



*Happy New Year!*

# Lunar New Year

Interfaith / National

[loo:nr](#) 

Lunar New Year is a celebration typically celebrated across Asia and is sometimes referred to as the Spring Festival. Observances of the holiday can vary as well as the interpretations of the calendar.

## Date

- Depending on the festival's region within Asia, it is celebrated during different times of the year.
- Certain parts of Asia (China, Korea, Vietnam and Japan) celebrate between January 21 and February 20.
- South Asia uses the lunisolar calendar; the date falls in April.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

## Greetings

Greet someone with "Happy New Year" or consider using the following phrases: "Gong hei fat choy" (Cantonese), "Gong xi fa cai" (Mandarin), and "Sae hae bok manhi bah doo seh yo" (Korean).

## Common Practices and Celebrations

- Lunar New Year celebrations vary across cultures/regions; however, the theme of connecting with parents/grandparents and family reunions remains common throughout.
- Family members receive red envelopes (lai see) containing small amounts of money.
- Colourful lanterns are used to light up the houses.
- Traditional foods include yuanxiao (sticky rice balls that symbolize family unity), fagao (prosperity cake), and yusheng (raw fish and vegetable salad).
- Many Asian-Americans continue to celebrate Lunar New Year with their families, with many modifying the cultural practices by creating their own versions of the celebration.

## Common Dietary Restrictions

There are no dietary restrictions, but many follow a vegetarian diet of vegetables, fruits and grains.

## Impact to U-M Community

- Lunar New Year is not a public holiday in the U.S, but those in the U-M Community may decide to use their vacation time to visit family during this holiday.
- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts.](#)

## U-M Campus Resources

- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

## Information Sources

- [Tanenbaum](#)

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This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M's Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email [DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu](mailto:DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu).