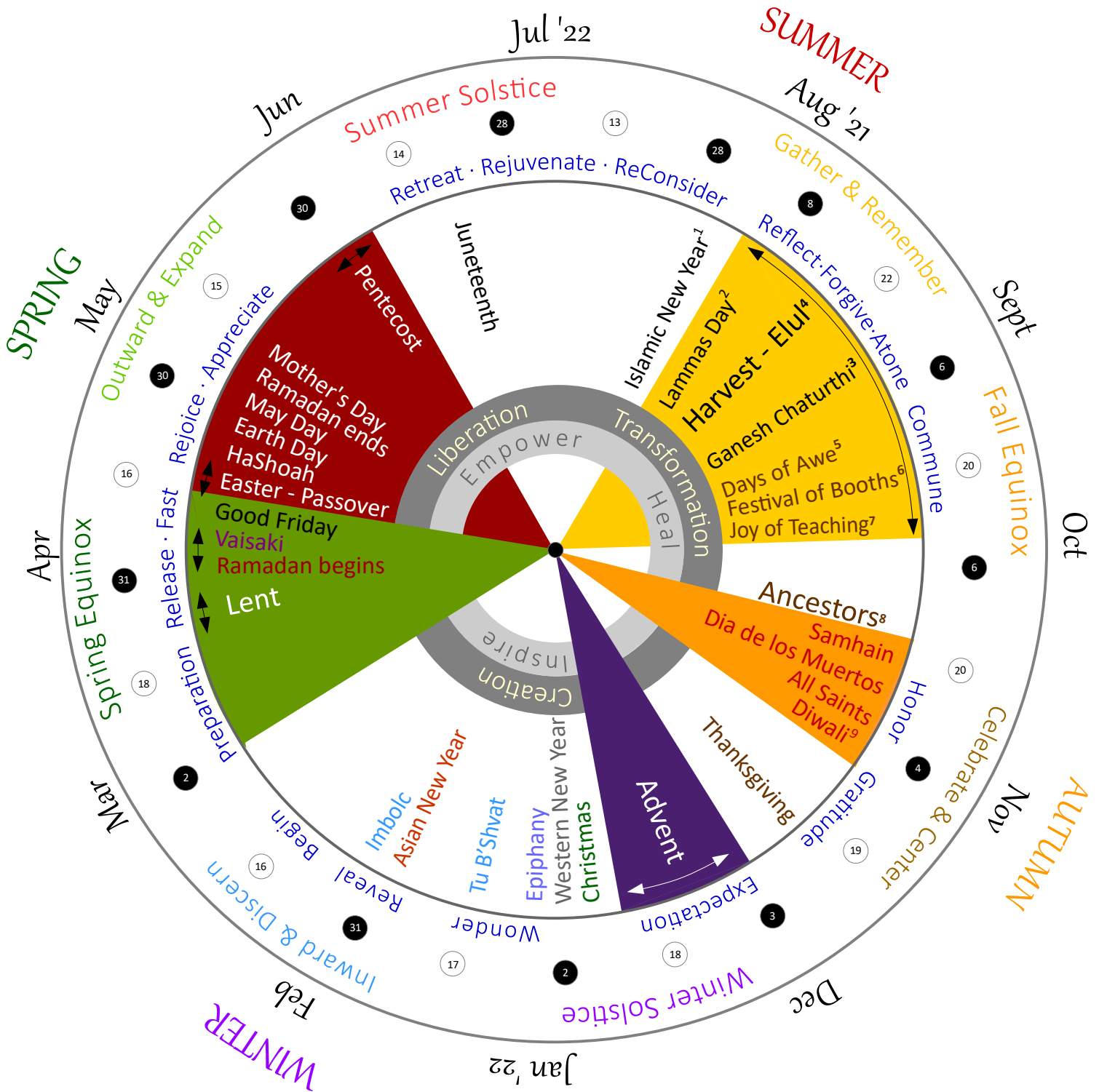


Wheel of the Year

A Story, Festival & Practice Calendar
Northern Seasons · August 2021 - July 2022



↔ Identifies that these festivals shift dates based on the lunar calendar and rules of their originating tradition.

● # Identifies the date of each new and full moon.

WHEEL OF THE YEAR – A Story, Festival, and Practice Practice Tool

This Wheel of the Year is a calendar and tool, not a decision or answer. The Wheel is a starting place designed to locate you within story, festival, and practice of your unique faith. It reflects only some of the historic seasonal-spiritual-religious traditions in and around our community and world. It is intended, in a Pluralist and Rabbic way, to be a tool to deepen your chosen faith, not an alternative or call to appropriate the faith of others. In order to be useful, the Wheel will require your input. Completing the wheel involves adding/removing dates, seasons, and traditions as they are meaningful and valuable to you and your household. Please consider providing the following into the Wheel:

Add/Remove dates/seasons to make your Wheel fit your household: This Wheel is built from a pluralist base that begins in Judeo-Christian tradition. The Wheel expands beyond this to include many other Holidays and seasons that are relevant to the local, national and global context of a particular community. If you practice festivals or Holidays not included in this Wheel, please add them! If you don't find a Holiday or festival included in the Wheel relevant to your practice, remove it!

Mark the date or season where your Household's year *really* begins: The answer to this question will determine where in the Wheel of the Year you will sense the most significant ending and beginning of your household's Year together. Paying attention to this date will be important so that you can create the time and spiritual space for this powerful transition to occur in your home.

Add your household's meaningful and valuable dates: Birthdays, memorials, every-year events, pilgrimages, and other “we always do this” elements like summer vacation, picking apples or harvesting a Christmas tree. If you can't imagine the year without it, put it on the Wheel.

INSIGHTS TO UPCOMING HOLY-DAYS, FESTIVALS, and PRACTICES

Epiphany (Christian) 1/6: A celebration of revelation or revealing. For Christians, this revelation is God revealed in human form baby Jesus. This holiday remembers the story of three 'wise ones' (literally magicians) who traveled following a star to Beth-lehem (the house of bread) seeking a new King of the Jews who was believed to be the harbinger of peace on earth.

Tu B'Shvat (Jewish) 1/16-17 New Year of the Fruit Trees. A mystic Jewish Holiday rooted in the Hebrew bible's tradition of First Fruits offerings to the Temple. Today it is a minor festival celebration of the environment, particularly trees, nuts, and fruits. A time to honor the interdependence of the earth and humanity.

Asian New Year (Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist) 2/1: A variety of lunar New Year festivals celebrating family and abundance across Asian traditions. Chinese New Year begins with the new moon that appears between January 21 and February 20 and continues until the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the lunar year.

Imbolc (Gaelic) 2/1-2 : One of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals—along with Beltane, Lammas, and Samhain. In ancient times, the festival was marked by the coming of milk into the ewe heard. The holiday was later Christianized and is still celebrated, especially in Ireland, where it is known as the feast day of Saint Brigid.

Lent (Christian) 3/2- 4/14: A 40 day (not counting Sundays) festival preceding Easter. Traditionally Lent is a season of penance during which Christians are encouraged to honor the sacrifices Jesus made culminating in his “passion” and crucifixion by the Romans. Lent ends at 'Good' Friday, a confusing title from Old English etymology meaning 'Holy Friday.' Ancient celebrations were not penitential, but rather a time of discernment culminating with baptism on Easter Sunday.

Ramadan (Islam) 4/2-5/2: A 30 day festival focused on faith through the practice of fasting. Although the tradition practices fasting with food, fasting, as a spiritual art, is accessible through many modalities. In the ancient world, the growing, collection and preparation of food was the single largest consumer of time. Thus, fasting with food has become ubiquitous.

Vaisakhi (Sikh, Hindu) 4/14 A New Year festival and celebration the birth of the Khalsa Panth of the Sikh. For many Hindus, the festival is the solar New Year, a harvest festival, and an occasion to bathe in sacred rivers such as Ganges.

Passover (Jewish) 4/15- 4/23: A festival recalling Israel's journey to freedom from slavery under Pharaoh. Jews celebrate with a Seder, a ritual meal and storytelling held in the home, often featuring unique narratives known as a Hagadah (the text/order).

Easter (Christian) 4/17: Often falling near the Passover, Christians celebrate the Resurrection (not a resuscitation) of Jesus as a sign and symbol of Life overcoming the powers of empire and death. This is Christianity's highest Holy Day.

HaShoah (Jewish) 4/27-28: Holocaust remembrance day – featuring practices designed to encourage the world “never to forget” the murder of more than 6 million Jews by the Nazis during the 1930's.

May Day (Unknown) 5/1: Historically observed throughout Ireland and Scotland, May Day, also known as Beltane, celebrates the halfway point between the spring equinox and the summer solstice. It also coincides with International Workers' Day.

Pentecost (Jewish, Christian) 5/16-18 and 23: Known as Shavuot in Judaism (5/16-18), this Holiday celebrates the wheat harvest & the receiving of Torah (teaching). Christians celebrate Pentecost as the receiving of the Holy Spirit after Easter (5/31).

Juneteenth (American) 6/19: also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day – is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.