

A Year & A Day: Personal Pagan Paths



Presented by

Ancient Sea Island Continuum

AncientSIC.org

After the Videos

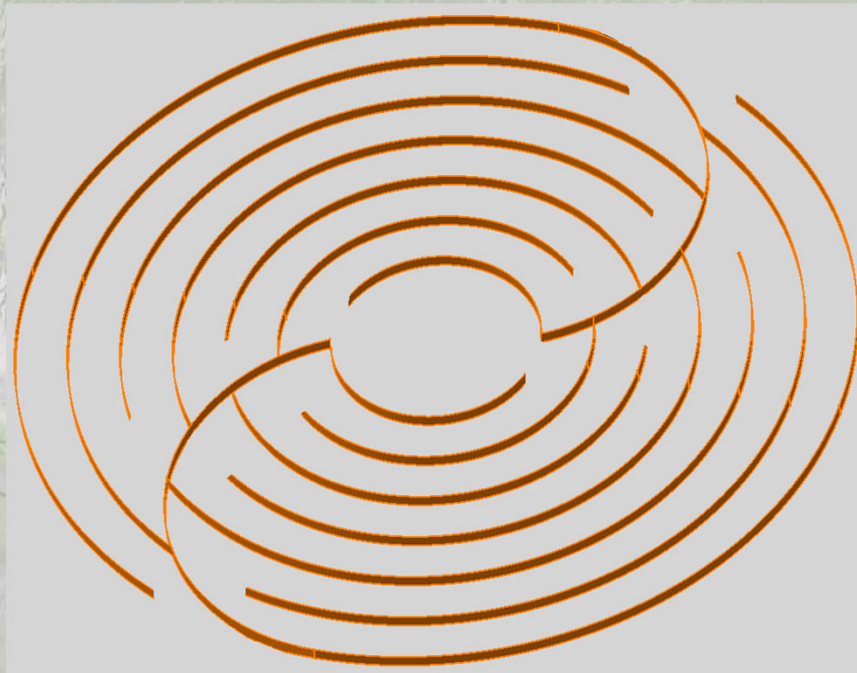


- ◇ Welcoming
- ◇ Opening Recital
- ◇ Celtic Tree Month
- ◇ **Modern Paganism**
- ◇ The Wheel of the Year
- ◇ Imbolc Sabbat
- ◇ Your Next Step
- ◇ Things to Come
- ◇ Closing

Video Preludes

Belthain (2017) Eclipse

<https://youtu.be/zUrGlQWPmEw>



T. Thorn Coyle (2013) Make Magic of Your Life

<https://youtu.be/FIWeTN8ZkhA>

Common Sense

The views held by ASIC's Pagan guides may not necessarily reflect the opinions & views of the greater Pagan community or the minister, board, or congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort. While covering the essential aspects traditionally considered to be the foundation of a Pagan spiritual education, statements of ASIC guides should not be considered the Truth but only suggestions for you to consider. Statements by the guides are also not to be construed as a contract or agreement for promises of wealth, power, or spiritual salvation. The views expressed by the guides are presented only as possibilities, reflecting our experiences to help encourage you to find your own Personal Pagan Path.

-- Your ASIC Guides

Ancient Sea Island Continuum

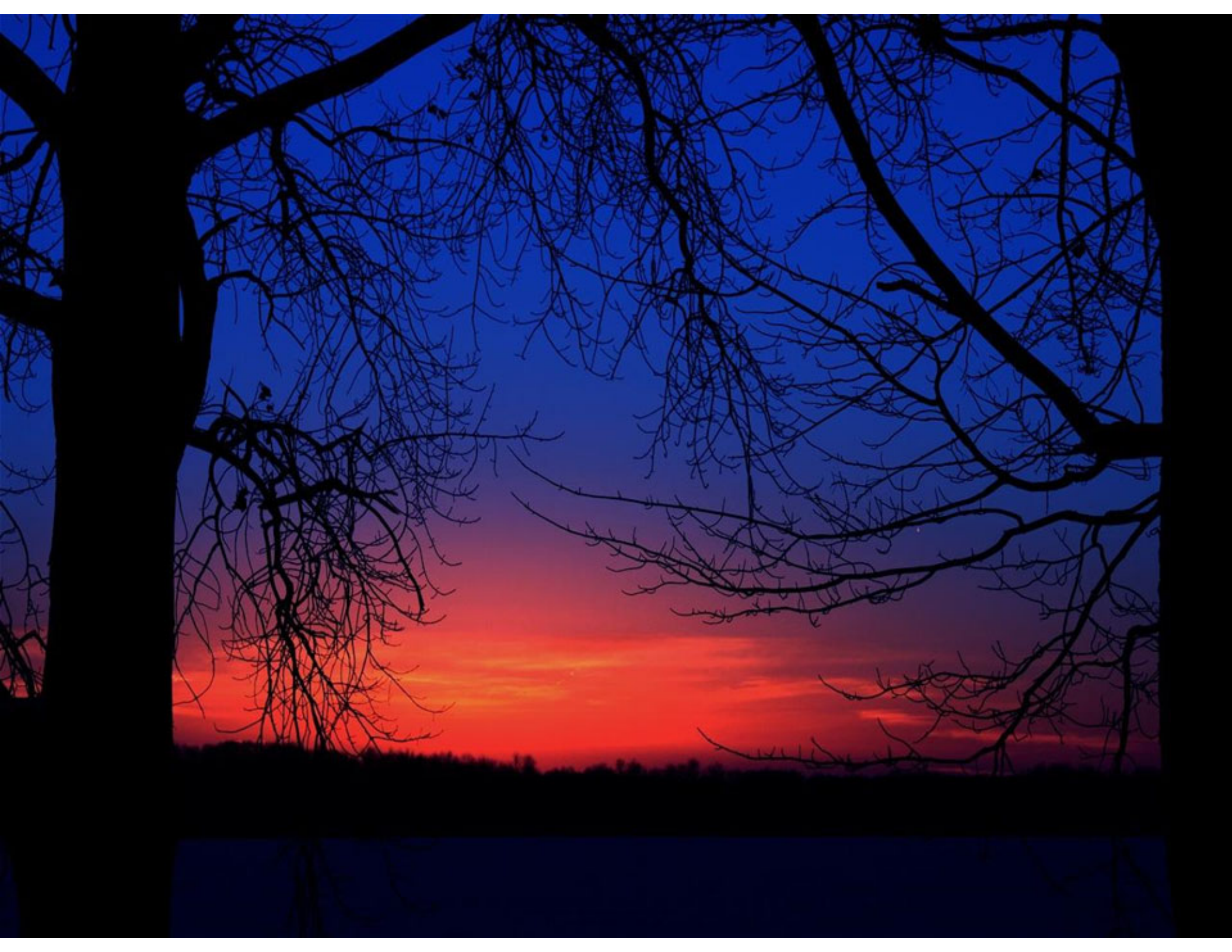


is the Earth-centered spiritual affinity circle of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort.

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with positive values for living that encourages members to search for truth on many levels. **UU**s identify & draw insights from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Indigenous, Islamic, Jewish, Neo-Pagan, secular & other religious & philosophical traditions.

"Coming Home"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbJ32h-YpQA>



Opening Recital

Blessings of the growing light
Blessings of the quickening earth
Blessings of the morning chorus
Blessings of the first shy flowers
Blessings of Nature waking
Blessings of Maiden singing
Briganti's fire light your path
Briganti's blessings on your hearth

Tree Month - Rowan

January 21 - February 17

The Rowan tree protects against evil influences & guards the Spirit world gateway. Brigid is the Rowan deity, the Celtic goddess of fire, fertility, poetry. She is the maiden aspect of the Triple Goddess. The dragon guards the secrets of the Earth & the subconscious. Originally, dragons were benevolent beings, & later demonized as part of Pagan culture



The Journey Ahead

♦ *What is 'A Year & A Day' about?*

- Teaches the essentials of modern Paganism so you can validate your spiritual yearnings
- Delivers critical knowledge, insight, & inspiration of living in harmony with sacred, local Magic
- Enables you to cooperate, share your values, and earn respect, even from those of different beliefs

♦ *Is it for you?*

- There is only one way to be find out



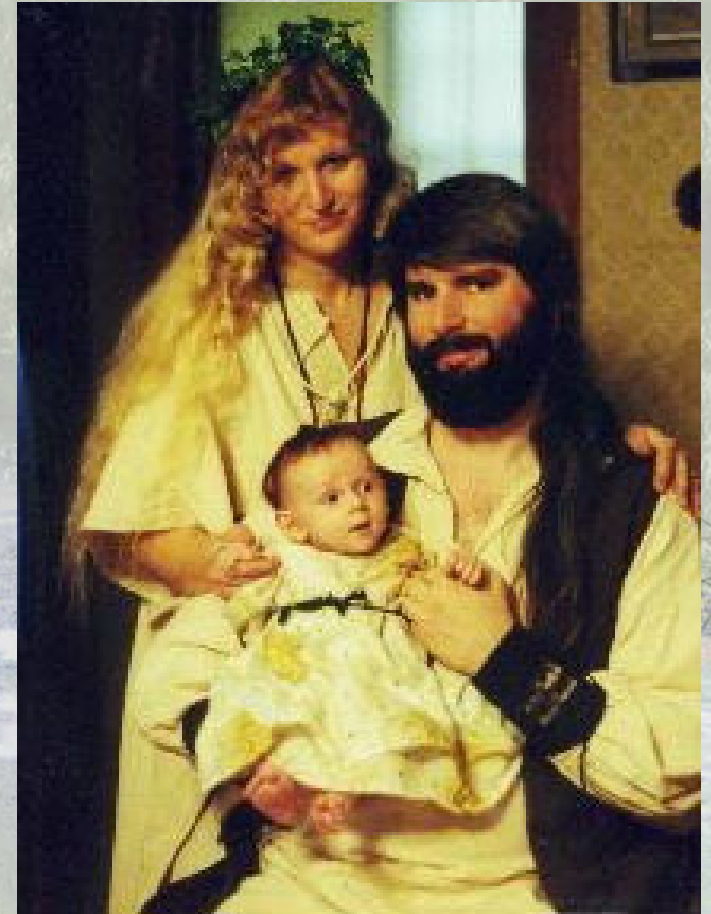
- Follow the path you create... for a year & a day

A Year & A Day

♦ Modern Paganism ♦ Ethics & Morality ♦
Natural Elements ♦ Correspondences ♦
Blessings ♦ Origins of the Sacred ♦ Creating
Sacred Space ♦ Celebrating Seasons ♦
Meanings of Magic ♦ Esbats ♦ Grounding ♦
Tools of the Craft ♦ Altars ♦ Circle Etiquette ♦
Labyrinths ♦ The Process of Ritual ♦ Music &
Chants ♦ Worship Encounters ♦ Meditation ♦
Invocations ♦ Spells ♦ Outdoor Circles ♦ Rites
of Passage ♦ Divination ♦ Self-Dedication ♦

What is Paganism?

- ♦ Non-Abrahamic
 - Not of the “Book”
 - Not Christian, Jewish, or Moslem
- ♦ Modern Pagans are generally disconnected, spiritually & socially, from “organized religions”
 - *Yet welcomed by Unitarian Universalists*

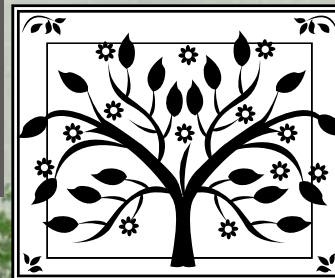
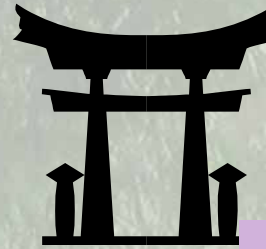


Paganism Defined

Etymology: Middle English, from Late Latin *paganus*, *country dweller, civilian* (as opposed to *urban resident, soldier*)

- ♦ Formally – a heathen; a follower of a polytheistic religion; someone who lives on the heath; a country dweller
- ♦ Today – a movement dedicated to reviving the polytheistic, nature-worshipping pagan religions of pre-Christian Europe and adapting them for the living in modern societies

Who is a Pagan?



Why Are Pagan Paths Popular?

- ◇ Reject institutional hierarchy
 - There is no pope, no central authority
 - There are clergy & respected elders, but...
 - Don't control others' lives or hunt heretics
- ◇ Do not charge \$\$
 - Maybe for a class or to transfer knowledge
 - But not initiations, degrees, or mysteries
- ◇ De-emphasize physical buildings
 - Most gather in homes or outside
- ◇ No formal recruiting or campaigns
 - Don't care about famous people belonging

Pagan Voices

- ◆Margot Adler
- ◆Starhawk
- ◆Scott Cunningham



- ◆T. Thorn Coyle
- ◆Jason Fitzl Waters
- ◆Ronald Hutton

Belief - Life is Holy

- ◇ Nature-based worship or reverence
 - ◇ Natural world is inherently divine
 - ◇ Rejects "creation" by outside powers
- ◇ Draw out & enhance divinity in humans
 - ◇ Religion: belief in existence of spiritual beings & need of humans to work with them
 - ◇ Honor & work with super-human forces
 - ◇ Yearn to merge with cosmos & divine



Belief - The Sacred

- ◇ Belief in plurality & tolerance of diversity on the forms of, & how to relate to, the Divine
- ◇ Polytheist
- ◇ Divinity as immanent
- ◇ Pantheism
 - ◇ Divinity in all things
- ◇ Animism
 - ◇ Spiritual consciousness exists within everything
- ◇ Henotheism
 - ◇ Worshiping one God/dess doesn't nullify others



Belief - Knowledge is Good



- ♦ Pagans are well-read
 - ♦ Knowledgeable about own personal beliefs
 - ♦ ... and beliefs of others
- ♦ Believe/respect "energy work"
 - ♦ Compel & manipulate internal/external forces
- ♦ Religion & Magic coexist
 - ♦ Scientific, technical, & operational

Belief - The Occult

- ♦ Mystery religion (or set of religions)
 - Confronts questions of life, death, & purpose
 - Requires dedication, work, & ethics
- ♦ Beliefs about death
 - Reincarnation
 - Summerland
- ♦ Magical Ethics
 - Wiccan Rede
 - Three Fold Law of Return



Belief - Heart & Space

- ◇ Heart is in creative performance of ritual

- ◇ Divinity in all things
- ◇ Not 'how you feel about the divine'
- ◇ How do you feel 'divine'?

- ◇ Sacred Space

- ◇ Set aside space for working, often temporary
- ◇ Sacred action produces the sacred space
- ◇ De-emphasize physical buildings
 - Most gather in homes or outside
 - *Trees were the Gods' first temples"*



Belief - Many Sources

- ◇ Eclectic
 - ◇ Ideas from many sources
- ◇ Changeable
 - ◇ Applied many ways (sometimes perplexing)
- ◇ Yet a ritual process does exist...
 - ◇ Duotheism (God/dess)
 - ◇ Sacred circle with cardinal points
 - ◇ Blessing & sharing of food/drink
 - ◇ Personification of deities
 - ◇ Ritual work of healing & consecration



Magical Calendar

- ◇ Beliefs/practices center around natural cycles as seen within survival/agriculture
- ◇ Esbats
 - Moon meditations
 - Hunting/gathering era
- ◇ Sabbats
 - Eight sun celebrations
 - Based on agriculture
 - Known by Pagans all around the world as



The Wheel of the Year

The Wheel of the Year



Imbolc - Candlemas

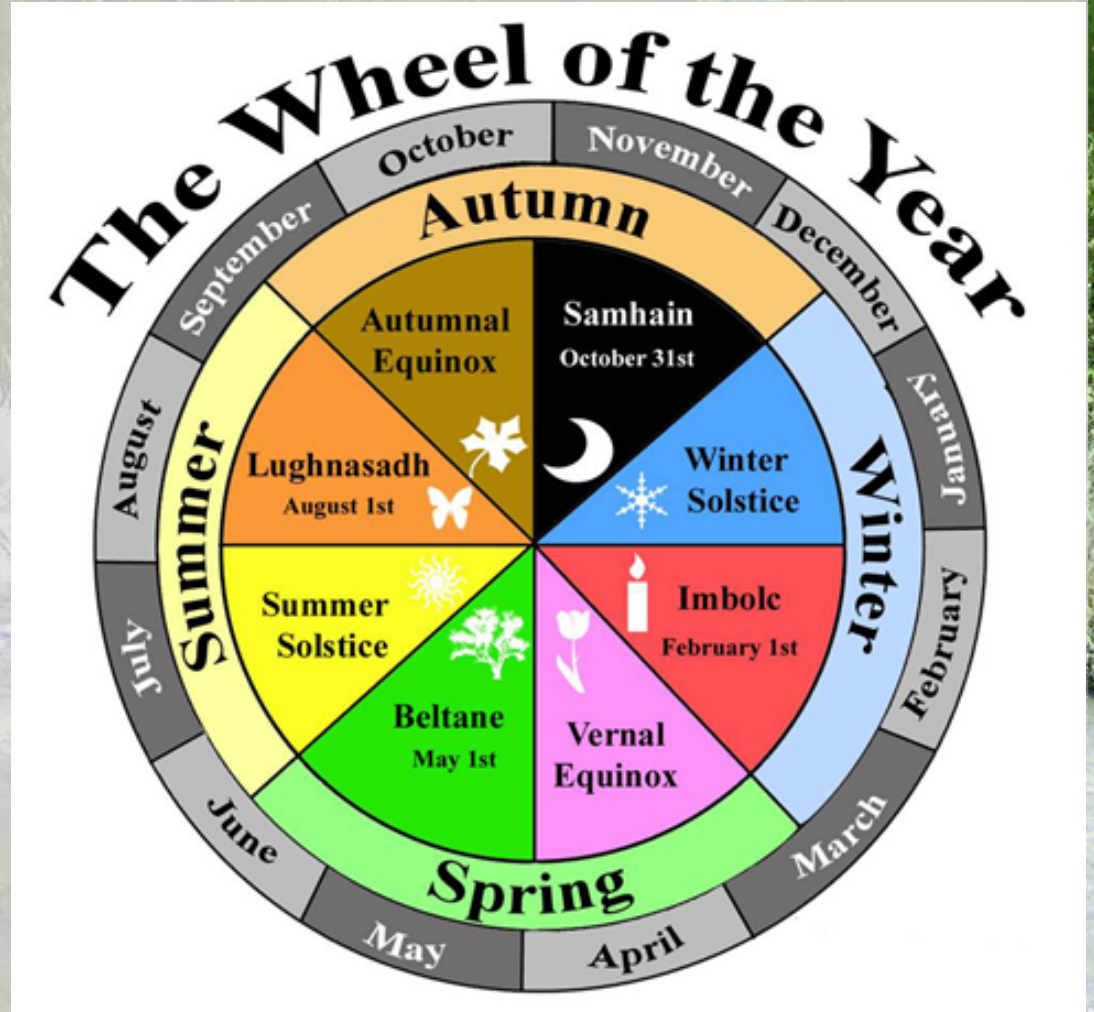


- ◇ About February 1st
- ◇ Festival of lengthening days and signs of spring
- ◇ Associated with fire, hearth, and home
- ◇ Celtic goddess Brigid later became St. Brigid
- ◇ Celebrate with Brigid's crosses and Brigid dolls
- ◇ A time of divination, especially weather

Your Next Step

Memorize:

- Names
- Alternate names
- Pronunciations
- Order
- Dates
- Seasonal Significance



Pronunciations: <https://eclecticwitchcraft.com/how-to-say-the-8-witch-wheel-of-the-year-sabbats-holidays/>

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A Classical Pagan Canon

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Incanted Vow

By aspect & circumstance,
By text & remembrance;
Now steady, now trembling,
Alone & assembling;
By turf & by flame,
By my spirit's disturbance,
By lock & by bar,
By moon & by star,
To He who is Horn,
To once & re-born,
By wine & by corn,
in each Direction!
indenture, release!
by dread & affection,
in conflict, at peace!
by brook & by breeze,
& by my heart's ease;
by freedom & key,
by error & harmony:
& She who is Three,
to all & to me,
I vow Community!

—from Cakes and Ale for the Pagan Soul, by Ashleen O'Gaea

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