



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

September 21, 2018



Kirsten Reynolds

Mabon/ Fall Equinox Service

History of Mabon

Mabon, (pronounced MAY-bun, MAY-bone, MAH-boon, or MAH-bawn) is the Autumn Equinox. The Autumn Equinox divides the day and night equally, and we all take a moment to pay our respects to the impending dark. We also give thanks to the waning sunlight, as we store our harvest of this year's crops.

This festival is now named after the the God of Welsh mythology, Mabon. He is the Child of Light and the son of the Earth Mother Goddess, Modron. In truth, there is little evidence that Mabon was celebrated in Celtic countries, and the term Mabon was applied as recently as the 1970's. All part of our reconstructed Paganism...

Mabon marks the middle of harvest. It is a time of equal day and equal night, and for the moment nature is in balance. It is a time to reap what you have sown, of giving thanks for the harvest and the bounty the Earth provides. For finishing up old projects and plans, and planting the seeds for new enterprises or a change in lifestyle. Mabon is a time of celebration and balance.

At this time, we are at a point of perfect balance on the journey through the Wheel of the Year, its counterpart being Ostara or the Spring Equinox. Night and day are again of equal length and in perfect equilibrium - dark and light, masculine and feminine, inner and outer, in balance. But we are also again on the cusp of transition, and from now on the year begins to wane; from this moment darkness begins to defeat the light. The cycle of the natural world is moving towards completion, the Sun's power is waning. From now on the nights grow longer and the days are shorter and cooler. The sap of the trees returns to their roots deep in the earth, changing the green of summer to the fire of autumn, the flaming reds, oranges and golds. We are returning to the dark from whence we came.

But before we do that, we celebrate! This is the Second Harvest, the Fruit Harvest and the Great Feast of Thanksgiving. The Goddess is radiant as Harvest Queen and the God finally dies in His gift of pure love with the cutting of the last grain. He will return when the days once again grow longer. As the grain harvest is safely gathered in from Lammas and reaches completion, we enjoy the abundance of fruit and vegetables at this time. It is time to thank the waning Sun for the wealth of harvest bestowed upon us. It sometimes seems that each Festival requires the making of

celebration and the giving of thanks, but this is right. Each turn of the Wheel brings both inner and outer gifts and insights.

So Mabon is a celebration, and also a time of rest after the labour of harvest. In terms of life path, it is the moment of reaping what you have sown, the time to look at the hopes and aspirations of Imbolc and Ostara, and reflect on how they have manifested. It is time to complete projects, to clear out and let go of that which is no longer wanted or needed as we prepare for descent, so that the winter can offer a time for reflection and peace. And it is time to plant the seeds of new ideas and hopes that will lie dormant but nourished in the dark, until the return of Spring.



Symbols of Mabon - The Cornucopia

The Cornucopia, or Horn of Plenty, is a traditional symbol for Mabon. It is a wonderful symbol for the wealth of the harvest. It is a beautifully balanced symbol that is both male (phallic) and female (hollow and receptive).

The Apple

The apple is the symbol of the Fruit Harvest. The apple figures significantly in many sacred traditions. It is a symbol for life and immortality, for healing, renewal, regeneration and wholeness. It is associated with beauty, long life and restored youth. The Ogham name for apple is Quert, and Quert is the epitome of health and vitality. The apple is at the heart of the Ogham grove and is the source of life. For Pagans, the apple contains a 'secret'. Cut an apple width ways and it reveals a pentagram containing seeds. The five points represent the elements of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, with Spirit at the top. The five points also represent the directions of East, South, West, North and Within.



Calling in the Directions

East: Spirits of the East, element of Air, your warm summer breezes yield to the autumn chill that gives birth to a blaze of bright color. We appreciate the blessings of the beauty you bestow on this world. Join us in our circle this night.

South: Spirits of the South, element of Fire, your brilliant August sun is becoming a memory that will dance through our hearts in the dark months to come. May we find your spark to illuminate the path ahead. Join us in our circle this night.

West: Spirits of the West, element of Water, your cool autumn rains wash the emptying fields to make way for a winter's rest. May we receive the blessing of your cleansing showers. Join us in our circle this night.

North: Spirits of the North, element of Earth, your golden fields provide the promise of a comfortable winter. We celebrate in the abundance of your blessings. Join us in our circle this night.

The Circle of Gratitude

Place items you have brought on the altar for the circle of gratitude. You may want to choose items that represent abundance, such as:

- Baskets of fruit, like apples or grapes
- Cornucopias
- Colors associated with abundance, such as gold and green
- Symbols of things you're thankful for, such as your health or your career
- Photos of your family and friends who mean a lot to you

As you begin, take a moment to reflect on the abundance in your life. When we say abundance, it doesn't necessarily mean material or financial abundance -- you may be abundant if you have friends who love you, a satisfying family life, or a rewarding career. Think about the things you have for which you are most grateful. These are the things you will be focusing on in this rite. As you're thinking about these things, anoint your candle with the Gratitude Oil, and then light it on the altar.

If you have a particular deity in your tradition who is associated with thankfulness, you may wish to call out to this god or goddess and invite them into your circle. If not, that's okay too -- you can express your gratitude to the universe itself.

Starting at the eastern side of the circle, begin with one person saying the things they are thankful for, and why. Each person in turn should anoint a candle of their own, and call out their own things they are grateful for. It might go something like this:

I am thankful for my health, because it allows me to feel well.

I am grateful for my children, for keeping me young.

I am thankful for my career, because each day I get paid to do what I love.

I am grateful for my job, because I am able to feed my family.

I feel gratitude for my garden, because it provides me with fresh herbs.

I am thankful for my coven sisters, because they make me feel spiritually complete...

and so forth, until you have expressed your thankfulness for everything in your life.

Take a few more minutes to meditate on the candle flame, and to focus on the notion of abundance. While you're thinking about things you are grateful for, you might also wish to consider the people in your life that are grateful towards you, for the things *you* have done. Recognize that gratitude is a gift that keeps on giving, and that counting one's blessings is an important thing to do, because it reminds us of how truly fortunate we are.

NOTE: It's important to realize that one of the things about being thankful is that we should let people who have made us happy know they've done so. If there's someone specific you wish to thank for their words or actions, you should take the time to tell them so directly, instead of (or in addition to) merely doing a ritual that they'll never know about. Send a note, make a phone call, or tell them in person how much you appreciate what they've done for you.

O Sacred Season of Autumn

O sacred season of Autumn, be my teacher,
for I wish to learn the virtue of contentment.

As I gaze upon your full-colored beauty,
I sense all about you an at-homeness with your amber riches.

You are the season of retirement,
of full barns and harvested fields.

The cycle of growth has ceased,
and the busy work of giving life

is now completed.

I sense in you no regrets:

you've lived a full life.

I live in a society that is ever-restless,
always eager for more mountains to climb,
seeing happiness through more and more
possessions.

As a child of my culture,

I am seldom truly at peace with what I have.

Teach me to take stock of what I have given and
received,

may I know that it's enough,

that my striving can cease in the abundance of God's
grace.

May I know the contentment

that allows the totality of my energies
to come to full flower.

May I know that like you I am rich beyond measure.

As you, O Autumn, take pleasure in your great
bounty,

let me also take delight

in the abundance of the simple things in life
which are the true source of joy.

With the golden glow of peaceful contentment
may I truly appreciate this autumn day.

- Edward Hays



A Mabon Prayer

Lady,

Dark Lady of the Autumn,

of fire-tipped trees

and glowing flame,

of wild, star dappled nights,

bless this time of harvest,

both of the earth and

of the spirit.

Fill me with dreams of foretelling;

for You are silent save in dreams.

Fill me with wisdom;

for You are the Lady of the Wise.

Prepare me for Winter's stillness;

for revelation springs from the Great Silence

and I shall have visions

and prophesy in Your holy Name.

-angelfire.com

Dismissing the Directions

North: Guardians of the North and Prosperity! Spirits of Earth, You who dwell in the fertile fields, deep forests and high mountains, bringing forth Life, Beauty and Abundance. Thank you for nurturing our crops to harvest. We ask for the strength of the north as we face our inner darkness on this, the time of balance, the time of the autumn equinox. We bid you well as you depart. May there be peace between us.

West: Guardians of the West and Emotion! Spirits of Water, You who dwell in the sparkling streams, deep lakes, and soft rains, bringing Refreshment, Nurturing and Renewal. Thank you for nurturing our crops to harvest. We ask for the fluidity of the west as we succumb to our inner darkness on this, the time of balance, the time of the autumn equinox. We bid you well as you depart. May there be peace between us.

South: Guardians of the South and Passion! Spirits of Fire, You who dwell in the brilliant warmth of the fires of the sun, giving of Light, Strength and Happiness. Thank you for nurturing our crops to harvest. We ask for the resolve of the south as we receive our inner darkness on this, the time of balance, the time of the autumn equinox. We bid you well as you depart. May there be peace between us.

East: Guardians of the East and Inspiration! Spirits of Air, You who dwell in the gentle winds that blow fresh and pure, giving of Inspiration and Intelligence. Thank you for nurturing our crops to harvest. We ask for the flexibility of the east as we accept our inner darkness on this, the time of balance, the time of the autumn equinox. We bid you well as you depart. May there be peace between us.

-adapted from *Goddess Alive* by Kris Waldherr and
angelfire.com

All: Hail and farewell, and blessed be.

Feasting

All will share in the bounty of food and drink, the gifts of the Earth as we celebrate - with gratitude! - the abundance of this second harvest.

Around the fire, each may share their thoughts, favorite poems and readings, songs and chants. Drums, rattles and other instruments are welcome!



A Mabon Offering

Leaves fall,
The days grow cold.
The Goddess pulls her mantle of Earth around Her
As You, O Great Sun God, sail toward the West
To the land of eternal enchantment,
Wrapped in the coolness of night.
Fruits ripen,
Seeds drip,
The hours of day and night are balanced.
Chill winds blow in from the North, wailing laments.
In this seeming extinction of nature's power, O
Blessed
Goddess, I know that life continues.
For spring is impossible without the second harvest,
As surely as life is impossible without death.
Blessings upon you, O Fallen God, as you journey
into
The lands of winter and into the Goddess' loving
arms.

O Gracious Goddess of all fertility, I have sown and
Reaped the fruits of my actions, good and bane.
Grant me the courage to plant seeds of joy and love in
The coming year, banishing misery and hate. Teach
me the secrets
Of wise existence upon the planet.
O luminous one of the night!

Blessed be!

THE MERIDIAN UPDATE WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

Sunday, September 23rd, 9:00AM, Forum

Speaker: **Jay McCann**

"James A. McCann conducts research on public opinion, electoral processes, participation, and representation in the United States and cross-nationally. He is the co-author, with Jorge Domínguez, of *Democratizing Mexico: Public Opinion and Electoral Choices* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996)

Sunday, September 23rd, 10:30AM, Service

Speaker: **Kat Braz**

Topic: **Blessing of the Animals**

Well-behaved house pets of any variety are welcome, however you are responsible for cleaning up after your animal. Please keep animals on leash or in travel carrier, cage, terrarium, etc. as appropriate. All animals should remain on the main floor so that allergy sufferers and other congregants wishing to enjoy the service apart from the animals may do so from the balcony. There will be a time of reflection to honor animal friends we have lost, and congregants who wish to bring a photo of their beloved pet to display near the candelabra may do so. Children are encouraged to bring a stuffed animal.



UUCTC September 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					21 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 7:00 PM Mabon The Autumn Equinox	22 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 12:00 PM Football Parking Fundraiser
23 9:00 AM Forum (101) 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders) 11:30 AM UUCTC Chalice Circle Registration (FH), After 10:30 AM Service	24 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	25 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 7:00 PM Lafayette Chamber Singers (S)	26 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)	27 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)	28 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 4:00 PM Quilter Guild Table reservation Using 15 Tables and 3 Easels 7:00 PM Exploring Humanness Discussion Group (101/103)	29 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 4:00 PM Quilter Guild Table reservation Using 15 Tables and 3 Easels
30 9:00 AM Forum (101) 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders) 11:30 AM UUCTC Chalice Circle Registration (FH), After 10:30 AM Service						

THE MERIDIAN UPDATE WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

Sunday, September 23

- 9:00 AM** Forum (101)
- 10:30 AM** Worship & RE
- 10:30 AM** Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders)
- 11:30 AM** UUCTC Chalice Circle Reg. (FH), After 10:30 AM Service
- 12:00 PM** Art Fair Planning Meeting (101/103)

Monday, September 24

- 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, September 25

- 12:00 PM** Meridian AA (FH & K)
- 3:00 PM** UUCTC Homework Club (FH)
- 7:00 PM** Lafayette Chamber Singers (S)

Wednesday, September 26

- 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

Thursday, September 27

- 3:00 PM** UUCTC Homework Club (FH)
- 5:00 PM** West Lafayette Zen Group (M)

Friday, September 28

- 7:30 AM** Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)
- 12:00 PM** Meridian AA (FH & K)
- 3:00 PM** Quilter Guild Tables & Easels Pickup
- 7:00 PM** Exploring Humanness Discussion Group (101/103)

Saturday, September 29

- 8:00 AM** West Lafayette Zen Group (M)
- 4:00 PM** Quilter Guild Table reservation Using 15 Tables and 3 Easels (Return)

UUCTC October 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 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	2 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 6:00 PM Program Council (First Tuesdays, 101) 7:00 PM Lafayette Chamber Singers (S)	3 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 7:00 PM Blue Moon Rising Choir Practice (FH)	4 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 6:00 PM Finance Committee (102)	5 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)	6 Feast of the Hunters' Moon-UUCTC Fundraiser 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 10:00 AM Bahiai Regional election (FH,K, 101/103, 210, 206, M)
7 Feast of the Hunters' Moon-UUCTC Fundraiser 9:00 AM Forum (101) 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders) 11:45 AM POTLUCK SUNDAY! 12:30 PM RE Committee Meeting	8 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	9 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) 7:00 PM Lafayette Chamber Singers (S)	10 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 7:00 PM Blue Moon Rising Choir Practice (FH) 7:00 PM Greater Lafayette ACLU (103)	11 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 5:30 PM UUCTC Worship Committee (101/103)	12 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)	13 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 1:00 PM McKinsey Baby Shower (FH, K)
14 9:00 AM Forum (101) 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders)	15 Lighted Chalice Submission Deadline 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)	16 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 7:00 PM Lafayette Chamber Singers (S) 7:00 PM UU Safe Congregation Committee (101/103)	17 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)	18 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)	19 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)	20 Football Parking Fundraiser (Game Time TBA) 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)
21 9:00 AM Forum (101) 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders)	22 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	23 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 7:00 PM Lafayette Chamber Singers (S)	24 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)	25 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)	26 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 7:00 PM Samhain	27 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 6:00 PM Halloween party/haunted house
28 9:00 AM Forum (101) 10:30 AM Worship & RE 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders) 2:30 PM Social Justice Committee (101/103)	29 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	30 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K) 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 7:00 PM Lafayette Chamber Singers (S)	31 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 7:00 PM Blue Moon Rising Choir Practice (FH)	1 3:00 PM UUCTC Homework Club (FH) 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (M) 6:00 PM Finance Committee (102)	2 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH) 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)	3 Football Parking Fundraiser (Game Time TBA) 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)

EVENTS

2019 UUCTC's Stewardship theme

MOVING
forward together



- Is your ministry, group, or circle looking to raise money for upcoming programs? Projects? Equipment?

If you answered yes, then contact Barny Dunning, 765-412-8760 or by email jdunning@purdue.edu

Find out how parking for Purdue football games can add to your budget line item.

MOVING
forward together

Night at Puccini's

September 18, 2018* 4PM to 10PM

Carryout * Dine-in* Delivery

Located at 300 Brown Street West Lafayette In

Bring in an event flyer and UUCTC will receive 20% of your total amount. Flyers are located in the Narthex and outside the Admin. Office



Chalice & Listening Circles Registration

Every Sunday in September after 10:30 AM Service in Fellowship Hall.

Friends and members over 14 years old are invited to join. Contact **Susan McConville**, at 765-477-0344 or mcconvillesusanne@gmail.com if you have questions

Mabon/ Fall Equinox Service

September 21st at 7PM

Join us for this family friendly service.



September/October Recipient

Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM) Bus Token Program LUM staff often meet with clients who have inadequate or no transportation. They may need to go to an appointment, to the mall to purchase work boots, and work. Your help is needed.

Please give generously to Change 4 Change

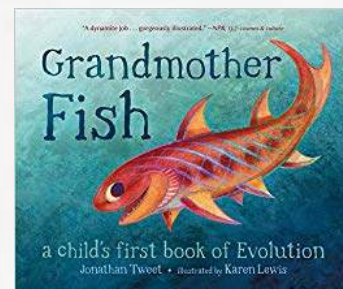
CHILD AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

RE Calendar: Nicole McCabe, dre@uuctc.org

Did you know that RE has an Amazon wish list? Check out some of the latest books added and consider making a donation to help us make broader connections to the world around us and further explore our UU principles.

<http://a.co/8Mtm8YW>

- ◆ Young, Gifted, and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present
- ◆ The Hate U Give
- ◆ She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World
- ◆ Grandmother Fish
- ◆ Rethinking Normal
- ◆ 10,000 Dresses
- ◆ Climate Change: Discover How It Impacts Spaceship Earth



Welcome

UU CHURCH STAFF

Rosemary Morrison, Invited Minister

Nicole Rice, Director of Religious Exploration

Va'Linda McBride, Admin. Asst.

Christina Wright, Nursery Coordinator

UU CHURCH OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

333 Meridian Street

West Lafayette, IN 47906-2313

Phone: (765)743-8812

Fax: (765) 743-8845

Email: office@uuctc.org

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

Lighted Chalice Newsletter: uuctc.org

Webspinners: Steve Moss & Alice Pawley

RE Website regluu.wordpress.com