



Spiritual Care Notes: December 2017

The days are darkening quickly, but the month of December is brimming full of days of celebrations and commemoration.

On December 1, Muslims celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. According to Islamic doctrine, Muhammad was God's final prophet who came after Adam, Abraham, Moses and Jesus. It is a monotheistic faith that describes God as omnipotent, where "No vision can grasp him, but His grasp is over all vision: He is above all comprehension, yet is acquainted with all things."

Christians begin the season of Advent starting on Sunday, December 3. The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, is celebrated on December 8. Christmas is Monday December 25, the birth of Jesus, who is the means of our salvation. The birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, makes possible the salvation of every person ever born or to be born.

Jews celebrate Chanukkah December 13 – December 20. This is known as the festival of lights, where after the rededication of the Jewish Temple the lights were to be kept burning. The oil that lasted is one of the miracles that the Lord showed to his Chosen people, Israel. The lights are held in a Hanukiah that holds nine candles, one for each night (and not the traditional menorah which holds only seven lights.) The middle candle is lit first and used each night to light the other candles, lighting first from the far right then the far left. Each night the candles are to burn out on their own. Small gifts are sometimes given on each night of Chanukkah.

Kwanzaa is a celebration honoring those of African heritage and celebrated in African-American cultures from December 26 to January 1 and ends with a feast and gift-giving. It was first celebrated in 1966-1967.

Whatever your faith beliefs or traditions, may you reach out to others in true giving relationship and find peace, light and love in the upcoming dark and cold winter days.

True Giving – You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow? - - - Jahili Gibran

*Peace, Light and Love to you and yours,
Janet Hutchison*

Director of Mission and Spiritual Care