

## What is Paganism About?

Paganism itself is an umbrella term that covers a number of religious groups that may share some themes in common:

- Honoring the Earth and its web of life
- Seeing the divine as made up of multiple deities such as a pantheon of gods, or as duotheistic (god and goddess, Lord and Lady – typically found in Wiccan theology).
- Finding that individual practice and experience tend to be more important than following written doctrine or official holy leaders.
- Believing that people are able to do magic or consciousness shifting in order to change themselves and the world around them.

Another way of understanding Paganism is that it can be both panentheistic (the idea that the divine is found both with-out) and animistic (the idea that all things have a spirit). Paganism is a grass-roots movement that has no single doctrine or set of practices that all Pagans share in common.

Modern Pagans may draw inspiration from Native American beliefs, pre-Christian European religions, ceremonial groups, 19th century spiritualism, anthropology, world myths, and the natural world around us.

## Our History

Turning Circle has been meeting since Autumn 2004 and provides free, open events in the central Maryland area. We are not a coven, but are instead an open community of practitioners from diverse Pagan paths. Since we are member-led, and our members follow a variety of spiritual paths, our meetings may include anything from a Wiccan ritual, to a Buddhist meditation, to a Druid high rite, to a Drum Circle in sacred space. We are always learning and exploring. If it honors nature, you're likely to see it here!

## Our Leadership

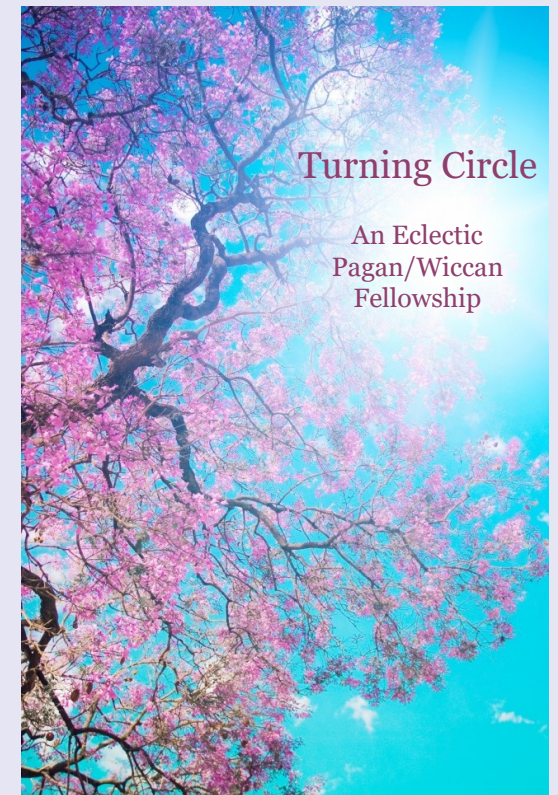
Our Coordinators and Officers are friendly, approachable, and willing to answer your questions.

Phoenix—Coordinator  
Indigo—Coordinator and Web Designer  
Sajana—Coordinator  
Selene—Scribe and Pursewarden  
Valentine—Bard

### Turning Circle

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Check us out on Facebook!



Serving the Pagan and Wiccan Community since 2004, Turning Circle is an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia. We are an open, welcoming fellowship. Turning Circle generally meets on two Fridays each month and is conveniently located at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center in Columbia, MD.



## What are the Pagan Holidays?

There are a lot of varieties of Pagan practices. But, as example, the list of holidays in Wicca and Druidism that are tied to the cycle of the Sun are:

Samhain—October 31st

Yule—December 21st

Imbolc—February 1st

Ostara—March 21st

Beltane—May 1st

Litha—June 21st

Lammas—August 1st

Mabon—September 21st

Some Pagan practitioners might also have slightly different dates as well. Since Turning Circle meets on Friday nights, we tend to choose the Friday that is closest to the liturgical date. Check out our website or Facebook page for the latest information on meetup times.

## Turning Circle FAQs

**Q: Is Turning Circle a coven?**

A: No. We are an Open Circle. We are inclusive of the whole spectrum of Pagan faiths (including Wicca) but we are not *exclusively* Wiccan. Unlike a coven, members have freedom to join or leave as their needs change. We don't require oaths of loyalty or secrecy. No one is beholden to the leadership. We are a fellowship of equals.

**Q: Must I be a member of Turning Circle to attend Turning Circle events? How can I become a member?**

A: All are welcome at Turning Circle! Non-members are welcome at all events listed on our calendar. Visitors are welcome. The simply-curious are welcome. The primary difference between a member and non-member is that members may vote on policy changes, vote in planning meetings, and may vote for changes in leadership when applicable. If you want to become a member, it's pretty easy. You must attend three gatherings in a six month period, be a active participant, show an interest in joining, and be voted in. There is a suggested annual donation of \$10 for being a voting member (\$15 for couples and families). However, we can waive that fee for reasons of financial hardship.

**Q: Are Pagan children welcome?**

A: Of course they are! Several members bring their children to our rites and services. Just remember, however, that we don't have a separate activity program for children.

**Q: Is Turning Circle welcoming to the LGBT community?**

A: Absolutely! So is our parent organization (the UUCC). Additionally, we have LGBT representation at the Coordinator rank.

**Q: What should I bring? Is there a dress code?**

A: It's optional, but feel free to bring a snack or dish of food to share. We typically have a social hour after our services where members and visitors chat and eat. Some of our members are vegetarians. Most of our members are pretty informal. Some wear cloaks and capes while others wear regular casual attire. You can bring your wand/Athame if that works for you, or not if you don't want to.

**Q: When do you meet?**

We typically meet twice per month, on Fridays, at 7:30PM at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center. This brochure lists the 2018 dates. When in doubt, however, you can also consult our web page, Facebook page, or send us an email. We don't mind hearing from you!

## Turning Circle 2018 Calendar

January 5th: Pagan New Year Rite

January 19th: Pagan Book Club\*, Winter Meeting:

February 2nd: Imbolc High Rite (Brigit Poetry Rite)

February 16th: Luperclia Ritual

March 9th: Pagan Book Club\*, Spring Meeting

March 23rd: Ostara High Rite

April 13th: Earth Day Rite

April 27th: Beltane High Rite

May 11th: Vappu Celebration (Nordic Mayday)

May 25th: Moon Ritual

June 8th: Pagan Book Club\*, Summer Meeting

June 22nd: Litha High Rite

July 6th: Tree Ritual

July 20th: Sirius Rising

August 3rd: Lammas High Rite, led by Selene

August 17th: Poseidon Ritual

September 7th: Drumming for Peace

September 21st: Ganesh Ritual

October 12th: Moon Ritual

October 26th: Samhain High Rite

November 2nd: Moon Ritual

November 16th: Pagan Book Club\*, Autumn Meeting

December 7th: Moon Ritual

December 21st: Yule High Rite

*We typically meet at 7:30PM on Fridays and rituals usually start at 7:45PM and end around 9:00PM.*

\* Book club meetings are not formal rituals. We meet to discuss Pagan books and Pagan topics.