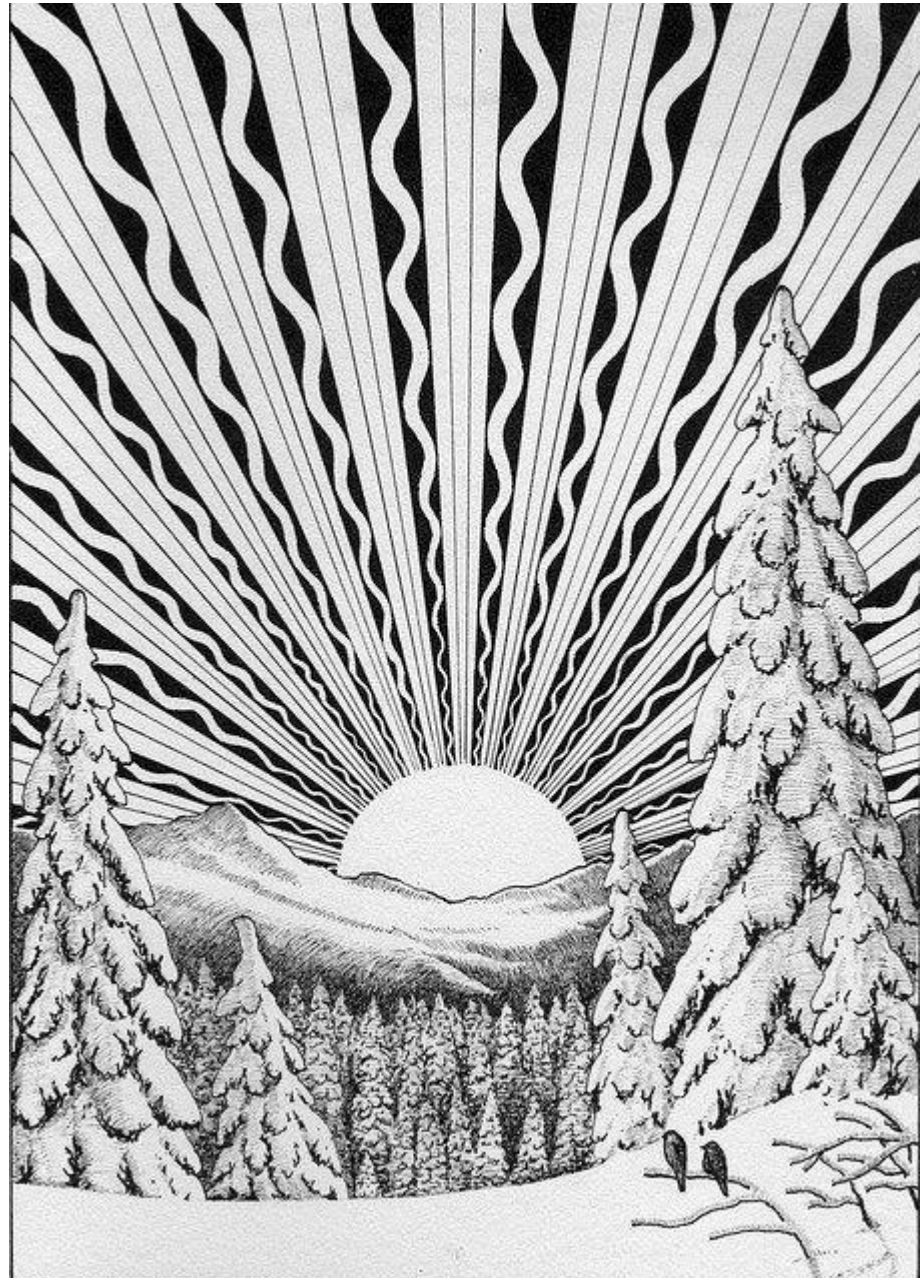




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December Theme: Opening to Joy

December 5 *Joy to Our World*

This service will bring us fully into the joy of the season. On this second Sunday of Advent, join Choralis and Rev. Rosemary for a service full of music, poetry, and an uplifting message.

December 12 *The Joy of Wintertime*

As we head into that time of year where the days are shortest, let's celebrate together the hidden beauty and treasures to be found during this season.

December 19 *Oh Mitten Tree*

We will once again be sharing our fun and lively tradition of the mitten tree. Please join Maria Jenkins, our Interim Director of Religious Exploration and our youth, as we bring this beloved tradition back to our sanctuary.

December 21 *Westwood's Winter Solstice Online Service (at 7:00 pm)*

Stories to Celebrate the Season, Ritual and Song, Blessed Bees. Come nourish the sweetness of being together at Solstice in this Online, All Ages Event. Zoom link on calendar at

www.WestwoodUnitarian.ca

December 23 *Blue Christmas (online only at 7:00 pm)*

Please join Rev. Rosemary online for a time together to acknowledge that it's not always shiny and bright. Some of us struggle this time of year, and in sharing our time and stories, it just might make things feel a little lighter.

<https://bit.ly/3jBOnwi>

December 24 *A Joyful and Gentle Christmas Eve (online only at 7:00 pm)*

This year our Christmas Eve service will be online only. This service will be full of stories, music, and warmth. Please join Rev. Rosemary for a time of delight in the season, as well as recognizing the end of Advent season with a time of quiet reflection.

<https://bit.ly/3jBOnwi>

December 26 *Surprised by Joy*

This service will be online only to offer our hard-working volunteers a time of respite from their duties. In this service we will explore some of the surprises this time of year has to offer us. There will be time for sharing our favourite seasonal stories as well.

January 2 *Reflecting on the stories of 2021*

This service will be a time of reflection on the year past and those lived and cultural stories we have experienced in 2021. This will be an opportunity to remember and bear witness to the stories of our lives.

Services Begin at 10:30 am,
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3jBOnwi>
Meeting ID: 200 338 874 +1 587 328 1099



Sunday Services Waiting Room. We begin admitting people at 10:15am. Until then, you will be placed in our waiting room.

Minister's Reflection:



When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight. Kahlil Gibran

The theme we will be exploring this month is: Opening to Joy. I love this quote by Kahlil Gibran because it reminds us of the contradictions of our lives. It also brings a cautionary message: love openly and fully, and you will get your heart broken. I have certainly found that to be true in my life. I wonder though, would life be as rich and meaningful if we choose to close ourselves off to the wonders that being joyful and loving can bring? Well, that's an easy question to answer, and yet, we do make choices every day to not be fully present to others. We sometimes shy away from a compliment, hold ourselves back from telling someone we love them, or stop ourselves from reaching out.

December can be full of joy, and sometimes it's not. Not everyone can be with family and friends or afford the presents we are expected to buy. I want to encourage you to think about what is really important this holiday season. What things bring you Joy? I bet it's not things from the shopping mall, or spending money you might not have. I encourage you to think about what makes your heart sing, and then look for easy ways to bring those songs to life. Maybe it's a walk during a snowfall, or looking at the twinkling lights, or my favourite, baking cookies.

The Sunday Services Committee and I have put together many opportunities for you to experience joy, and also for you to express how difficult this time of year can be (because it can be very difficult!). May you find joy in this community, may you find joy during this holiday season, and may you find ways to open to joy with your whole heart.

In peace, Rev. Rosemary

8th Principle Announcement

Thank you to everyone who let your voice be heard regarding the adoption of the 8th Principle. I am very pleased to report that there was an overwhelming majority in favour of this proposal. Therefore, our three delegates: Susan Ruttan, Louise Charach and Audrey Brooks will be voting in favour of adopting the 8th Principle. Look for opportunities in the near future for The Unitarian Church of Edmonton to begin living into this principle. I look forward to being on this journey with you.

Rev. Rosemary Morrison



President's Letter

Well this year has gone fast. So, 60 seconds on the clock....

The warehouse renovations should be complete by the time you read this

The sound/video system is getting better and better every week as we get comfortable with it and work out the bugs.

Our Minister seems to be getting comfortable with us

We have started the search for a new DRE

And in the new year

We will be having a congregational start up meeting with Joan from the CUC in January to help us plan our path forward

We will have a Conference of Committee Chairs and Interested people in February

We are working on adding a projector to the sanctuary audio/video system

The Food bank depot should be restarting

More information on everything will be coming out in the following months.

As always everything people do around the church is appreciated, and we try to keep the tasks small and spread out so everyone can still enjoy church. So if you have some spare time, please reach out.

See you around church and Happy Holidays and Happy *Chrismahanukwanzakah!*

Mike

Contribution 2021 Deadline



Year-end is coming. To make sure you receive your tax receipt for 2021 please have your donations to the church before the end of the month. If you donate to the collection plate then our last in-person service this year will be December 19th. If you donate by cheque then please make sure your donation is received before the office closes on Tuesday December 28th. Of course, you can donate online up until the 31st of December through [Canada Helps](#) or by Interac transfer to

chadmin@uce.ca. Thank you to everyone whose donations support the work of our church.

Head Teller Needed

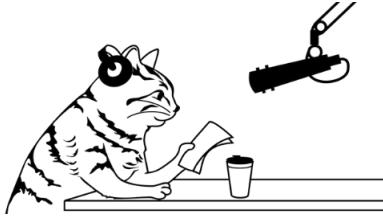
UCE is looking for a volunteer to be head teller. The head teller is responsible for counting, documenting, and depositing revenue received by the church each week. The head teller will recruit and supervise other tellers to assist with these tasks. The head teller will also become a member of the finance committee. If you are interested in taking on this interesting role please contact the Treasurer; Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca.



Next Board Meeting

The UCE Board will meet December 15 at 7:30 pm. Please email board@uce.ca if you would like to attend and find out what the meeting format will be (online or in person).

Did you Know that UCE Board Minutes Are Online?



Minutes of UCE Board meetings are available for anyone to review on the UCE website www.uce.ca under the tab “Church Business” or click the link <https://www.uce.ca/agm-minutes-reports-board-meeting-minutes/>

Governance Implementation Team (GIT) Update

Uniting our UCE family and caring for each other is important work of our church community. Your GIT Committee is looking at improvements to policies, bylaws, committees, etc. Clarity about how we keep each other safe and work together can help build even stronger relationships.

Soon we will be in conversation to renew our UCE vision and mission and to develop a Covenant of Right Relations with Rev. Rosemary. These are important steps to support the life and growth of our UCE community.

There is much to celebrate at UCE and many people to thank as we end this year and look forward with optimism to the new year, full of possibility.

In Memory of Lilas Lysne

Lilas Isabelle Lysne passed away the morning of November 13, 2021, at the age of 90. Her delight and wonder, curiosity and intuition brought a liveliness to any room. Always inclusive, and welcoming into her loving circle, Lilas was a great friend and mother to many who passed her way. A stalwart member of the Unitarian Church for over 60 years, she participated in several conferences and then led the Unitarian Western conference in the 1990’s. The “Legend of Lilas” as the Wilderness (Unitarian Church) Camp director has provided many fireside stories. Such a snappy dresser, Lilas was always bejeweled, always colourful.



Lilas’s Celebration of Life will take place 1:00PM, December 11, 2021 at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (10804-119 St NW, Edmonton). Virtual streaming will be available. For virtual link, contact Almeda Miller, at almedacowper0603@gmail.com In leu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Spirit North (spiritnorthxc.ca). [#spiritnorth](https://twitter.com/spiritnorth) To get updates please follow Lilas’ obituary page at:

<https://edmontonjournal.remembering.ca/obituary/lilas-lysne-1083846451>

Religious Exploration Update

Hello UCE Families,

What a fall it's been! Children's programming at church has started slowly, but Religious Exploration is available for children every Sunday, for those who wish to attend church in person. As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns about RE programming at UCE, please don't hesitate to contact me at ucekids@uce.ca

Youth Group has begun meeting, following Sunday morning services, around 11:30 am. If you have any youth (aged 12-20) in your lives who would like to join us, please contact me for an invite to our Discord server, or simply show up after service some Sunday!

Hope to see you soon!

All my love, Maria Jenkins, Interim Director of Religious Exploration

Walking Group

If you are double-vaxxed, you are welcome to join the UCE walkers at 10.30am each Friday at the designated location. Be well and bundle up! Sheila Parr

December Walks:

3rd Mill Creek
10th Highlands Golf Club
17th McKinnon Ravine

January Walks:

7th Hawrelak Park
14th Laurier Park
21st St. Albert
28th Emily Murphy Park

Tuney Tuesdays



At Tuney Tuesday we take in your music suggestions, by way of YouTube videos, and play those videos. In between, we'll share thoughts about music and related reactions. You can find a link that connects to our Zoom session in the UCE calendar, the church bulletin, and on our website, uce.ca.

If you wish to find out more, need to be shown how to share a YouTube link, or have any other questions, email tunes@uce.ca and I will answer. My name is Alex Polkovsky. I hope to see you on my screen soon.

Participants: please send two video links under 5 minutes in length each. That's our content. If you would prefer to just join in and interact without suggesting any video to play, that's alright, too. Come and hang out. Come every week or just now and again, it's all good. I'll open the Zoom room at 6:45 just so we can banter a bit, and then on to the music.

Amnesty International's 2021 Write for Rights Campaign



Again this December UUs, and others who care about human rights, join in Amnesty International's 2021 Write for Rights campaign:

"The purpose of the Write for Rights is to mobilize millions of people around the world on International Human Rights Day, December 10th. The main goal is to use the power of letter-writing to influence world leaders to protect individuals or communities whose human rights have been denied." --AI website

Does it work? Amnesty International says "yes!" and blogs about success stories from letter-writing

campaigns. <https://writeathon.ca/successes/>

This year it has picked 10 cases where Canada-wide and global activism can make a huge difference, right now.

Whether you end up writing one letter, or several, or just learn a little about these situations, you can help make a difference. UCE is sponsoring 3 events -- drop in for as long, or as short, as you want.

- Sunday Dec 5, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, in-person, UCE Building. Marilyn Gaa hosting, materials provided.
- Sunday Dec 5, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, virtual. Ruth Merriott hosting via Zoom (see UCE calendar)
- Friday Dec 10, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, virtual. Ruth Merriott hosting via Zoom (see UCE calendar)

More info: <https://writeathon.ca/about/> or contact Ruth Merriott or Marilyn Gaa

Sharing Our Abundance for December

RISE founded in 2015 in response to the one year anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's National Event in Edmonton, RISE is made up of people from all walks of life committed to moving reconciliation forward in our community. They are committed to raising

awareness of the lasting impacts of residential school, creating safe spaces for conversations about reconciliation, and offering opportunities to learn more about and engage with Indigenous culture. For more information: <http://risedmonton.ca/>



The UCE Social Justice Working Group



Cree poet, Naomi McIlwraith read her poem, “Bring them Home,” as part of the UCE Social Justice Sunday service on November 21st, as a response to the discovery of 215 children’s graves in the Kamloops residential school grounds.

Our guest speaker was Chantal Stormsong Chagnon, a Cree-Metis, activist, story-teller, drummer, singer, actor and educator, from Calgary. Chantal recognizes that sharing culture and building community is an integral part of building bridges of understanding and acceptance among settlers and Indigenous peoples. The topic of her presentation was, “Truth, Honesty and Reconciliation.”

Our vibrant approach to making connections with First Nations peoples will result in many more opportunities to learn cultural practices and calls to action, based on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reports. Join us as we embark on 2022 with new lenses on the world in which we live, based on the 8th principle that we will uphold and promote. The January meeting of the SJWG will be January 9th following the Service in the Boardroom

Land Acknowledgement

In accordance with our principles, we acknowledge with gratitude that we gather on traditional Cree lands that are now a part of Treaty Six and shared by many nations. A treaty is an inheritance, a responsibility and a relationship. May we be good neighbours to one another, good stewards to our planet and good ancestors to our children.



pê-kîwêhtahik – Bring Them Home Naomi McIlwraith

What can a poem do, but to speak
the truth – *kâ-tâpwêht*, to shout
the truth – *kâ-têpwêht*, step one
of Indigenous grief my friend Shannon tells me.
pê-kîwêhtahik

What can a poem do, but whisper – *ê-kitimâkihtawakik* –
our deep unwhisperable sorrow for 215 children.
Spell it out: two hundred and fifteen small bodies.
Count it out: forty-four thousand two hundred and ninety small bones.
pê-kîwêhtahik

Continued on next page

Naomi McIlwraith
pê-kîwêhtahik – Bring Them Home
begin new stanza

What can a poem do, but utter a prayer – ê-
ayamihêstamawakik –
for two hundred and fifteen children
for thousands of other children
who never saw their families again – ever.
pê-kîwêhtahik



What can a poem do when it can't reach
stage four of grief – laughter – not
yet, perhaps not ever. Not until
the children come home, not until the Pope

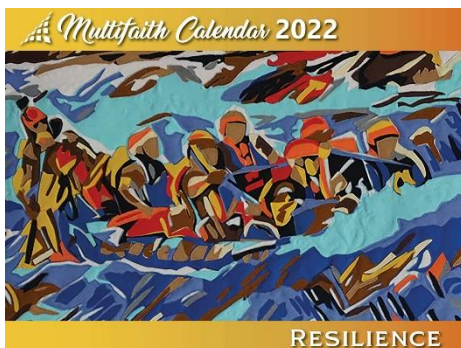
says sorry for the crimes of the Church,
not until governments stop apologizing while doing so little,
not until we all walk with our Indigenous
sisters and brothers on the mean streets of Canada.
pê-kîwêhtahik

Not until the children come in from the dark.
namôya pâtimâ pê-pîhtikwêtwâwi awâsisak itê ohci kê-wanitipiskâyik.

pê-kîwêhtahik
pê-kîwêhtahik
pê-kîwêhtahik
pê-kîwêhtahik

Poem and photo originally published on the Cree Literacy Network website in June 2021:
<https://creeliteracy.org/2021/06/24/pe-kiwehtahik-bring-them-home-naomi-mcilwraith/>

2022 Multifaith Calendars on Sale



If you would like to purchase the 35th anniversary edition of the Multifaith calendar, please see Rev. Audrey Brooks at Sunday Services for your copy. The 2022 calendar cost is \$16.00. You can also order online at <http://www.edminterfaithcentre.ca/2021-multifaith-calendar/>

Featuring 24 pieces of original art from visual artists across North America and Internationally, the 2022 MFC marks the 36th year of publication and features the theme: *Resilience*.



Please enjoy watching recordings of our Sunday Services again on YouTube or listen as a Podcast on SoundCloud. Just click on the link and don't forget to subscribe while you are there.



Join us in conversation on Social Media

- Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>
- Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianChurch/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmpm5DXHKM7pRnnzcC75txQ>
- SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-189401827>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unitarianuce/>

Please make sure that you continue to update your Zoom account. Zoom regularly updates to release new features and fix bugs. We recommend upgrading to the latest version once it is available.

How to update Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us>

Join UCE TV!



This season, the UCE tech team has been working on the details of broadcasting our Sunday services. What we have been doing is a hybrid service where the in-person service is streamed live to zoom and recorded. For the last few weeks we have been getting about 30 people in-person and 30 people on Zoom. Once we post the recorded services another 30 to 50 people view each service on YouTube.

To help us broadcast the services we have installed a very impressive new audiovisual system. The new equipment includes microphones and a digital sound board, video cameras and a video mixer, a computer and software. We are rapidly learning how to use this new equipment and are making progress each service. It's like a TV control room now on the mezzanine!

Now we'd like to get more people to help! We need 3 people in the church on Sundays to help us operate the sound system, the cameras, and the computer. We also need 2 online helpers each Sunday to host and record the Zoom session. Training is provided. Send an email to Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca to join our team!

Come out and help us with Edmonton's newest broadcaster UCE TV!

Who We Are



The Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE) is a liberal, multi-generational, religious community. We celebrate a rich mosaic of free-thinking, spiritually questing individuals joined in common support and action. We welcome a full range of theological perspectives -- from theism to atheism – as well as a full range of spiritual traditions and practices. As a Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregation, we strive to be a community where everyone is able to fully participate, regardless of gender, gender expression, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual/affective orientation, age, class, physical character or disability.

UCE is a congregation openly and honestly:

- ☺ Searching for spiritual meaning in our lives
- ☺ Learning to understand ourselves and others
- ☺ Connecting to build fair, just, caring communities
- ☺ Serving each other and our communities near and far

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we aspire to be:

Deeply Connected: We strive to foster healthy relationships amongst and within UU communities, with the broader world and with all life

Radically Inclusive: We strive to create hospitable, diverse, multi-generational communities

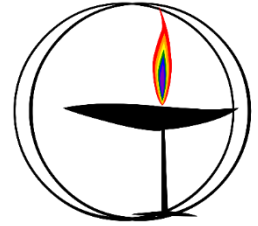
Actively Engaged: We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

Theologically Alive: We seek to be ever-evolving in our understanding, open to new knowledge.

Spiritually Grounded: We seek transformation through personal spiritual experiences and shared ritual.

The Principles and Sources of our Religious Faith

UU congregations affirm and promote seven principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in UU religious communities.”



Our Seven Principles

- ⊖ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ⊖ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- ⊖ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ⊖ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ⊖ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- ⊖ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- ⊖ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We live out these principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from such diverse sources as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

Our Six Sources

- ⊖ Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- ⊖ Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- ⊖ Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- ⊖ Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbours as ourselves;
- ⊖ Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- ⊖ Spiritual teachings of Earth-centred traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.
- ⊖ Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.



For the full CUC calendar, click here: <https://cuc.ca/events/>

UUA Advent Calendar

Due to its temporal nature, many of the historic milestones in this Advent calendar aren't necessarily recognized on the precise day that they're celebrated (for example, Kwanzaa is recognized here on December 2nd instead of December 26th, and the December 12 image recognizes Clara Barton's birthday (December 25, 1821).

More than perfect historic accuracy, then, this Advent calendar is offered in the spirit of holding up and delighting in the ways that our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors had a foundational role in many of the winter holidays and the innumerable ways they're celebrated by people everywhere. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/image/uu-advent-calendar>

- [December 1](#): "Over The River And Through The Woods" (1844)
- [December 2](#): Kwanzaa first celebrated (1966)
- [December 3](#): Currier and Ives (1834)
- [December 4](#): Earmuffs are invented (1873) (PDF)
- [December 5](#): "Jingle Bells" first performed (1857)
- [December 6](#): The Modern Look and Lore of Santa Claus (1863)
- [December 7](#): "Eight Candles" (1970)
- [December 8](#): First Christmas Tree in the White House Blue Room (1912)
- [December 9](#): "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (1849)
- [December 10](#): Christmas scenes in "Little Women" (1868)
- [December 11](#): Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" (1842)
- [December 12](#): Clara Barton's birthday (Dec. 25th, 1821)
- [December 13](#): First department store Santa (1890)
- [December 14](#): "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" (1865)
- [December 15](#): The first American Christmas Tree (1832)
- [December 16](#): Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales (1835)
- [December 17](#): Rod Serling's Christmas Specials (1963)
- [December 18](#): "Do You Hear What I Hear?" (1962)
- [December 19](#): "The Many Moods of Christmas" (1963)
- [December 20](#): First of T.S. Eliot's Ariel Poems, "The Journey of the Magi" (1927)
- [December 21](#): Winter Solstice
- [December 22](#): First Unitarian Church founded in Transylvania (1557)
- [December 23](#): "O Holy Night" (1855)
- [December 24](#): The Flaming Chalice (1965)

Holiday Office Hours



- Open: December 20 to 23 (Monday to Thursday),
- Closed: December 24, 27, 29, 30 and 31
- Open: Tuesday, December 28
- First day back will be Tuesday, January 4, 9:00 am

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