



This calendar is offered by the Office of Community Service & Religious Life as a resource. This is not an exhaustive list either of religious traditions or the holidays observed in those traditions. The holidays offered are based on our records of the religious traditions represented in our student body.

As you plan, please be aware that some members of the Dickinson community observe one or more of these religious holidays. Highlighted holidays marked with ** are observed by the Dickinson community and per college policy, college-wide and/or public events should not be scheduled on these days. While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, some holidays are dependent on lunar sightings and cultural/geographic traditions.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Religion</i>
Thursday, June 18	Ramadan begins The lunar month of fasting begins. Adult Muslims abstain from food, drink, and sexual activity from dawn until sunset.	Islam
**Saturday, July 18	Eid al Fitr (Campus Observed) The Festival of the Breaking of the Fast celebrates the end of Ramadan. The date of this festival is determined by the rising of the New Moon.	Islam
**Sunday, Sept 13 @ sundown - Tuesday, Sept 15 @ sundown	Rosh Hashanah (Campus Observed) This marks the beginning of the Jewish year and the beginning of the High Holy Days or the Days of Awe.	Judaism
**Tuesday, Sept 22 @ sundown - Wednesday, Sept 23 @ sundown	Yom Kippur (Campus Observed) The Day of Atonement the end of the 10 Days of Awe, is devoted to prayer, repentance, and fasting. The Sabbath of Sabbaths in the Jewish calendar, it is the most widely observed Jewish holiday of the year. Begins sundown of Sept 22.	Judaism

<i>Date</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Religion</i>
**Wednesday, Sept. 23	Eid al Adha The Festival of the Sacrifice commemorates Abraham's devotion in offering his son as a sacrifice. This holiday day occurs at the end of Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca.	Islam
Sunday, Sept 27 @ sundown - Sunday, Oct 4 @ sundown	Sukkot The Feast of the Tabernacles commemorates the dwelling of the Israelites in the wilderness. Jews will build sukkot (booths) and spend time in them over the week. Begins sundown on Sept. 27.	Judaism
Sunday, Oct 4 @ sundown - Tuesday, Oct 6 @ sundown	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Marks the beginning of the rainy season following the harvest in Israel. Rejoicing in the Torah, this holiday marks the completion of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings.	Judaism
Tues, Oct 13 - Wednesday, Oct 21	Navaratri This holiday name means "9 Nights" and marks a period of fasting and celebration in the name of the mother goddess Devi or Shakti.	Hinduism
Wednesday, Nov 11	Diwali The Festival of Lights, this holiday marks the Hindu New Year. It is the most important holiday on the Hindu calendar, and most practicing Hindus go to temple on this day.	Hinduism
Thursday, Nov 26	Thanksgiving (Campus Observed) A day giving thankfulness and celebration for the autumn harvest at the time of the pilgrim settlers.	Interfaith
Tuesday, Dec 8	Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) In the Northern or Mahayana tradition, this day celebrates the Buddha's attainment of Enlightenment.	Buddhism
Sunday, Dec 6 @ sundown - Monday, Dec 14 @ sundown	Hanukkah This Festival of Lights marks the victory of the Maccabees and rededication of the Temple. It is a celebration of religious freedom and an affirmation of God's saving power.	Judaism
**Friday, Dec 25	Christmas (Campus Observed) The celebration of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.	Christianity
Saturday, Dec 26 - Friday, Jan 1	Kwanzaa An African-American celebration honoring African community values and beliefs.	Interfaith
Wednesday, Feb 10	Ash Wednesday This day marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer and repentance that precedes Easter.	Christianity
Wednesday, Mar 23	Holi A very popular festival where people throw colored water or powder at one another to celebrate the Hindu God and goddess Krishna and Radha.	Hinduism

<i>Date</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Religion</i>
Wednesday, Mar 23 @ sundown - Thursday, Mar 24 @ sundown	Purim This joyous celebration commemorates the victory of the Jews over their tyrannical enemy. The Jews changed the day marked for their destruction into a day of victory.	Judaism
Friday, Mar 25	Good Friday One of the most holy Christian days, this day commemorates Jesus' death and Crucifixion. This is a somber day when many fast and abstain from activity.	Christianity
**Sunday, Mar 27	Easter (Campus Observed) Easter celebrates Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, and is the most important holy day for Christians.	Christianity
Friday, Apr 22 @ sundown - Saturday, Apr 30 @ sundown	Passover *First night of Passover (Campus Observed - third sundown) Passover commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. On the first and second nights, Seders (a ritual meal) are conducted, retelling the Exodus story, so that Jews never forget that they were once slaves, and God helped to set them free.	Judaism
Friday, Apr 29	Holy Friday Orthodox Christians commemorate Jesus' suffering and death. The day is marked with strict fasting (as health allows) and liturgical services re-enacting Christ's descent from the Cross and entombment.	Orthodox Christianity
Sunday, May 1	Orthodox Easter/Pascha This feast, celebrating Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, is the most important day of the Orthodox liturgical year.	Orthodox Christianity
Wednesday, May 4 @ sundown - Thursday, May 5 @ sundown	Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Day honoring and remembering Jews killed in the Holocaust of World War II, 1933-1945.	Judaism
Saturday, May 14	Buddha Day The holiest of holy days in the Buddhist year, this day commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha. Some Buddhists only commemorate the birth of the Buddha on this day.	Buddhism

We always welcome questions and suggestions for this calendar as we continue learning to make religious identity and formation a part of a liberal arts education at Dickinson College.

Please contact the Office of Community Service at Religious Life at rellife@dickinson.edu or x1577, or Professor Ted Merwin, Director of the Asbell Center for Jewish Life, at merwin@dickinson.edu or x1636 with any questions or comments.