

CALENDAR OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

FALL 2022 – SPRING 2023 – SUMMER 2023

Marietta College recognizes that there are various religious faiths observed by our students, employees, alumni, friends, and trustees. The list below, which is by no means exhaustive, indicates important days of observance for several of the world's major religions. This list is intended to help all members of the Marietta College community in the planning of their schedules. Religions are listed in alphabetical order.

Buddhism

Magha Puja	March 6, 2023
Visakha Puja	April 8, 2023
Asalha Puja	July 3, 2023

Magha Puja commemorates the Fourfold Assembly, where 1250 monks ordained by the Buddha gathered spontaneously from distant places on the occasion of a full moon to honor the Buddha, and where he issued the principles of his teaching. Buddhists attend temple on this day and participate in religious observances and processions.

Visakha Puja is the major Buddhist observance of the year, commemorating the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha. Buddhists attend temple on this day and participate in religious observances and processions.

Asalha Puja commemorates the first structured teaching by the Buddha of the Four Noble Truths, effectively establishing Buddhism as a religion. Buddhists attend temple on this day and participate in religious observances and processions.

Christianity – Eastern Orthodox

Feast of the Nativity of Christ	January 9, 2023
Holy Friday	April 14, 2023
Pascha (Orthodox Easter)	April 16, 2023

Christianity – Roman Catholic, Protestant

Christmas	December 25, 2022
Good Friday	April 7, 2023
Easter	April 9, 2023

Christmas/Nativity of Christ celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians celebrate this holiday with special church services and with songs, called carols, to commemorate Christ's birth.

Good/Holy Friday marks the date of Christ's crucifixion. Christians observe this date by participating in special church services or ecumenical events in their communities.

Easter/Pascha celebrates Christ's resurrection, following his death by crucifixion three days earlier (Good/Holy Friday). Christians celebrate by attending church services.

Hinduism

Dasara	October 15, 2022
Diwali	October 24, 2022
Maha Shivaratri	February 18, 2023

Dasara is the last day of Navaratri, a 10-day celebration of the mother goddess Durga. This is a harvest celebration and is commemorated with family and community celebrations, including religious observances at local Hindu temples.

Diwali, the festival of lights, marks the triumph of good over evil, the inner light of the individual over spiritual ignorance. Hindus commemorate this day with family and community celebrations, including religious observances at local temples.

Maha Shivaratri commemorates Lord Shiva's consumption of a poison that had the potential to burn the entire world. Hindus observe this day with family and community celebrations, including religious observances at local temples.

Islam

Ashura (Shiite Muslims only)	February 18, 2023
Ramadan begins	March 22, 2023
Eid al Fitr (end of Ramadan)	April 21, 2023
Eid al Adha	June 28, 2023

Please note that Muslim holy days begin at sundown on the day preceding the date listed.

All of the dates listed above are officially determined after the sighting of the moon, so the actual dates may not coincide with those given above.

Eid al Adha commemorates Abraham's obedience to God in his willingness to sacrifice his son

Isaac, and it occurs after the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the Hajj. Muslims are obliged to participate in the daily religious rituals of this celebration, which lasts from one to three days, depending upon the particular traditions of the Muslim community in question.

Ashura marks the martyrdom of Husain ibn Ali, grandson of the prophet Muhammad and considered by Shiite Muslims to be his successor. Shiites observe this as a day of mourning and remembrance through religious rituals carried out at mosques.

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, and this fast is then broken at sunset each day.

Eid al Fitr, which is the celebration of the end of Ramadan, lasts for one, two, or three days, and participation in its daily religious rituals are obligatory, strongly recommended, or preferred, all depending upon the particular traditions of the Muslim community in question.

Judaism

Rosh Hashanah (first day)	September 25, 2022
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Yom Kippur	October 4, 2022
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Pesach (Passover)	April 5, 2023
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Please note that Jewish holy days begin at sundown on the day preceding the date listed. Also, some students may request the first day, which should be handled by the Office of the Provost.

Rosh Hashanah is the first of the High Holy Days of the Jewish calendar, i.e., it is the Jewish New Year, and religious obligations require attendance at synagogue for several services during the day.

Yom Kippur is the Jewish Day of Atonement, and Jews are required to spend the day in fasting and prayer, with much of the day spent in the synagogue at several different services.

Pesach (Passover) commemorates the Jews' freedom from slavery in Egypt and, more specifically, having each Jewish family's first-born child spared from being killed during the last of the great plagues recorded in Exodus. Jews observe Pesach by gathering in their homes to perform the prayers, readings, rituals, and songs of the seder and its associated meal. * Also, some students may request the first day, which should be handled by the Office of the Provost.