



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County
333 Meridian Street - West Lafayette, Indiana 47906 - uuctc.org

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Vincent van Gogh [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

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Lammas/Lughnasadh Harvest Service

At Lammas, called Lughnasadh (pronounced Loonasa) by the Celts, the hot days of August are upon us. Much of the earth is dry and parched, but we still know that the bright reds and yellows of the harvest season are just around the corner. Apples are beginning to ripen in the trees, our summer vegetables have been picked, the corn is tall and green, waiting for us to gather the bounty of the fields.

Now is the time to begin reaping what we have sown, and gathering up the first harvests of grain, wheat, oats, and more.

This holiday can be celebrated either as a way to honor the god Lugh (pronounced Loo) as the Celts did, or as a celebration of the harvest. The word Lammas derives from the Saxon Old English phrase hlaf- maesse, which translates to loaf mass, the Mass of the season's first loaf of bread. In early Christian days, the first loaves of the season were blessed by the Church.

In our modern world, it's easy to forget the hardships our ancestors endured. If we need a loaf of bread, we simply drive to the local grocery store and buy a few bags of prepackaged bread. If we run out, we just go and get more. When our ancestors lived, hundreds and thousands of years ago, the harvesting and processing of grain was crucial. If crops were left in the fields too long, or the bread not baked in time, families could starve. Taking care of one's crops meant the difference between life and death. In those times, it was a bad idea to harvest your grain any time before Lammas -- it meant the previous year's harvest had run out early, a serious failing in agricultural communities.

However, on August 1st, the first sheaves of grain were cut by the farmer, and by nightfall his wife had made the first loaves of bread of the season.

Let us go back to that time. The year is 1100. The date is August 1. The monks in the abbey at Gloucester are celebrating the holy-day of St. Peter in Chains. One of the monks wakes from a strange dream in which God

promises to strike down the wicked King who has abused the Holy Church. His superior, Abbot Serlo, on hearing of the dreams sends a warning to the King, William the Red, who has oppressed all of England with taxes and disgusted many with his licentiousness and blasphemy. Red, as he is called, receives the message the following day while preparing to indulge in one of his favorite sports, hunting, in the New Forest. Although there are no longer any people dwelling in the New Forest — they were all cleared out by Red's father, William the Conqueror — there are rumors that it's a hotbed of pagan activity. And August 2 is

an important pagan holy-day. The Saxons call it Lammas, the Loaf-Mass. William the Red laughs at the warning from the monks and goes out hunting. A short time later, he is dead, struck in the chest by a stray arrow, and his brother, Henry, who was in the hunting party is riding hot-foot for Winchester and the crown.

Now some people say that William the Red was a Lammas sacrifice, that having made a wasteland of his kingdom, he was killed by the people (or the Gods) as a sacrifice to bring new life to the land. And some people





say his brother Henry has him assassinated. And some people say that both versions are true.

This tale of sacrifice and hunting, a dying King and a wasted land, embodies many of the dominant themes of Lammas, one of the four seasonal quarter-days, and perhaps the least well-known.

The Celts celebrate this festival from sunset August 1 until sunset August 2 and call it Lughnasadh after the God Lugh. It is the burial wake of Lugh, the Sun-King, whose light begins to dwindle after the summer solstice. The Saxon holiday of Lammas, the Loaf Mass, overlaid onto the earlier Celtic celebration of Lughnasadh, celebrates the harvesting of the grain. The first sheaf of wheat is ceremonially reaped, threshed, milled and baked into a loaf. The grain dies so that the people might live. Eating this bread, the bread of the Gods, gives us life. If all this sounds vaguely Christian, it is. In the sacrament of Communion, bread is blessed, becomes the body of God and is eaten to nourish the faithful. This Christian Mystery echoes the pagan Mystery of the Grain God.

Grain has always been associated with Gods who are killed and dismembered and then resurrected from the Underworld by Goddesses or Gods like Tammuz, Osiris and Adonis. The story of Demeter and Persephone is a story about the cycle of death and rebirth associated with grain. Demeter, the fertility Goddess, will not allow anything to grow until she finds her daughter who has been carried off to the Underworld. The Eleusinian Mysteries, celebrated around the Autumn Equinox, culminated in the revelation of a single ear of corn, a symbol to the initiate of the cyclical nature of life, for the corn is both seed and fruit, promise and fulfillment. Without the harvest, the people will die.

By celebrating Lammas as a harvest holiday, we honor both our ancestors and the hard work they did in order to survive, and the Earth for her bounty. This is a good time to give thanks for the abundance we have in our lives, and

to be grateful for the food on our tables. Lammas is a time of transformation, of rebirth and new beginnings.

Statement of purpose

We have come to honor the nature kingdom, and to give thanks for the abundance of the harvest and the nurturing of the giving mother earth. We honor the prosperity given by the father sun and the many blessings provided through our bountiful harvest.



Calling in the Directions

East Hail east! Powers of air!

Bright mornings and breezy spring Fertile fields,
planting time,
Mighty eagles and gentle butterflies Waxing moon,
morning star, breath of life Come! I ask you to our
circle today Watch over us and nurture our gifts of
Intelligence and clarity
I invite you, oh east! Welcome and blessed be.

South Hail south! Powers of fire!

Hot summer afternoons and blazing sun Crops
ripening in abundant fields, Roaring lions and sleepy
snakes
Full moon, desert, spark of life Come! I ask you to our
circle today Watch over us and nurture our gifts of
Passion and creativity
I invite you, oh south! Welcome and blessed be.

West Hail west! Powers of water!

Cool evenings in dusky autumn, Ripened fields of harvest time Playful dolphins and mighty whales
Waning moon, evening star, romance Come! I ask you to our circle today

Watch over us and nurture our gifts of Emotion and love

I invite you, oh west!

Welcome and blessed be.

North Hail north! Powers of earth! Deep night and brisk winter Empty fields, the gleaning time, Black bears and howling wolves Dark moon, star-filled sky, manifestation

Come! I invite you to our circle today Watch over us and nurture our gifts of Strength and health

I invite you, oh north! Welcome and blessed be.

~from Dedicant: *A Witch's Circle of Fire*
by Thuri Calafia

Honoring the Earth and Sun

Light the candle, and say:

To the shining Sun of gold and fire we offer our thanks and gratitude;

To the Earth our Mother of plenty and fertilization we give homage to your love and light. For the harvest to be reaped and the beauty you have provided, we honor you on this evening of Lammas.

Dedicate Offerings

Light a small bundle of smudge/herbs. Allow it to blaze for a moment, holding it up in offering to the Sun.

say something like this:

We offer this gift as a symbol of our love and thanks to the Sun;

We honor his warmth and his rays of light that bring forth the harvest.

Lower the smudge and blow out the flames, allow the stick to smolder. Again with both hands hold the stick up to offer to the Earth.

We share the fragrance of this offering with the Gaia, the Earth, the Mother of Abundance We honor the elements of rain and fair weather that she has given to nurture our garden.

Set the smudge in the bowl and retrieve a bowl of seed, holding it up as offering:

We give thanks for the abundance of our gardens,
And we share in the blessings of these seeds for gardens yet to come.

Sharing in the Bounty of the Harvest

Say:

The Wheel of the Year has turned once more, and the harvest will soon be upon us.

We have food on our tables, and the soil is fertile.

Nature's bounty, the gifts of the earth,
give us reasons to be thankful.

Mother of the Harvest, with your sickle and basket, bless us with abundance and plenty.

Hold the bowls of seeds before you, and think about what they symbolize: the power of the earth, the coming winter, the necessity of planning ahead. What do you need help planning right now? Are there sacrifices you should be making in the present that will be reaped in the future?

Rub the stalks seeds between your fingers so a few grains fall upon the altar. Scatter them on the ground as a gift to the earth. If you're inside, leave them on the altar for now -- you can always take them outside later.

Take a few moments to meditate on the cycle of rebirth and how it applies to your own life - physically, emotionally, spiritually. What in your life needs to fade and die? what in your life needs to be planted? what are you harvesting?

After a few minutes of meditation,

Say:

The power of the Harvest is within me.

As the seed falls to the earth and is reborn each year, I too grow as the seasons change.

As the grain takes root in the fertile soil, I too will find my roots and develop.

As the smallest seed blooms into a mighty stalk, I too will bloom where I have landed.

As the wheat is harvested and saved for winter, I too will set aside that which I can use later.

Tear off a piece of the bread. **Place a piece of bread on the plate set aside for the Earth and Sun offering.**

If you're performing this ritual as a group, pass the loaf around the circle so that each person present can take off a small chunk of bread.

As each person passes the bread, they can say:

I pass to you this gift of the first harvest.

When everyone has a piece of bread, say:

I give thanks for this nourishment, from the abundance of life given by the Earth and the Sun.

Everyone eats their bread together.

Pass the pitcher of apple juice around or one person can walk around and pour some juice for each person.

Pour some juice into the cup set aside for the Earth and Sun.

When all glasses are filled, say:

I give thanks for this refreshment, from the abundance of life given by the Earth and Sun. Everyone drinks their juice together.

Feasting

All will share in the bounty of food and drink, the gifts of the Earth.

Around the fire, each may share their thoughts, favorite poems and readings, songs and chants.

When the time feels complete, we will end.

Dismissing the Directions

North Hail north! Powers of earth!

Deep night and brisk winter Empty fields, the
gleaning time, Black bears and howling wolves
Dark moon, star-filled sky, manifestation I thank you
for joining our circle
For watching over us and nurturing our gifts of
Strength and health
With gratitude, oh north, I release you! Blessed be.

West Hail west! Powers of water! Cool evenings in dusky
autumn, Ripened fields of harvest time Playful
dolphins and mighty whales Waning moon, evening
star, romance I thank you for joining our circle
For watching over us and nurturing our gifts of
Emotion and love
With gratitude, oh west, I release you! Blessed be.

South Hail south! Powers of fire!

Hot summer afternoons and blazing sun Crops
ripening in abundant fields, Roaring lions and sleepy
snakes
Full moon, desert, spark of life
I thank you for joining our circle
For watching over us and nurturing our gifts of
Passion and creativity
With gratitude, oh south, I release you! Blessed be.

East Hail east! Powers of air!

Bright mornings and breezy spring Fertile fields,
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Mighty eagles and gentle butterflies Waxing moon,
morning star, breath of life I thank you for joining
our circle
For watching over us and nurturing our gifts of
Intelligence and clarity
With gratitude, oh east, I release you! Blessed be.

All: Hail and farewell, and blessed be.

adapted from *Dedicant: A Witch's Circle of Fire*
by Thuri Calafia

Close The Circle



Stand facing the altar, hold your hands together as if you are praying, only open the top slightly at the thumbs as if you're making a bowl with your hands. Then speak:

I give thanks to the Earth our Mother and to the Sun our

Father, for watching over our Lammas ceremony. By the light and love of All that Is, we honor the blessings we have received on this day. Many blessings to each and all as we walk along the path of enlightenment. We honor each other in this state of divine experience. We honor our Earth and our Sun. We close this circle that binds us to spirit. May it never be broken!

References

http://www.ravenandcrone.com/catalog/a54/Lammas,-Lughnasadh-Rituals,-Spells-and-Activities/article_info.html

http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=usct&c=holidays&id=14666

http://www.wiccanway.com/Lammas-Lughnasadh-Ritual-Guide-For-Covens_c_210.html

<http://www.goddessandgreenman.co.uk/lammas>



THE MERIDIAN UPDATE WEEKLY BULLETIN

*Sunday Forum 9:00 a.m.; Sunday Service & Religious Exploration
Classes 10:30 a.m. Nursery & Childcare Available.*

CALENDAR

AUGUST 5TH-AUGUST 11TH

Sunday, August 5th

- 9:00 AM Forum (101)
- 10:30 AM RE Bucket List sUumer Camp
- 10:30 AM Worship & RE
- 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders)
- 11:45 AM POTLUCK SUNDAY!

Monday, August 6th

- 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)
- 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)
- 7:00 PM AA Spiritual Experience (F, K)
- 7:00 PM Lafayette Insight Meditation Community (LIMC) 103

Tuesday, August 7th

- 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)
- 6:00 PM Program Council (First Tuesdays, 101)

Wednesday, August 8th

- 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)

Thursday, August 9th

- 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH)
- 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (101/103)

Friday, August 10th

- 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)
- 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)

Saturday, August 11th

- 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)

UUCTC August 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)	2 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (101/103) 6:00 PM Finance Committee (102)	3 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 7:00 PM Lammas, Wheel of the Year Outside (101/103, Inclement weather)	4 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)
5 9:00 AM Forum (101) 10:30 AM RE Bucket List sUumer Camp 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders) 11:45 AM POTLUCK SUNDAY!	6 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 7:00 PM AA Spiritual Experience (F, K) 7:00 PM Lafayette Insight Meditation Community (LIMC) 103	7 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 6:00 PM Program Council (First Tuesdays, 101)	8 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)	9 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (101/103)	10 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)	11 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)
12 9:00 AM Forum (101) 9:30 AM RE and Nursery Volunteer Training 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders)	13 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 7:00 PM AA Spiritual Experience (F, K) 7:00 PM Lafayette Insight Meditation Community (LIMC) 103	14 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:30 PM Pastoral Care (102) 7:00 PM BOARD MEETING (2nd Tuesdays, 101)	15 Lighted Chalice Submission Deadline 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (101/103) 9:00 AM Tippecanoe Quilter's Guild(FH, K) 6:40 PM Blue Moon Choir Practice (FH)	16 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (101/103)	17 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 9:00 AM UUCTC Communication Committee (101/103) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)	18 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 12:00 PM Avila Butera Wedding (210, 206, M,S) 4:00 PM Avila Butera Wedding (FH,K)
19 9:00 AM Forum (101) 9:30 AM RE and Nursery Volunteer Training 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders)	20 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 7:00 PM AA Spiritual Experience (F, K) 7:00 PM Lafayette Insight Meditation Community (LIMC) 103	21 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 7:00 PM UU Safe Congregation Committee (101/103)	22 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 9:30 AM Old Tippecanoe Quilt Guild (FH, K) 7:00 PM Blue Moon Rising Choir Practice (FH)	23 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (101/103)	24 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)	25 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)
26 9:00 AM Forum (101) 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders)	27 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 7:00 PM AA Spiritual Experience (F, K) 7:00 PM Lafayette Insight Meditation Community (LIMC) 103	28 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH)	29 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 7:00 PM Blue Moon Rising Choir Practice (FH)	30 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (101/103)	31 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC RE-treat Set-up (entire Church) 6:00 PM UUCTC RE-treat (entire Church)	1

NEWS



August 18, 2018

3:00 p.m. to Midnight
Downtown Lafayette

Join UUCTC in our community outreach efforts by volunteering for a shift at Outfest.

Contact Jack Reynolds, Text at 765.421.2054 or call after 2 p.m. Or Facebook Messenger, for more information



2018 UUCTC Church Retreat
Contact Josh Prokopy at
joshuaprokopy@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



UU CHURCH STAFF

Rosemary Morrison, Interim Minister
Nicole Rice, Director of Religious Exploration
Va'Linda McBride, Admin. Asst.
Christina Wright, Nursery Coordinator

UU CHURCH OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

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Web Site, calendar, sermons, on-line link to

Lighted Chalice Newsletter: uuctc.org

Webspinners: Steve Moss & Alice Pawley

RE Website regluu.wordpress.com



The Pianist Search Committee is looking to hire a Church Pianist for our church.

- This is a paid position to play for the worship service 3 Sundays per month (flexible scheduling) in Sept.-May, and 2 Sundays per month June-August (33 Sundays per year).
- Compensation is set as \$100 per Sunday. Extra pay for Christmas.
- Application letters/resumé may be submitted to PersonnelCommittee@uuctc.org or the Church Office c/o/ the Pianist Search Committee.