

GOUCHER | college

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

June 8, 2023

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Happy Summer!

Below you will find a list of the religious holy days that may impact your calendars during the **2023-2024 academic year**. Please keep in mind this is not an exhaustive list. The holidays included are those that may have a significant impact on observant students and could present a conflict with academic requirements. **Please avoid scheduling programs, fieldtrips, events, exams, or major projects on these days, as some members of our community could be fasting, limiting work, or observing the holiday in other ways.**

Some religious observances require additional time for preparation or travel before and after the actual holy day. Additionally, *I did not include holidays which our academic calendar already accommodates or when the college is closed.*

We are in the process of updating our current **Religious Observance Procedure (formerly the Religious Accommodation Procedure)** and will pilot this new process starting in August 2023. For academic conflicts, students will be instructed to request a change in required assignments or attendance, which the Chaplain must approve before it is submitted for final approval from the impacted faculty member(s) and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies. More information about this process is coming soon.

Thank you in advance for making Goucher College a more religiously inclusive campus. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

A more complete list of religious holidays can be found on the Religious & Spiritual Life website under the Religious Holidays tab in the menu, or by clicking [here](#).

Peace to you,
Rev. Maeba

Rev. Maeba Jonas, M.Div. (she/her/hers)
Chaplain, Director of Religious & Spiritual Life
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IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS: August 2023 – July 2024

**Note: For most religious traditions, the celebration or observance begins the evening before the actual day (sometimes called “eve” or “erev”). In these circumstances, both days are listed for ease of reference. Work restrictions for Jewish holidays begin shortly before sundown on the first date indicated.*

***Unless indicated, work is not restricted on these days but attendance at services, fasting, or other observances may take place.*

FALL SEMESTER		
<u>September 2023</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Rosh Hashanah	September 15-17	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Yom Kippur	September 24-25	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Mawlid (Birth of Muhammad)	September 27-28	
Sukkot	September 29-October 6	<i>(Work Restricted 9/29-10/1)</i>
<u>October 2023</u>		
Shemini Atzeret	October 6-7	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Simchat Torah	October 7-8	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Indigenous Peoples’ Day	October 9	
<u>November 2023</u>		
All Saints Day	November 1	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
Diwali	November 12	
<u>December 2023</u>		
Hanukkah	December 8-15	
Immaculate Conception	December 8	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
WINTER TERM		
<u>January 2024</u>		
Epiphany/Dia de Reyes	January 6	<i>(Services Required)</i>
SPRING SEMESTER		
<u>February 2024</u>		
Lunar New Year	February 10	
Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent)	February 14	<i>(Services Required)</i>
<u>March 2024</u>		
Ramadan	March 10-April 9	<i>(Fasting during daylight hours, additional prayers and services)</i>

Ta'anit Esther	March 21	
Purim	March 23-24	
Holi (Festival of Colors)	March 25	
Holy Week (Western)	March 24-30	<i>(3/29 may include daytime services and fasting)</i>
Easter (Western) (End of Lent)	March 31	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
<u>April 2024</u>		
Laylat al-Qadr	April 5-6	
Eid al-Fitr	April 10	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Pesach (Passover)	April 22-30	<i>(Work Restricted 4/22-4/24 and 4/28-4/30)</i>
Holy Week (Orthodox)	April 28-May 4	<i>(5/3 may include daytime services and fasting)</i>
<u>May 2024</u>		
Easter (Orthodox)	May 5	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	May 6	
Ascension of Jesus	May 9	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
Pentecost (Western)	May 19	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
BACCALAUREATE (Goucher College)	May 23	
SUMMER SESSIONS		
<u>June 2024</u>		
Shavuot	June 11-13	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Eid al-Adha	June 16-17	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Pentecost (Orthodox)	June 24	<i>(Services Required)</i>