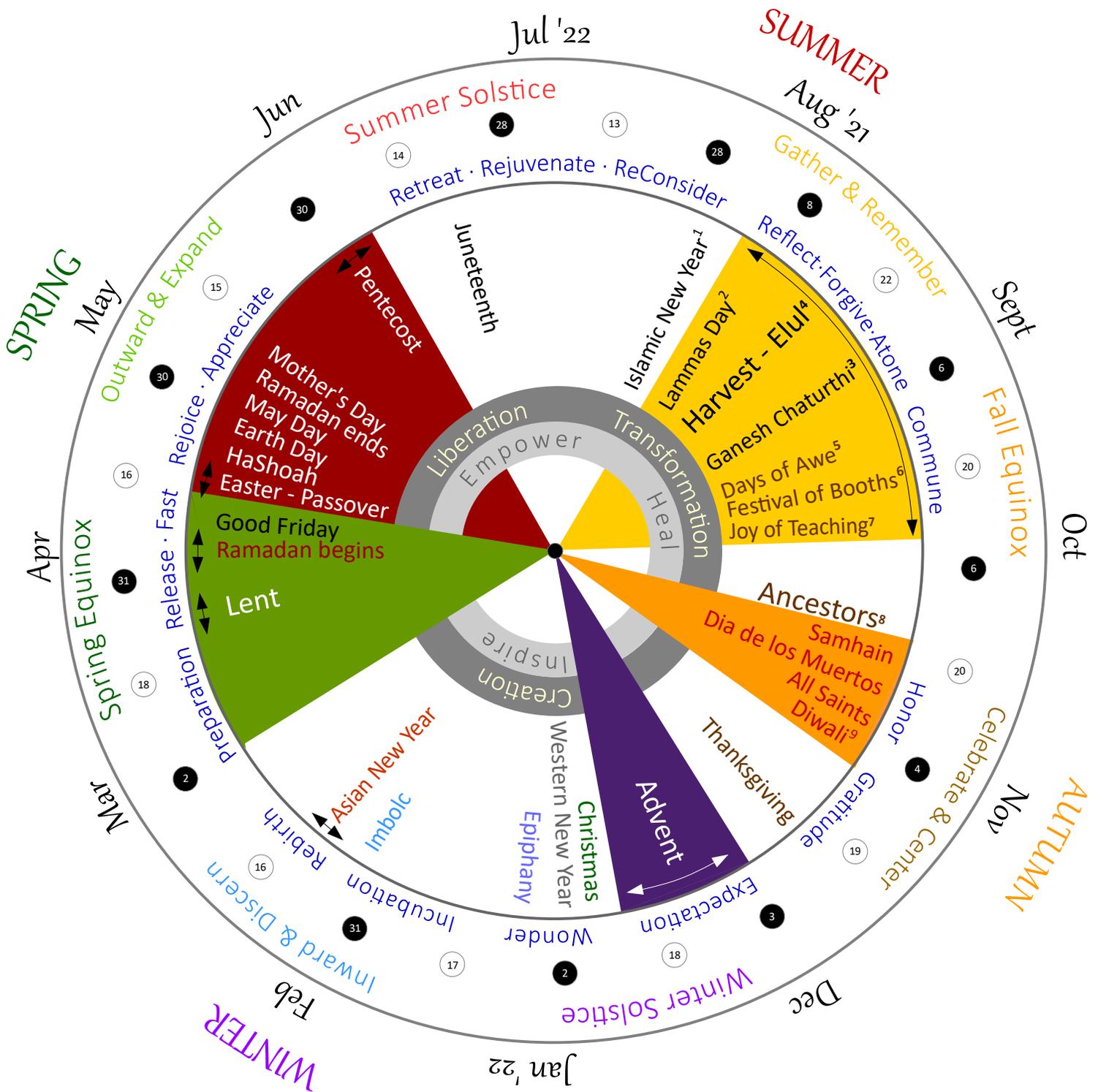


Wheel of the Year

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. It reflects only some of the historic seasonal-spiritual-religious traditions in and around our community. It is intended, in a Rabbinic way, to be re-interpreted by you into the present. 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

¹**Islamic New Year – 07/30** This Lunar New Year is celebrated quite differently by the various sects within Islam. The Year begins on the first day of the month of Muharram.

²**Lammas Day: 08/01** A pre-Christian Celtic festival, (Lughnasadh) The first of three ancient Harvest festivals focused on grain and berry. Celtic Christians later assimilated this tradition to become Loaf Mass.

³**Ganesh Chaturthi 08/31** A 10 day Hindu festival celebrating the arrival Ganesh(a), the God of New Beginnings, remover (and placer) of obstacles, wisdom and intelligence.

⁴**Harvest 8/01--9/29** A transformative season that begins with the Jewish lunar month of Elul, a time to name important relationships, practice forgiveness, welcome the stranger and celebrate learning. In Aramaic, the native tongue of Jesus, “Elul” is similar to the verb “to search.” Harvest includes the High Holy Days (Days of Awe), and extends through The Festival of Booths (Sukkot) and Simchat Torah (The Joy of The Teaching) which celebrates the teaching present in Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew/Christian bible.

⁵**Days of Awe (Judaism) – 9/6-16:** Also as the High Holy Days. The 10 Days of Awe begin with Rosh HaShanah (New Year) and end with Yom Kippur, the Day of At-one-ment, the Jewish year's most Holy day.

⁶**Festival of Booths (Judaism) – 9/20-27** Also known as Sukkot, is a week-long festival that calls people to build a shanty outside, exposed to the elements (vulnerable), so that one can take up residence in the ‘wilderness.’ The tradition is to welcome the foreigner and the stranger who pass by one’s ‘sukkah’ (shanty) and invite them to conversation and food. The entire festival is a response to the Day of Atonement, remembering Israel's time wandering in the wilderness.

⁷**The Joy of the Teaching (Judaism): 9/28-29** Also known as Simchat Torah – is a celebration of the teaching and learning that is present for one in sacred writings such as the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew/Christian Bible. In the Synagogue, this special day involves dancing with the scrolls of the Torah and honoring one’s learning.

⁸**Ancestors (Wicca, Druid, Secular, Christian): 10/31-11/4:** A series of individual celebration days that include Halloween(10/31), Samhain(10/31), Dia de los Muertos (Nov 1), All Saints (Nov 1), and All Souls Day (Nov 2). All of these holidays remember ancestors, honoring and communing with those who have passed on.

⁹**Diwali (Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain)- 11/4:** The Hindu “festival of lights” is observed by many religions throughout Southern Asia. Diwali extends over five days, and celebrates the victory of 'good' over 'evil.' Diwali is a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a religiously sanctioned celebration of the simple.” Fireworks, oil lamps, and sweets are common, making this a favorite holiday for children. The lamps are lit to help the goddess Lakshmi find her way into people’s homes.