

## Religious Holidays & Secular Observances for September 2020 – July 2021

Please remember that for some of the holidays, students, faculty or staff may need to travel to be with family. Also be mindful that for some of the holidays that begin at sundown, observant individuals may need to make preparations earlier in the afternoon, which means that they will need to leave early. Finally, this is not an exhaustive list – 4C Committee members put it together by pooling our knowledge of the religions represented on campus, and generally available information regarding the most significant holidays. We may have missed some and misunderstood the significance of others. If this is the case, let us know – we can be reached at [4C@ncf.edu](mailto:4C@ncf.edu) or you may contact me directly.

Bill Woodson

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| Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>                       | Labor Day* -- <i>A celebration of the contributions of workers</i>  |
| Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>   | Rosh Hashanah Rosh Hashanah – <i>The celebration of the Jewish New Year (sundown to sundown)</i>  |
| Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>   | Yom Kippur – <i>The Jewish Day of Atonement (sundown to sundown)</i>  |
| Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup>                       | Dasara – <i>A Hindu celebration of victory and valor</i>  |
| Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup> - Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> | Samhain – <i>Gaelic and Wiccan festival celebrating the end of harvest season, also observed by Celtic pagans (neopagans). (sundown to sundown)</i> |
| Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup>                        | All Saints Day – <i>A day commemorating all saints who have attained heaven</i>   |
| Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>                        | Day of the Dead (“Dia de Muertos”) – <i>A Mexican celebration of the departed</i>   |
| Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>                       | Veteran’s Day* -- <i>A celebration of the Armistice ending World War I and recognition of all who served in the military</i>                        |
| Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>                       | Diwali – <i>The Hindu festival of lights</i>  |
| Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup>                       | Thanksgiving* -- <i>A harvest celebration</i>   |
| Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup>                       | National Day of Mourning – <i>A Native American alternative commemoration</i>   |
| Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup>                       | Day after Thanksgiving* -- <i>Informally known as “Black Friday”</i>  |
| Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>    | Hanukkah – <i>The Jewish festival of lights that begins at sundown on the 10<sup>th</sup></i>   |
| Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>                       | Christmas* – <i>The Christian celebration of the birth of Christ</i>  |
| Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup> – Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> | Kwanzaa – <i>A celebration of African heritage and African American culture culminating in a feast and gift giving on Jan 1<sup>st</sup></i>        |
| Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>                        | New Year’s Day* -- <i>Widely celebrated as the start of the New Year, particularly in Western cultures.</i>   |
| Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>                       | Martin Luther King Jr. Day* -- <i>An observance celebrating the birth of Dr. King and his achievements</i>  |
| Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup>                       | Chinese New Year – <i>Celebrated by Confucians, Daoists and Buddhists</i>   |
| Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>                       | Nirvana Day – <i>A Buddhist commemoration of the death of Buddha and his entry into Nirvana.</i>  |
| Mar. 25 <sup>th</sup>                       | Mahavir Jayanti – <i>The most important Jain religious holiday. Commemorates the birth day of Mahavira, a contemporary of Buddha</i>                |

\* indicates a holiday when New College is closed

## Religious Holidays & Secular Observances for September 2020 – May 2021

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| Mar. 27 <sup>th</sup> – Apr. 4 <sup>th</sup> | Passover (Pesach) – <i>The Jewish observance begins at sundown March 27<sup>th</sup>, primary obligation days are March 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup></i> |
| Mar. 28 <sup>th</sup>                        | Magha puja day (Sangha) – <i>A celebration commemorating a historic meeting of Buddhists monks, 2,500 year ago</i>  |
| Mar. 28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>     | Laylat al Bara'ah – <i>Muslim night of prayer of repentance that begins at sundown</i>  |
| Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup>                         | Good Friday – <i>The Christian commemoration of the crucifixion of Christ</i>   |
| Apr. 4 <sup>th</sup>                         | Easter – <i>The Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ</i>   |
| Apr. 12 <sup>th</sup>                        | Hindi New Year  |
| Apr. 12 <sup>th</sup> – May 11 <sup>th</sup> | Ramadan – <i>Muslim observation of a month of spiritual reflection and daytime fasting. Begins sundown</i>  |
| Apr. 30 <sup>th</sup>                        | Great & Holy Friday (Good Friday) – <i>Orthodox Christian commemoration of the crucifixion of Christ</i>  |
| Apr. 30 <sup>th</sup> – May 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Beltane – <i>The Wiccan holiday celebrating, spring, fertility and the approaching summer. Begins at sundown</i>  |
| May 2 <sup>nd</sup>                          | Easter – <i>The Orthodox Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ</i>  |
| May 12 <sup>th</sup>                         | Eid al-Fitr – <i>A Muslim celebration of the breaking of the Ramadan fast</i>   |
| May 31 <sup>st</sup>                         | Memorial Day* -- <i>An observance honoring those who died while serving in the U.S. military.</i>   |
| July 4 <sup>th</sup>                         | Independence Day* -- <i>A holiday commemorating the U.S. Declaration of Independence</i>  |

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