

**MoonFire welcomes all who wish to participate.**

Rituals are held on the third Sunday of the month at 1 o'clock at the UUCA Church ([www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org))

Steering Committee meetings are open to all, they are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 at the UUCA Church.

To sign up for the newsletter, please e-mail the Secretary!

**Officers**

**Co-Coordinator:**

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**Treasurer:**

**Erich Steinbeck**  
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**Secretary:**

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**Mission Statement**

“We strive to build a safe and nurturing community which is inclusive and provides for spiritual growth and service to the Earth and Her children. We are the Hub of the Wheel of Life, the Crossroads where all meet; We are a Chalice of the Goddess; We are of the Earth, rich and empowering; We are a Rock, safe and secure; We are a Rainbow, diverse with many colors yet together in one band; We are a Flame of Spirituality, providing the light to see our path before us.”



<http://www.moonfireuucava.org>

# We are MoonFire

*We are Pagan!*

*We are Eclectic!*

*We are Welcoming!*



## Yule 2006: Celebrating the light within

Hark the neo-Pagans sing,  
Glory to the Holly King  
Peace on Earth and mercy mild,  
God and Goddess reconciled,  
Hear us now as we proclaim,  
We have risen from the flames  
Our ancient Craft now we reclaim,  
In the God and Goddess' names  
Hark the neo-Pagans sing,  
Glory to the Holly King!  
– “Sunblade” from “Pagan Yule Songs”

# Yule

The season is upon us! It's the "battle for Yule"! While I won't bore you with all the details of this particular spoke on the wheel of the year, I couldn't help but talk about the question: why do we call it "Yule"?

As with most of the terms we lay claim to as Pagans "Yule" has a rather complex and disputed etymology. Suffice to say that it is borrowed from the Scandinavian and referred to a wide range of timer periods, from November through January. In the Scandinavian and Germanic languages it refers to both Yule and Christmas. In its current usage it is a general term, one that comes to mean an inclusive set of winter festivities surrounding the Solstice.

There was historically no universal "Pagan" holiday around December and midwinter. We have created that. Instead there were many, many different festivals and associations that occurred during the time of the Solstice. In adopting the Wiccan calendar of Sabbats we have established a liturgical calendar for ourselves, a cycle within the year which we can use to guide and structure our rituals, and keep both our selves and our rituals in tune with the seasons.

Yule gives us a way to celebrate the return of light, both within ourselves, amongst ourselves, and in the world. It is a happy time, one that reminds us why we should be merry despite all that life gives us.

## Snowflakes

Each and every one of us is unique, and as our light spreads it leaves many different impressions behind it. During the ritual we will construct snowflakes from various materials and markers. Make the snowflakes represent something wonderful you would like to tell someone. Or something amazing you would like to have happen. Be yourself, put yourself into your snowflake, it will represent the light that you want to give to others. Make as many as you want. But as you make them remember that they are made to give away, to others in the circle, or to those in your life who are not here. For the magic to happen you will have to give them to somebody, no cheating by putting them on the altar! The snowflakes represent a way to spread light and cheer this season.

# Ritual

## Assemble in Room 13/15

### Entry chant

*Joy to the World*

### Cast the circle

Say something that makes you happy

### Call the quarters

We will call the quarters by handing out gifts!

### The Holly King and Oak King

*Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful!*

### Snowflake Magic

Our snowflakes make magic by what we do with them.

### Talking and thinking about happiness

Yule is a time to reflect on light, what it means in our lives, and how we can make more of it in ourselves and in others. We will reflect on light and happiness in our lives, then have a chance to talk about what makes us happy, and what we think would help others be happy. We will then have a chance to exchange snowflakes or other gifts with each other!

### Cakes and Ale

*Glory to the New Born King*

### Dismiss the quarters

Start with North.

### Open the Circle

Merry Meet, Merry Part, and Merry Meet Again!

