



Winter Solstice 2020

Paper Centerpiece Craft

For help or more info, email mysticgrove@orlandouu.org

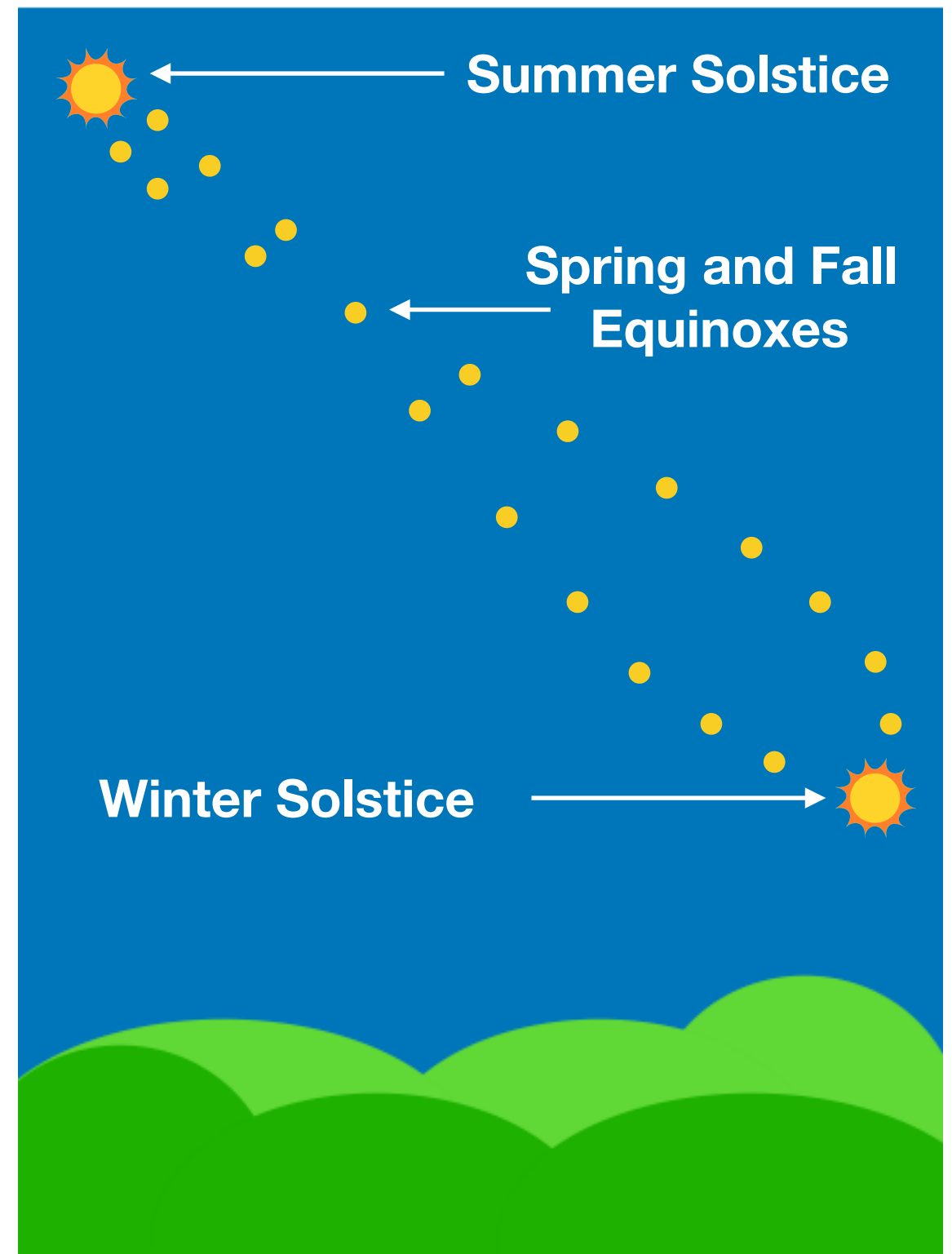
What is the Winter Solstice?

If you take a picture of the Sun from the same spot at the same time every day for a year, you will see that it follows the shape of a slightly oblong figure eight, with one loop broader than the other. This is called the **Sun's Analemma curve**.

The very top of it's yearly journey is the summer solstice -- the longest day and shortest night. The very bottom is the winter solstice -- the longest night and shortest day. The spring equinox and autumn equinox are when the day and night are equal.

The winter solstice occurs during the hemisphere's winter. In the Northern Hemisphere, it usually happens on **Dec 21st or 22nd**.

How UU Pagans celebrate will vary according to their particular Pagan path or tradition. Here at Mystic Grove, we celebrate with candles, songs, stories, wassail punch and staying up all night during the Yule Vigil to greet the dawn!



Directions

Color the images if desired or leave as black & white images. Cut them out. (Each set of stars includes a blank “extra” in case of mishap when coloring or cutting.)

Set the paper images out on your table. You can do it in rows or arrange in a circle. You can use a tablecloth on the table if you like. Colors of the season are red, green, white, gold.

<https://www.learnreligions.com/magical-colors-of-the-yule-season-2562957>

Join us for online worship at 7 PM EST on Dec 21, 2020 at First Unitarian Church of Orlando's Facebook Live or YouTube and follow along. You can also do this ritual on your own any time during the holiday season.

"Responsive Reading" by Rev. Bruce T. Marshall

We live in many darkneses. We are often uncertain. We are sometimes afraid.

**IN THE DARKNESS,
WE LIGHT A CANDLE OF HOPE.
(Light the hope candle)**

We all have sorrows. We have known pain. Each of us carries special regrets.

**IN THE DARKNESS AND PAIN,
WE LIGHT A CANDLE OF FORGIVENESS.
(Light the forgiveness candle)**

We are sometimes lonely, and the world seems cold and hard.

**IN THE DARKNESS AND LONELINESS,
WE LIGHT A CANDLE OF WARMTH.
(Light the warmth candle)**

We have experienced times of joy and happiness and have received numerous gifts of the heart.

**IN THE DARKNESS, WITH GRATITUDE,
WE LIGHT A CANDLE OF THANKS.
(Light the thanks candle)**

We have known awe, wonder, mystery; glimmerings of perfection in our imperfect world.

**IN THE DARKNESS, WITH WONDER,
WE LIGHT A CANDLE OF PRAISE.
(Light the praise candle)**

We come together with our uncertainties, sorrows, joys, and wonder.

**WE BRING TOGETHER MANY CANDLES, MANY LIGHTS.
MAY OUR SEPARATE LIGHTS BECOME ONE FLAME,
THAT TOGETHER WE MAY BE NOURISHED BY ITS GLOW
AND BEFRIEND THE DARKNESS.
(Light the moon candle)**

“Yule Ritual to Welcome Back the Sun”

by Patti Wiggington
Originally at

<https://www.learnreligions.com/welcome-back-the-sun-for-yule-2562985>

Adapted with permission for Winter Solstice 2020 worship at First Unitarian Church of Orlando by Mystic Grove CUUPs.

Face the candle centerpiece arrangement, and say:

The wheel of the year has turned once more,
and the nights have grown longer and colder.
Tonight, the darkness begins to retreat,
and light begins its return once again.
As the wheel continues to spin,
the sun returns to us once more.

Light the sun candle in the middle, and say:

Even in the darkest hours,
even in the longest nights,
the spark of life lingered on.
Laying dormant, waiting, ready to return
when the time was right.
The darkness will leave us now,
as the sun begins its journey home.

Now we light each seasonal candle in turn. (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, and Wheel for the entire year.) As you light each one, say:

In the spring, as the wheel turns, light returns.
In the summer, as the wheel turns, the light returns.
In the fall, as the wheel turns, the light returns.
In the winter, as the wheel turns, the light returns,
All through the year, as the wheel turns, the light returns.

To conclude, say:

The light of the sun has returned to us,
bringing life and warmth with it.
The shadows will vanish, and life will continue.
We are blessed by the light of the sun.

Suggested Layout

1
Hope

2
Forgiveness

3
Warmth

4
Thanks

5
Praise

Sun
Candle

Moon
Candle

1
Spring

2
Summer

3
Fall

4
Winter

5
Wheel

