



# DECEMBER



## That's How The Light Gets In

*Please note that I use feminine pronouns throughout, but I am addressing you, whatever your gender.*

Your PDF for November ended with the quote "There's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." This quote, from 'Anthem' by Leonard Cohen, sums up what it is to be a witch and mystic for me.

If I were to describe what I do, it would be this: I look for the cracks. I don't shy away from poking around in there. I know that's where I'll find the answers.

While Leonard is probably talking about 'wounds' when he references cracks, and while our wounds are a good place to begin poking around for power (like Rumi said, 'The wound is the place where the light enters you. '), when I hear the word 'crack', I think about 'ways in'. I think about entry points, portals, places where I might ENTER.

Yes, it is important as witches (art or otherwise) to poke around in, discover, and heal our wounds, but it is also important to poke around in, discover, and engage our 'ways in'.

## Ways In To What?

Communion, practice, engagement, community, conversation, inquiry. In to the flow, the wonder, the cycle, the poem, the painting, the song. Ways in to our inner landscape, our relationship with ourselves, our understanding of what makes us tick. Ways in to unashamed, empowered desire. Ways in to wanting what we want and going after it.

One of our primary activities this year has been to investigate 'ways in'. We've taken in all that the course had to offer, sifted it, weighed it, looked into the nooks and crannies of it, taken what works, and discarded the rest. I have encouraged you to begin as a kind of spiritual tourist. I invited you to engage without investment. There was no requirement that you even \*believe\* in anything I shared. All I wanted was for you to dabble around in this particular-to-me way of doing things to see what might bring you solace, joy, wisdom, play, power, healing, inspiration, and a way to light up the unknown so that you may know it.

## But This Is Not The End. Far From It.

This cycle has been initiatory. As we close for this year, my invitation to you is to consider how this class served you, and what parts are now yours to keep. Not every part will be. Like a buffet table, groaning under the weight of eleven-million things to choose from, you were meant to pick and choose, to sample. What have you sampled that was particularly nourishing? What might your particular-to-you way of doing things look like?

- *Did you love the new moon journaling + vow? Just the vow? Just the journaling?*
- *Did you love considering the energies of each month according to the agricultural cycles of planting, nurturing, weeding, harvesting?*
- *Did you just love learning new art techniques?*
- *Did you enjoy making moon water? What else did you enjoy?*
- *Did you love the Full Moon painting and the opportunity to release and express gratitude?*
- *Did you love seeding your subconscious with research and then allowing the information you gleaned to inform your work spontaneously?*
- *Did you love the quotes at the end of the PDFs? Do you want to start your own collection?*
- *Did you love working with 'things like' in your art or magic?*
- *Did you love the coven?*

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Whatever parts of this worked for you, those are your parts to keep. Whatever didn't can be discarded without a backward glance.

I want you to remember, though, that this buffet is always open. You have the 'book'. You own it. At any point, if it feels like something is missing from your practice, you can circle back and poke around some more. See which cracks feel inviting. See what 'ways in' to your own process yield light to guide your way. Consider what portals have been activated, now that your practice has matured. Engage anew. Check out the recommended reading for ways to veer off into all sorts of wonderful pathways in this moonlit forest.

## This Month

December in the Northern Hemisphere sees the official onset of winter with the Solstice on December 21st marking the longest night, while in the Southern Hemisphere, summer is nigh. Traditionally, the entire world greets this longest night with a blaze of light that lasts until sometime in January. Candles, Yule Logs, those pretty lights we put on our trees are there to illuminate the knowledge that the light will always return. Always. We will never be plunged into darkness eternal. The longest night leads to the waxing year, and to the longest day, which leads to the waning year, and to the longest night, and so on.

The Winter Solstice is to the solar cycle what the dark moon is to the lunar cycle, and so it is relevant here in Moonshine as your jumping off point to a whole new thread of inquiry. As we close, I want to invite you, if you are curious, if you want, to engage that inquiry on your own by researching The Wheel of The Year. Use your Googlefu. Explore.

## Nothing Ever Really Ends

Everything human and earthly runs in cycles. We are not living a straight line from birth to death. We are living a spiral that cycles eternally outward and inward, upward and downward. This is a comforting piece of the mystery. Nothing ever ends. Nothing ever dies. Not really. What is plunged into darkness must, as the lunar and solar cycle demonstrates, eventually emerge into the light. This allows me to befriend the womb-like nature of the darkness. This allows me to embrace the fertile ground of uncertainty, the wisdom fostering dark night of the soul. While we all have a deeply innate human fear of the unknown, of the dark corners of the mystery, we, as witch-es, also have a certain kind of curiosity that allows us to do what witches do - poke around in the cracks, certain of the light it contains. The celebrations the human family undertakes at this time of year are all related. They all have as their central focus the returning light. In some traditions, we celebrate the rebirth of the actual sun as a metaphorical 'son'. There are dozens of such mythologies surrounding a central figure, born of a virgin, whose fate is to die and be resurrected. This near-universal myth has been taken as literal history by some, but a more mytho-poetic reading of these myths yield a much more useful and delicious fruit.

Nothing ever ends. Not really. Everything progresses toward transformation. Transformation is guaranteed. As an integral part of this collection of living beings, we engage, purposefully or not, intentionally or otherwise, as all things move towards something new.

If you aren't working it, as we do in this program, it is working you, so my hope for you is that this program has empowered you to find your way in to it, to work it so that you are co-authoring your life, so that you are an active participant in the attainment of your desires.

## Exercise: Research The Wheel Of The Year

We have spent the year researching and engaging the lunar cycles. I'd like to invite you to begin researching, on your own, the solar cycles. You can begin with the Winter Solstice, and move through the 8 spoked wheel of the year, as celebrated by neo-pagans, or you can focus solely on the Solstices and Equinoxes.

Alternatively, you can look into the fire festivals, which we touched on lightly in this program. See how these celebrations relate to the lunar cycles. See the waxing and waning of the year as similar to the waxing and waning of the moon. See how the lunar cycle is a miniature of the solar cycle. Now that you know how to celebrate the shorter cycle we explore with the moon, you will naturally know how to celebrate the larger cycle that is available to explore through the wheel of the year.

**Journal Prompt:** Start a new notebook to track the energies of the solar cycle. Remember that each 'spoke' on the wheel of the year heralds the beginning of a 'season' and not just a day on the calendar. What is the seasons of Winter Solstice like for you? How might you express that in your art journal? What kinds of workings feel appropriate at that time? How long does this season last? (Till Imbolc in February? Or until Spring Equinox. The answer is up to you!

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**Art Prompt:** Create your own 'wheel of the year' painting. Explore all the 'seasons' that feel relevant to you. See how it compares with a similar painting you might make of the waxing and waning moon cycle.

Exercise: Integration

Go through the work you did for this program this year. Re-read the PDFs and see what exercises and suggested activities really rocked your socks. Make a list of the things you'd like to include in your practice as you wander off on your own. If you're joining me next year, note that there will be new things cropping up here and there for you to sample as you journey with me. Just as the cycles we engage in this program lead to transformation, this program will transform. It will grow and mature, as is inevitable. If you work on your own, you will also find your practice growing and maturing, so don't let fear of missing out stop you from wandering off. Return if you will. Go if you must. Either choice will serve you.

**Journal Prompt:** What does my practice look like now? Write it all out. Be willing to allow it to change as you change.

**Art Prompt:** Paint yourself as you 'feel' now that you've completed this year with me. Compare this with your earlier expressive self-portraits. Celebrate any growth you can perceive.

The Circle Is Open, But Never Broken

I bless the work of your hands as you continue your journey. I bless the feet that brought you to me. I bless the knees that do not kneel but hold you upright as you come face to face with the divine as you understand it. I bless the root of your body that grounds you in our mother earth. I bless the center of your being that keeps you rock steady even when the winds of change storm in. I bless your heart, as it continues to bloom in love and power. I bless your voice, that you may use it in service, and in song. I bless your brow, that your sight may be forever clear and open. I bless your crown, as you remain in communion and conversation with The Powers The Be.

Stay If You Will. Go If You Must. I Bless Your Leaving And [Your Staying.](#)

Holy Mother,  
in you we live, move, and have our being.  
From you all things emerge and  
unto you all things return.

And I Leave You Now As We Began:

Stay Wild, Moon Child!

# Art Witch Primer

This is a collection of lore, practices, books, quotes, dates, ideas, prompts, and correspondences that you may use as you see fit. Remember that while we have specific group practices on New Moon and Full Moon (to be discovered as we go), you are encouraged to do whatever you want on your own in the 'between times'. Suggested activities and art prompts are meant to be enjoyed 'buffet style'. Remember the power in picking at least one thing that really resonates, and another that makes you feel rebellious or resistant. Resistance and resonance are equally fertile. There is an 'art witch primer' worksheet below this document in your classroom meant to be engaged on your own. For best results, combine your own resonances with any of mine that feel 'right' for you.

The Names Of The Moon

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Cold Moon, Wolf Moon, Frost Moon, Long Night Moon

**Suggested Activity:** As we do with every moon, sit with these names and contemplate what they might mean for you. Compare and contrast these names with what's happening in your environment. Use your powers of seeking (GoogleFu!) to research the names and lore associated with this month of the year. Note anything that resonates with you.

**Journal Prompt:** What name would you give a full moon in December? Why? What does December 'feel like' to you? What does it remind you of? What memories or traditions do you associate with this month? Which of these would you like to discard? Which would you like to keep? What spiritual significance do they or could they have?

**Art Prompt:** Create a spread or painting that incorporates the feelings or images that arise for you when you sit with any of the tradi-tional moon names. Alternatively, create something inspired by what you would name the full moon in December.

### Tree Calendar

Check the listings for new moon and full moon (found in the INTRODUCTION or in your own moon phases app or planner) to see where they fall in the tree calendar this month and next month. Note that there will always be overlapping signs in each calendar month. Workings can include art journal spreads that explore the energies associated with these trees, finding these trees (if you can) in your neighborhood and sketching them, looking up what they look like in all their life phases, working with the symbols associated with these trees in your art journal or in meditation, searching for quotes about them, or poems or stories that include them, etc.

#### Elder

November 25 - December 23

Good for workings associated with creativity and renewal, as well as death and endings.

**Journal prompt:** What's up with you, creatively? Do you need to reassess your creative practice? What would you like to let go of in terms of practices? What would you like to take up?

**Art prompt:** Create art that invites a sense of renewal or release.

#### Birch

December 24 - January 20

Good for workings associated with purification/clearings, and new beginnings. Birch gives a powerful 'push' toward any desired out-come.

**Journal prompt:** What do need to clear? What do you want to leave back there in the previous year? What do you want to begin? What feels fresh, new, and bursting with potential as you enter the new year?

**Art prompt:** Create art that focuses on what you wish to begin. Use images that represent or symbolize new beginnings.

### Correspondences

Sourced from a variety of references, this list is a great jumping off point for your own explorations.

**Colours:** Red, white, green, black

**Herbs/Plants:** Holly, ivy, bay, cinnamon

**Flowers:** Mistletoe, poinsettia, hellebore

**Scent:** Cinnamon, cloves, frankincense, myrrh

**Stones:** Serpentine, peridot, turquoise, tanzanite

**Animals:** Deer, squirrel, mouse, horse, bear

**Nature spirits:** Wood spirits, snow faeries

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**Season:** Autumn/Winter

**Tree:** Elder/Birch

**Element:** Water (until December 21)/Earth

**Astrology:** Sagittarius - November 21 - December 20, Capricorn - December 21 -January 20

**Workings:** Resilience, life/death/rebirth, transformation, releasing/receiving, generosity, banishing loneliness, fostering community Celebrations: Yule (December 21), Christmas (December 25), New Year's Eve (December 31)

**Symbols:** Yule tree, yule log, stars, angels and angelic beings, new born babies, candles, and light sources, sun wheels, flames in darkness, snowflakes, icicles, snow men, deer, reindeer, anything that symbolizes prosperity.

As usual, if a correspondence feels particularly resonant for you (example: 'candles'), make sure and research it as well so you can deepen your understanding and insight. As always, remember to gut check all of these associations, and add your own. December may come with a particular scent, sound, colour, or taste for you. Include those correspondences in your personal lists.

Other references may include lists of deities to work with. If you are compelled to work with specific deities, lore, or stories, do that, but please avoid 'plugging in' to deities you have no prior relationship with. It is polite to develop a connection with a particular arche-type or being before you ask them to assist you in your work or lend energy to your desired outcome.

### This Month's Altar

The December altar can be decorated exactly like you might decorate your home for Christmas, with lots of evergreens, poinsettias, pine cones, symbols of the coming light, including candles, twinkly lights, etc. Images of snowy woods, holly and ivy, berries that may still be present through the winter to feed the wildlife, sun symbols, 'son' symbols, images of the new born year, and of father time, anything that represents the things you wish to release this year (to be ritually discarded on Yule eve or New Year's eve).

### Activities And Ponderings For December

Along with the usual - moon bathing, moon water, journaling, creating art based on your impulses and inspiration as you engage the energies that are present this month, please engage your planners and other 'year end/beginning' resources. Need a planner? [I love the Coloring Book of Shadows Magical Year Planner.](#)

Review the documents you've accumulated this year in your efforts to integrate and examine what you've learned.

### Recommended Reading for December

[How To Celebrate Yule With A Pagan Family](#) (web resource)

[The True Meaning of Christmas](#) (web resource)

[The Wheel Of The Year](#) by Pauline Campanelli

[The Pagan Christ](#) and [Water Into Wine](#) by Tom Harpur

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# December Art Witchery

With Effy Wild

I want to draw your attention back to this exercise, which is the very last exercise given in the program for 2023:

## Exercise: Integration

Go through the work you did for this program this year. Re-read the PDFs and see what exercises and suggested activities really rocked your socks. Make a list of the things you'd like to include in your practice as you wander off on your own. If you're joining me next year, note that there will be new things cropping up here and there for you to sample as you journey with me. Just as the cycles we engage in this program lead to transformation, this program will transform. It will grow and mature, as is inevitable. If you work on your own, you will also find your practice growing and maturing, so don't let fear of missing out stop you from wandering off. Return if you will. Go if you must. Either choice will serve you.

**Journal Prompt:** What does my practice look like now? Write it all out. Be willing to allow it to change as you change.

**Art Prompt:** Paint yourself as you 'feel' now that you've completed this year with me. Compare this with your earlier expressive self-portraits. Celebrate any growth you can perceive.

I especially want to draw your attention to the art prompt, which encourages you to paint yourself as you feel now that you've completed the year with me.

You might be tempted to paint a rosy picture, because it's easy to feel pressure to create a "before and after" image that is positive or optimistic. I want to encourage you to paint from an honest place. Maybe this year rode you hard and put you up wet (one of my favourite sayings) and you are feeling \*worse\* than you did at the beginning of the year. That can happen, especially if this program stirred some stuff up from the bottom of the cauldron. If this is the case, be honest with yourself about that, and spend some time thinking about what you can do about it.

If there's nothing you can do, if you're in a healing crisis and all there is to do is ride it out, good. That's good data. Come into the Cafe or Coven and ask for support. That's what we're here for. If there is something you can do about it, bring that into your cycling. Make an intention. Paint about it. Ask the powers for their help and do the thing.

[See you again soon.](#)

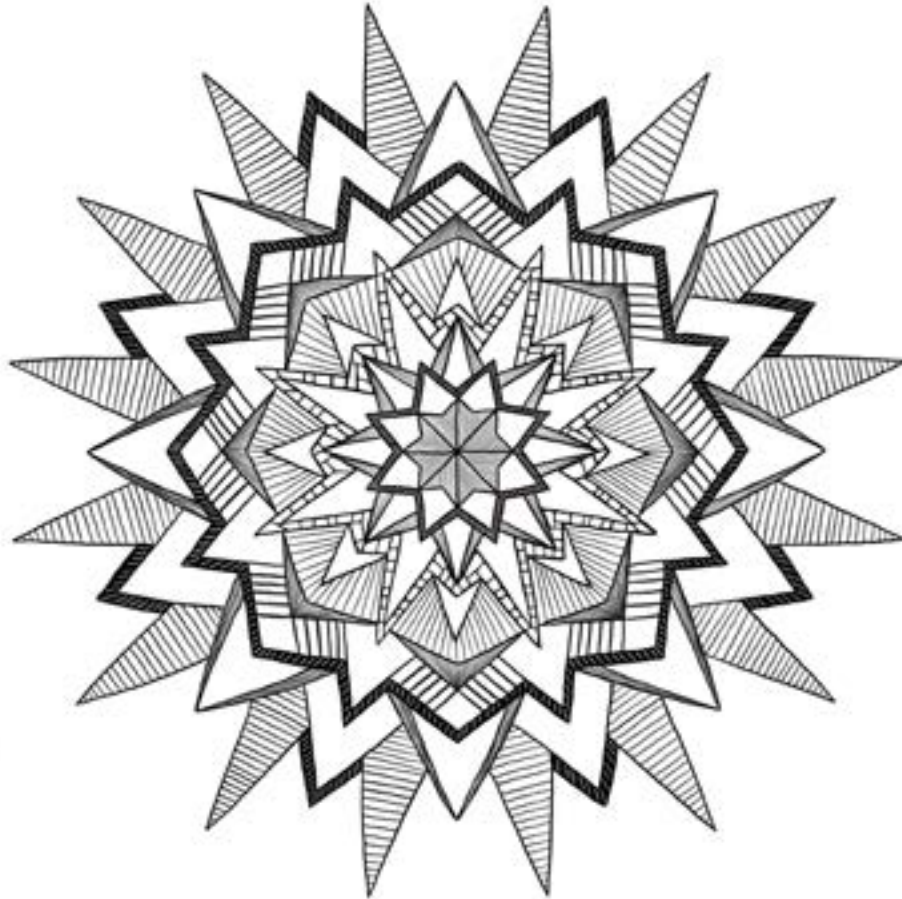
xo  
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# Mandala By Tina Stanley

December 2024

New this year, we have printable mandalas designed by our very own Tina Stanley! Print and colour as a form of contemplation, meditation, or just for fun! This month, she's offered us TWO mandalas!



[DOWNLOAD TO PRINT & COLOUR](#)

## More About Tina:

I am an Artist, Graphic Designer, and Photographer, and creative tinkerer. After 4 years at Oregon State University I am ready to step out into the world and make my mark - through the lens of my camera, the brush/pencil in my hand, and the keyboard at my fingertips. I have big dreams, high hopes, and a lot of ambition, and look forward to all the adventures the world has to offer. These mandalas are a labor of love and a glimpse into a small part of my creative practice.

You can find me at: [tinadstanleydesign.com](http://tinadstanleydesign.com) AND on [ETSY](https://www.etsy.com).

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# Essential Oil Of The Month

With Kimi Bois



I've always considered the scent of orange as the "happy drug". Orange helps us cope with restrictions and uncertainty. It brings with it a playful energy, bright like the sun and boosts our energy levels, helping us to find the good in things. Orange is great for focusing on the positive side of things, and in reminding us to live with child like wonder, which both Sagittarius and Gemini alike appreciate and encourage.

We can incorporate orange into our lives through the scent of essential oils, by adding the fruit into our diet and even with cleaning our environments with orange rind and vinegar.

## Recipes

New Moon in Sagittarius: Wild

- 5 drops orange
- 1 drop clove
- 2 drops cedar
- 2 drops pine
- 1 drop vetiver

This blend is a mix of woody earth and bright sunshine. A hint to go a little wild, but keep yourself grounded at the same time. A safe kind of wild. This is a blend where you can play around a little with the concentrations. A little more orange for a brighter experience, a little more vetiver for that grounding connection. Caution. Clove can be a bit much for some people as it's a strong deep scent, feel free to add a few drops more of the others to compensate if its more than you are looking for or switch it with something like myrrh or frankincense.

Other oils (or scents) you can use: tea tree, black pepper, juniper, sage, frankincense, sassafras, myrrh, anise, dragons blood

Full Moon in Gemini: Clear

- 1 drop ginger
- 4-5 drops orange
- 2-3 drops basil

This blend is warm and bright and clear all at the same time. A great way to clear the cobwebs, to create clear connections socially, or to help with overwhelming social struggles.

Other oils you can use: grapefruit, bergamot, lemon, spearmint, neroli, lavender, mint, anise

More about Kimi:

My name is Kimi Bois. I am a practicing aromatherapist. I studied at the West Coast Institute of Aromatherapy and have been researching and experimenting with essential oils, herbs and other ingredients for 20 years. I am a practicing pagan, making magic everywhere I go. I am fascinated by symbols, associations and magical connections and where scent can really help us focus on what our intentions are.

*We have new moon in Capricorn to end the year off (and start the new 2025 year), so here's an extra blend for that!*

New Moon Capricorn: Spice

- 1 drop clove
- 2 drops ginger
- 4 drops coriander
- 4 drops orange

This blend is spicy, reminiscent of seasonal spice blends, this warms the heart, brightens the mind and lets loose a little intoxicating feel, great for playing out the new years resolutions/plans/goals. A little grounding, a little flight of fancy and some steadfast goalsetting. Coriander is an intoxicant in large doses, do be careful in how much you add if you are sensitive to its influence.

Other oils you can use; eucalyptus, vetiver, cinnamon nutmeg, cedar, marjoram, tumeric

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# Herb Of The Month

with Airmid Wylde

## Borage

Tis the Season, fellow humans!

This month, we're working with borage - one of my favorite plants to grow in my own gardens at home! Borage is relatively easy to grow, and reseeds itself so it just keeps growing and growing. When you plant borage, make sure you know for sure that you want it there, because it will just keep coming back.

This herb is a cooling, cleansing herb with adaptogenic, demulcent, diuretic, expectorant, and anti-inflammatory properties. This means it's great for UTI's and kidney issues, for adding nutrition and immunity into the body, for coughs and colds, and for helping with anything inflammatory - rheumatoid arthritis, chest colds, injuries, etc.

So what can we do with it?

- Make borage tea! It's kind of cucumbery, but not in a strong way
- Blend borage into lemonade with a blender. Not only can it be a pretty garnish but it's tasty. I love blending it into frozen lemonade for a slushy.
- Make borage jelly - there are oodles of recipes and it's delicious with cream cheese and crackers
- Add it to salads - pretty much any salad would work. I add it to the apple + walnut salads I get from Kroger.
- Borage fritters! I actually love dandelion fritters as well. You can combine the two, and you can also add them to squash fritters. This is my favorite way to eat edible herbs!



[Download, Print & Colour](#)

This, like pomegranate, is one you can google and find many many recipes for. You can source borage through Mountain Rose Herbs or easily grow your own. Post in the group and let me know how you decide to use it, and if you decide to grow it!

Love you humans,

Airy Wylde

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## Winter Warming Milk Tea

2p Cinnamon  
2p Ginger  
1p Cardamom  
1p Chicory Root  
1p Peppercorns  
1p Star Anise  
1p Whole cloves

Mix in warm milk or alternative milk.

## More About Airmid

Airmid is part hippie, part geek, part rocker chick with some serious Dolly Parton sass. She blends self-love + herbalism + art + spiritual musings with kickass empowerment + a hell-yeah attitude. She has a fierce passion for helping womxn discover their unique beauty + strength + truth...especially through plants and creativity. Find her on [Instagram](#), and in her Facebook Group, [Wildness Unleashed](#).



[Download and colour!](#)

## Stone Of The Month with Rachael Caringella

### Jade

Stone of serenity and peace, this stone gently provides us with calming nourishment and love. Jade supports us as we go through the process of rebirth.

Jade is a soothing supportive stone that wants to help us heal, replenish and grow. A good stone for recovering and healing.

Jade dispels negativity and helps energy flow easily through your space. Jade is powerful but soothing uplifter.

## More About Rachael

Rachael is a multi media artist, creatrix and mystic explorer. Currently located in the magical valley of Taos, she spends her days in her plant covered art studio painting portals to new dimensions, opening gate- ways to hidden realms and crafting mystic creatures from the ethers. Having been a tarot reader for 10 years and an artist for as long as she can remember, it is her goal to bridge the gap between the mystic and the mundane.

[website](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#)



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# DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <a href="#">New Moon in Sagittarius</a>	2	3	4	5	6	7 <a href="#">Live Activation Gathering 1 p.m. EST</a>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 <a href="#">Network Wide Solstice Gathering</a>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 <a href="#">Moonshine 2025 Opening call 1 p.m. EST</a>
29	30	31				

TO DO

NOTE

# WEEKLY PLAN

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

NOTES

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN  
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TODAY'S FOCUS  
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- TOP PRIORITIES
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- SELF-CARE
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- TO-DO LIST
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NOTES, IDEAS & INSPIRATION