

2019-2020 Important Holidays



Thanksgiving - Nov. 29, 2019

First celebrated in 1621 following a good harvest. Traditional commemorations include a feast, public thanksgiving and prayer.



Hanukah - Dec. 22 (eve) – Dec.30, 2019

Hebrew for “dedication,” is an eight-day festival celebrating the liberation of the Temple of Jerusalem, saving it from complete destruction. Though important historically, Hanukah is not a holy holiday like Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur.



Solstice - Dec. 21, 2019

Solstice marks the day when winter begins in the Northern Hemisphere. It is the shortest day of the year, the turning point, as the days begin to lengthen. Celebrations include gift giving, candle-lighting, feasting, & bringing evergreens indoors, all to celebrate the return of light & promise of spring.



Christmas - Dec. 25, 2019

Orthodox Christians: Jan. 7, 2020

Christmas is a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Christian scripture describes an angel appearing to shepherds telling them a savior of humankind had been born to Mary and Joseph in a stable in Bethlehem. Christians commemorate Christmas with special worship services and many customs, from displaying scenes of the Holy Family and Christmas trees to gift giving. For many Christians, the celebration begins the evening before, on Christmas Eve.



Kwanzaa - Dec. 26, 2018-Jan.1, 2020

Seven-day celebration started in 1966 by Dr. Ron "Maulana" Karenga to honor Americans of African ancestry. Kwanzaa means "first fruits of the harvest" in Swahili. The seven candles on the Kinara represent Nguzo Saba, the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative, economics, purpose, creativity & faith.



Asian (Lunar) New Year - Jan. 25, 2020

Asian new year celebrated as Spring Festival. Family reunions, visits, gift giving, reconciliation, festivals, fireworks and games mark the celebration. In **Hmong** culture, it is described as "throwing or washing away old and bad news and bringing the new and good news to life." Celebrations are typically in late November through December. In **China, Japan and Korea**, people clean house, dress in fine clothes and bid evil spirits to withdraw and good luck to enter. **Vietnamese** New Year, Tet, is a three-day celebration and means Feast of the First Morning. Jan. 25, 2020. **Tibetans** celebrate Losar, Lo meaning Year and Sar meaning "new." This year's Losar is from Feb 24-26, 2020.



Throughout the year, many Fairview employees and patients are marking significant spiritual and cultural events. Take a minute to learn more about what's beneath these commemorations.



Easter (Pascha in Eastern churches) - April 12, 2020

Orthodox Eastern & Ethiopian Easter - April 19, 2020

The annual commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the culmination of Holy Week, during which Christians remember Jesus' journey to the cross, his suffering and death. This is the most significant religious event to Christians.



Southeast Asian New Year - April 14-16, 2020

Some countries in Southeast Asia celebrate the New Year in April, with celebrations lasting 3-4 days. Known as Chaul Chnam Thmey in **Cambodia**, Songkran in **Thailand** and Boun Pi Mai in **Laos**.



Ramadan- April 23 – May 23, 2020 Eid Al Fitr- May 23 – 24, 2020

The ninth and holiest month of the Islamic year and begins with the sighting of the new moon. Spiritual and physical purification commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad. Fasting during this month is one of the five fundamental religious duties, or basic pillars, of Islam. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset as a part of an effort toward self-purification, discipline and betterment. The fast ends when the new moon is again sighted with the feast of Eid Al Fitr, The Holiday of Sharing.



Rosh Hashanah -

Sept. 18 (eve.) – Sept. 28 (eve.), 2020

Marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year and commemorates the creation of the world. This is the beginning of a period of penitence and spiritual renewal that begins at sundown the night before and ends 10 days later with Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah can last one or two days and is celebrated with prayers and religious services.



Yom Kippur - Sept. 27(eve)- Sept. 28(eve), 2020

The Jewish Day of Atonement. It is the holiest, most solemn day on the Jewish calendar, commonly spent in worship, contemplation and fasting. It begins at sundown the previous day.



Diwali - Nov. 14, 2020

Commemorates Lord Rama's return to his kingdom Ayodhya after completing his 14-year exile and the triumph of good over evil. The goddess Lakshmi, the symbol of wealth and prosperity, is also worshipped on this day. It is also the festival for **Sikhs** (the Day of Freedom) and Jains (the Day of Nirvana Kalyanaka of Lord Mahavir). Fireworks, lamp lightings, feasting, shopping, family celebrations and more mark this exciting celebration.



Baha'u'llah's birthday- Nov. 12, 2020

Commemorates by the Baha'i of the world. Baha'u'llah means, "the Glory of God" in English, is founder of the Baha'i Faith.