

THE

Spiritual  
and  
Religious  
Life

CALENDAR

2017-2018



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY



# Welcome

*As a top-ranked university affiliated with the United Methodist Church, Emory provides varied and rich opportunities to enhance religious and spiritual life through worship, service, education, engagement, and outreach. Undergraduate and graduate student organizations enrich the diverse religious character of the campus and welcome newcomers.*

The religious life staff is committed to working with students, faculty, and staff to represent and honor the full range of religious traditions at Emory.

**Bridgette Young Ross**

Dean of the Chapel  
316 Cannon Chapel  
Office: 404.727.6226  
Email: [b.y.ross@emory.edu](mailto:b.y.ross@emory.edu)



**Lisa Garvin**

Associate Dean of the Chapel  
125 AMUC  
Office: 404.727.4070  
Email: [lisa.garvin@emory.edu](mailto:lisa.garvin@emory.edu)



**Kevin Crawford**

Assistant Chaplain  
125 AMUC  
Office: 404.727.4449  
Email: [kevin.crawford@emory.edu](mailto:kevin.crawford@emory.edu)



**Lyn Pace**

Chaplain, Oxford College  
110 Few Circle  
Oxford, GA 30054  
Phone: 770.784.8392  
Email: [ppace@emory.edu](mailto:ppace@emory.edu)



# Staff

**Maury Allums**

Director, Voices of Inner Strength Gospel Choir

Office: 770.369.9564

Email: maury.allums@gmail.com

**Sara McKlin**

Cannon Chapel Coordinator

Office: 404.727.6325

Email: sara.mcklin@emory.edu

**Ruth Marley**

Executive Administrative Assistant  
to the Dean of the Chapel

316 Cannon Chapel

Office: 404.727.6226

Email: rmarley@emory.edu

**Ivan Maddox**

Administrative Assistant

309 Cannon Chapel

Office: 404.727.6229

Email: ivan.maddox@emory.edu

**Sandra Francis**

Journeys Coordinator

125 AMUC

Office: 404.727.4012

Email: sandra.francis@emory.edu

**Angela Johnson**

Communications Coordinator

125 AMUC

Email: angela.mao.johnson@emory.edu

# *Religious Life Scholars*

**Marianne Florian**, Buddhist Religious Life Scholar  
Email: [mfloria@emory.edu](mailto:mfloria@emory.edu)

**Aalekhya Malladi**, Hindu Religious Life Scholar  
Email: [aalekhya.malladi@emory.edu](mailto:aalekhya.malladi@emory.edu)

**Isam Vaid**, Muslim Religious Life Scholar  
125 AMUC  
Office: 404.712.9102  
Email: [isam.vaid@emory.edu](mailto:isam.vaid@emory.edu)

# August 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

- Aug 14**     **HINDU Krishna Janmashtami**  
Annual celebration of the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna
- Aug 15**     **CHRISTIAN Assumption of Mary**  
Commemorates the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven
- Aug 24**     **HINDU Ganesh Chaturthi**  
This Hindu holiday celebrates the birth of Ganesh, God of Success
- Aug 31**     **ISLAMIC Day of Arafat**  
The day on which Muslim Hajj pilgrims gather on Mt. Arafat in prayer



*Your duty is to treat everybody with love as a manifestation of the Lord.*

—SWAMI SIVANANDA

# September 2017

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- Sep 1**      **ISLAMIC Eid-al-Adha**  
-5          Muslims celebrate both Allah's forgiveness and the end of the Hajj
- Sep 20**      **HINDU Navaratri**  
-28        A nine-day Hindu festival of the goddess of worship and dance
- Sep 21**      **ISLAMIC Al-Hijra**  
              Islamic New Year
- Sep 21**      **JEWISH Rosh Hashanah\***  
-22        The Jewish new year begins and marks the beginning of a 10-day period of reflection
- Sep 29**      **ISLAMIC Ashura**  
              Marks the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali and the day that Moses fasted as gratitude for the Israelites' liberation
- Sep 30**      **HINDU Dussehra**  
              The end of Navaratri
- Sep 30**      **JEWISH Yom Kippur**  
              Holiday beginning at sunset, in which Jews fast and ask for forgiveness

\* Jewish holy days begin at sunset the day before.



*Let the beauty of what you love  
be what you do.*

-RUMI

# October 2017

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- Oct 5 –6**      **JEWISH Sukkot (first two days)**  
This Jewish harvest festival begins and lasts for seven days
- Oct 8**      **BUDDHIST Bodhidharma Memorial**  
Anniversary of the death of Bodhidharma
- Oct 11**      **JEWISH Shemini Atzeret**
- Oct 13**      **JEWISH Simchat Torah**  
Jews conclude their annual reading of the Hebrew Bible, and begin again with Genesis
- Oct 19**      **HINDU Diwali**  
Hindus celebrate the success of good over evil and light over darkness
- Oct 19**      **SIKH Bandi Chhor Divas**  
Sikhs celebrate the release of the political prisoner Guru Hargobind Ji and 52 princes
- Oct 21**      **BAHÁ'Í Birth of the Báb**  
Bahá'í holiday celebrating the birth of one of the founders
- Oct 22**      **BAHÁ'Í Birth of Bahá'u'lláh**  
This holiday honors the birth of the religion's founder and prophet

\*Jewish holy days begin at sunset the day before.

*There are no problems,  
only opportunities for growth.*

—REBBETZIN DENAH WEINBERG

# November 2017

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**Nov 1**

**CHRISTIAN All Saints Day**

Day dedicated to honoring persons of faith who have died



*Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.*

—BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR



# December 2017

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31						

- Dec 3**      **CHRISTIAN Advent**  
Marks the beginning of four weeks of preparation for the birth of Jesus
- Dec 8**      **CHRISTIAN Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
This Catholic feast day marks the conception of St. Anne with Mary, mother of Jesus
- Dec 13**      **JEWISH Hanukkah**  
–20      During this eight-day festival of lights, Jews celebrate the power of God
- Dec 25**      **CHRISTIAN Christmas**  
The birth of Jesus is celebrated by Christians
- Dec 26**      **ZOROASTRIAN Death of Prophet Zarathustra**  
The anniversary of the death of Zarathustra, the founder of the Zarathushti faith



*A dream is the bearer of a new possibility, the enlarged horizon, the great hope.*

—HOWARD THURMAN

# January 2018

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28	29	30	31			

- Jan 6**      **CHRISTIAN Epiphany**  
Festival marking the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus
- Jan 7**      **CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX Christmas**
- Jan 14**     **HINDU Makar Sankranti**  
This festival marks the transition of the sun into the zodiac sign of Makara rashi (Capricorn) on its celestial path
- Jan 21**     **BAHÁ'Í World Religion Day**  
An extension of the Bahá'í focus on the unity of religions, races, and nations
- Jan 22**     **HINDU Vasant Panchami**  
Festival dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning



*A little bit of mercy makes the world  
less cold and more just.*

—POPE FRANCIS

# February 2018

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- Feb 14**     **CHRISTIAN Ash Wednesday**  
The beginning of the Christian observance of Lent
- Feb 14**     **CHRISTIAN Lent**  
**–Mar 29**     The 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, repentance, and self-denial that precedes Easter for Christians
- Feb 14**     **HINDU Maha Shivaratri**  
Festival celebrating Lord Shiva
- Feb 15**     **BUDDHIST Parinirvana Day**  
Day commemorating Buddha's death and entry into Nirvana
- Feb 16**     **BUDDHIST Losar**  
**–18**         Tibetan New Year festival
- Feb 19**     **CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX Great Lent begins**  
The period of preparation leading up to Holy Week and Pascha



*You must love in such a way  
that the person you love feels free.*

—THICH NHAT HANH

# March 2018

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- Mar 1**      **JEWISH Purim**  
This festival celebrates the escape of the Jewish people from a death plot
- Mar 2**      **HINDU Holi(ka) Day**  
Hindus celebrate the spring festival of colors
- Mar 2**      **SIKH Hola Mohalla**  
Three-day festival marking the beginning of military preparedness; now celebrated with music and festivities
- Mar 21**     **BAHÁ'Í Naw-Ruz**  
Bahá'ís celebrate and feast during the evening for the first month of the new year
- Mar 21**     **ZOROASTRIAN NOWRUZ**  
The Fasli New Year's Day that commemorates Zarathustra receiving his revelation, the renewal of the world, and the creation of fire
- Mar 25**     **HINDU Ram Navami**  
Hindus celebrate the birth of Rama
- Mar 25**     **CHRISTIAN Palm Sunday**  
The final Sunday of Lent and beginning of Holy Week that commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem
- Mar 30**     **CHRISTIAN (ALL) Good/Holy Friday**  
Christians mark the crucifixion and death of Jesus
- Mar 30**     **JEWISH Passover (first two days)**  
**–Apr 1**      This holiday celebrates the Jews' escape from an Egyptian pharaoh

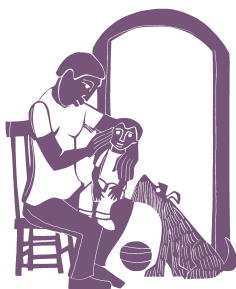
*Where can we go to find God if we cannot see Him in our own hearts and in every living being?*

—SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

# April 2018

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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- Apr 1**      **CHRISTIAN Easter**  
Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus
- Apr 6**      **JEWISH Passover (last two days)**  
-7      Celebrates the Jews' escape from an Egyptian pharaoh
- Apr 8**      **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN Pascha (Easter)**
- Apr 14**      **SIKH Vaisakhi**  
Anniversary of the birth of the Khalsa
- Apr 20**      **BAHÁ'Í Ridván**  
Bahá'ís commemorate the 12 days Bahá'u'lláh spent in the garden of Ridván during his exile in Baghdad
- Apr 29**      **BAHÁ'Í Ninth Day of Ridván**



*Each person must live their life  
as a model for others.*

—ROSA PARKS

# May 2018

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- May 2**      **BAHÁ'Í Twelfth Day of Ridván**
- May 3**      **JEWISH Lag B'Omer**  
Jewish day of celebration during the Counting of the Omer
- May 10**     **CHRISTIAN Ascension of the Lord**  
The day in which Christians celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven
- May 15**     **ISLAMIC Ramadan**  
**–Jun 14**     A monthlong holiday celebrated by Muslims through fasting, prayer, and reading of the Qu'ran
- May 20**     **CHRISTIAN Pentacost**  
An observance 50 days after Easter commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus's disciples
- May 20**     **JEWISH Shavuot**  
**–21**         Commemorates the Israelites receiving the Torah
- May 23**     **BAHÁ'Í Declaration of the Báb**  
Bahai's commemorate when the Bab announced his identity, heralding the new age
- May 29**     **BAHÁ'Í Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh**  
The anniversary of the death of Bahá'u'lláh, founder of the faith
- May 29**     **BUDDHIST Vesak**  
This day commemorates the birth, awakening, and passing away of the historical Buddha

*Remember that the most precious thing you own in this world is your heart. So don't let anything taint your heart.*

— IMAM ABU HAMID AL-GHAZALI

# June 2018

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- May 15 – Jun 14** **ISLAMIC Ramadan**  
A monthlong holiday celebrated by Muslims through fasting, prayer, and reading of the Qu’ran
- Jun 2** **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN All Saint’s Day**  
Orthodox Christians celebrate and honor the saints
- Jun 14** **ISLAMIC Eid-al-Fitr**  
Marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan



*My religion is very simple.  
My religion is kindness.*

—THE 14TH DALAI LAMA

# July 2018

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Jul 9

## **BAHÁ'Í Martyrdom of the Báb**

The Martyrdom memorializes the death of the Báb.



*Peacemaking is a full-time vocation  
that includes each member  
of God's people.*

—HENRI NOUWEN



# *Campus Religious Life Affiliates*

## **BUDDHIST**

Marianne Parish Florian  
Email: mfloria@emory.edu

## **CHRISTIAN**

BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY  
Austin Prince  
Email: Austin@thegatheringdh.com

EMORY ADVENTIST  
Edson Patrice  
Email: epatrice@gccsda.com

EMORY KOREAN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
Hyun W. Shin  
Phone: 404.782.4280  
Email: ekcamsn@gmail.com

EMORY MISSIONAL COMMUNITY  
Jared Smith  
Email: jared@blueprintchurch.org

EMORY WESLEY FELLOWSHIP  
Jason Grubbs  
Office: 404.727.6278  
Email: jason.grubbs@emory.edu

INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Alicia Marshall  
Bread Coffeehouse  
Office: 678.284.2242  
Email: alicia@breadcoffeehouse.org

Kyle Marshall  
Bread Coffeehouse  
Email: kyle@breadcoffeehouse.org

INTERVARSITY  
Glenn Goldsmith  
Graduate Student and Faculty Ministry  
Phone: 404.488.6413  
Email: ggoldsm@emory.edu

Clement Lin  
InterVarsity Asian Christian Fellowship, Brothers  
and Sisters in Christ  
Phone: 704.618.1206  
Email: lincjo@gmail.com

*(continued)*

*(Campus Religious Life Affiliates, continued)*

KOREAN CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

Sangil (Kevin) Lee

Email: sangil.lee@kcccusa.org

LATTER DAY SAINTS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Larry Shaw

Email: shawll@ldschurch.org

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Devin Strong

Grace House, Lutheran and Episcopal  
Campus Ministry

Office: 615.491.6794

Email: pastordevinstrong@gmail.com

Chris Smith

Lutheran Campus Minister

Email: lcmachris@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA MINISTRY

Rev. Eliza Smith

Cell: 803.477.1250

Email: smithelizaj@mail.ctsnet.edu

PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED UNIVERSITY  
FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Stephen Maginas

Email: stephen.maginas@ruf.org

ROMAN CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

Fr. John Boll

Catholic Campus Priest

Office: 404.636.7237

Email: jboll@emory.edu

Victoria Schwartz

Catholic Center

Office: 404.636.7237

Email: vschwa3@emory.edu

Michael Zauche

Catholic Lay Campus Minister

Office: 404.636.7237

Email: mzauche@emory.edu

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Lane Coon

Email: pastor@mybranches.org

*(continued)*

*(Campus Religious Life Affiliates, continued)*

**HINDU**

Aalekhya Malladi  
Hindu Religious Life Scholar  
Email: aalekhya.malladi@emory.edu

**INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL**

The Rev. Lisa Garvin  
Phone: 404.727.4070  
Email: lisa.garvin@emory.edu  
religiouslife.emory.edu

**JEWISH**

CHABAD AT EMORY  
Rabbi Zalman Lipskier  
Phone: 404.441.3199  
Email: info@chabademory.org

HILLEL AT EMORY

Rabbi Russ Shulkes  
Director,  
Phone: 404.963.2548, ext. 102  
Email: russ.shulkes@emoryhillel.org

Lauren Blazovsky  
Program Director  
Phone: 404.963.2548, ext. 104  
Email: lblazof@emory.edu

MEOR AT EMORY

Rabbi Yaakov Fleshel  
Phone: 805.450.0595  
Email: fleshel@gmail.com or yfleshel@meor.org  
Facebook: MEOR @ Emory

**MUSLIM**

MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
Isam Vaid  
Phone: 404.712.9102  
Email: isam.vaid@emory.edu  
students.emory.edu/MSA

# *Religious Holidays*

## *2017–2018*

These dates are religious holidays that occur during the academic year for which students may request an excused absence from class. Faculty are advised of these dates. It is the responsibility of observant students of the tradition to negotiate with professors their needs concerning religious practices.

### **Bahá'í**

Birth of the Báb, Oct 21  
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, Oct 22  
First Day of Ridván, Apr 20

### **Christian**

Christmas, Dec 25  
Orthodox Christian Christmas, Jan 7  
Ash Wednesday, Feb 14  
Orthodox Christian Great Lent begins<sup>1</sup>, Feb 19  
Good Friday/Holy Friday, Mar 30  
Easter, Apr 1  
Orthodox Christian Pascha (Easter), Apr 8

### **Hindu**

Navaratri, Sep 20–28  
Dussehra, Sep 30  
Diwali, Oct 19

### **Islam<sup>2</sup>**

Eid-al-Adha, Sep 1–5

### **Jewish<sup>3</sup>**

Rosh Hashanah, Sep 21–22  
Yom Kippur, Sep 30  
Sukkot, first two days, Oct 5–6  
Shemini Atzeret, Oct 11  
Simchat Torah, Oct 13  
Hanukkah, Dec 13–20  
Purim, Mar 1  
Passover, first two days, Mar 30–Apr 1  
Passover, last two days, Apr 6–7

<sup>1</sup> Orthodox Christian holidays begin at sunset on the evening before the date given.

<sup>2</sup> Islamic holidays begin at sunset on the evening before the date given. Islamic holidays are based on a lunar calendar, and the actual dates are determined by direct observation of the moon and announced by the mosque. (The most observant Muslims will observe all days; others may observe the first two days of Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Ahda.)

<sup>3</sup> Jewish holy days begin at sunset on the evening before the date given.

**Most of the artwork used throughout this calendar is by Steve Erspamer, SM**

*Steve Erspamer is a Marianist brother who makes his home in a Benedictine community. He is a multifaceted artist who works in clay, stone, fresco, art glass, silk-screened fabrics, block prints, and cut paper. Several of his stained glass windows are at the Emory Catholic Center.*

*This calendar is printed on paper made from recycled products and alternative fibers, reflecting the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life's commitment to sustainability and responsible protection of the Earth.*

## Office of Spiritual and Religious Life

316 Cannon Chapel  
125 Alumni Memorial University Center  
404.727.6226  
[www.religiouslife.emory.edu](http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu)



*We may have different religions,  
different languages,  
different colored skin,  
but we all belong  
to one human race.*

—KOFI ANNAN



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