

## Vision:

The Covenant of the Goddess envisions a world where all living beings are honored and cherished as manifestations of the Sacred.

## Mission:

We, the Covenant of the Goddess, through advocacy, education, interfaith action, and resource sharing, empower Witches and Wiccans to protect, strengthen, and enrich our religion, society, and the Earth.

Books that may be of interest -- ask your librarian or local bookstore.

Adler, Margot. Drawing Down the Moon: Witches, Druids, Goddess-Worshippers, & Other Pagans in America Today. Boston: Beacon Press, 1987.  
Budapest, Zsuzsanna. The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries. Berkeley, CA: Wingbow Press, 1989.  
Campanelli, Pauline. Wheel of the Year. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn Publications, 1989.  
Crowley, Vivianne. Wicca: The Old Religion in the New Age. London: Aquarian, 1989.  
Cunningham, Scott. Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn Publications, 1989.  
Farrar, Stewart & Janet. Eight Sabbats for Witches. Redmond, WA: Phoenix, 1983.  
Gardner, Gerald B. High Magic's Aid. London, Houghton, 1949.  
Guiley, Rosemary. The Encyclopedia of Witches & Witchcraft. New York: Facts on File, 1989.  
K, Amber. True Magick A Beginner's Guide. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn, 1990.  
Leland, C.G. Aradia: Gospel of the Witches. Custer, WA Phoenix, 1990.  
Starhawk. The Spiral Dance -- A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess. New York: Harper & Row, 1989 (2nd ed.).  
Valiente, Doreen. Witchcraft for Tomorrow. Redmond, WA Phoenix, 1978.

## WICCA

--- sometimes called *Wicca*, the *Craft*, or *The Old Religion* by its practitioners ---  
*is an ancient religion of love for life and nature.*

## MORE INFORMATION:

Visit our web page at [www.cog.org](http://www.cog.org)  
or write to us at:

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Facebook: [covenantofthegoddess](https://www.facebook.com/covenantofthegoddess)

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# Covenant OF THE GODDESS



# WHAT IS WICCA?

A GENERAL INTRODUCTION  
PRESENTED BY THE COVENANT  
OF THE GODDESS

## WICCA: THE OLD RELIGION

Wicca is an Earth religion. In city apartments, in suburban backyards, in country glades, groups of women and men meet on the new and full moons and at festival times to attune themselves with the life force of nature and the energies of the Earth. They create circles of love and trust in which, through creative ritual, they celebrate life, raise magical energy, and honor the old Goddesses and Gods. In Old English "wicce" means "to bend" or "to twist;" and evolved into Wicca. Many contemporary Witches use the term as a less misunderstood term for Witchcraft. Wicca is the most common form of Neo-Paganism, a group of modern Earth religions which borrow and adapt from pre-Christian Pagan religions, sometimes with additions from contemporary religious thinkers.

### MAGIC AND RITUAL

The primary purpose of magic is the transformation of the self to fully develop one's gifts and capacities to live a full, joyful and spiritual life. Magic is also used for practical ends such as healing, divination, purification, and blessing, and raising energy to achieve positive goals.

Magic is an art. It requires careful training and self-discipline to achieve the conscious direction of will toward a desired end. It also requires wisdom and maturity, patience and passion, and an abiding commitment to the sacred. Magic is never used to gain power over anyone, or to manipulate, injure or control another.

Most rituals are performed within sacred space demarcated by a circle. Magical work may include singing, ritual drama, chanting, dancing, drumming, meditation, visualization, trances, and other techniques. Ritual usually includes the invocation and honoring of the Goddess and/or the God, and when the celebration, teaching or magical work is done, food and drink are blessed and shared by all.

## BASIC PHILOSOPHY

Wicca is a life-affirming, Earth-and nature oriented religion that reveres the natural world as the embodiment of Divinity and experiences the Divine as feminine and as masculine—Goddess as well as God.

Like the spiritual world view and practices of Native Americans and Shintoists, Wiccan spiritual practices are intended to attune humanity to the cycles of nature as a means of personally experiencing Divinity. Wiccans tend to be individualists, and have no central holy book, prophet or church authority. Wiccan practices enable an individual to experience the divine that dwells within and fills the world around us.

For Wiccans, concern for the environment is not merely scientific or utilitarian, but a visceral and profound spiritual reality. Divinity is not believed to exist separately and apart from humanity, or from the Earth, but to imbue every aspect of it. The Earth does not belong to humanity. We belong to the Earth. Wiccans consider the Earth, our bodies, and the natural cycles of life to be sacred.

Wicca honors nature and the feminine in a way that many religions do not. These values, the Goddess, and the other Gods of Wicca provide a spiritual model for treating all of life with reverence.



*The Wiccan Rede:  
"An it harm none, do what ye will."*

*This honors the freedom that each individual has to ascertain truth, experience the divine directly, and determine how best to live one's own life.*

## HOLIDAYS

At the major seasonal holy days, called sabbats, Wiccans celebrate oneness with life. The myths of the holiday are enacted through dancing, singing, feasting and revelry. Wiccans visualize the calendar of sabbats as a Wheel of the Year with eight spokes—four pastoral and agricultural festivals and four solar festivals of the solstices and equinoxes.

**SAMHAIN-OCTOBER 31**-Known also as November Eve or Hallows. The Celtic New Year, where the dead are remembered and divination is performed.

**YULE-DECEMBER 21**-Known also as Winter Solstice. The longest night, when some covens commemorate the Goddess as Mother giving birth to the Sun God.

**IMBOLC-FEBRUARY 1-2**-Candles are lit to hasten the journey of the sun and celebrate rebirth at this festival of Bridget, the Celtic Fire Goddess.

**OSTARA-MARCH 21**-Also known as Vernal Equinox. Day and night are equal. The Goddess Ostara (or Eostre) returns bringing Spring, new life and fertility.

**BELTAINE-APRIL 30**-Known also as May Eve. The plant world blossoms and folk dances celebrate fertility and pleasure. In some traditions the Maiden Goddess meets Her lover, the Young God.

**LITHA-JUNE 21**-Known also as Midsummer or Summer Solstice. As the longest day, we honor the union of sun and earth, and for some, the marriage of the Goddess and the God.

**LUGHNASADH-JULY 31**-Known also as August Eve. The Celtic Sun God Lugh is honored as His energy is transformed into grain and the days diminish in length; also Lammas, the Saxon Feast of Bread.

**MABON-SEPTEMBER 21**-Also known as Harvest Home or Autumnal Equinox. With light and dark again in equal balance, this harvest festival is held to thank the Goddess for Her abundance.