Happy Diwali!

Diwali

Interfaith / Hindu   [dee-VAH-lee](#) 🔊

The five-day Festival of Lights, a New Year Festival, is one of the most popular holidays in South Asia and is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists. Houses, shops, public places and shrines are often decorated with lights. These symbolize the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Sikhs celebrate this as Bandi Chchor Divas, or a day when Guru Hargobind Sahib freed many innocent people from prison.

Date
- Diwali is celebrated during the Hindu Lunisolar month Kartika (between mid-October and mid-November).
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

Greetings
A greeting of "Happy Diwali" is appropriate.

Common Practices and Celebrations
- Lighting of lamps and fireworks, cleaning and redecorating the home, gift-giving, feasts, street processions and fairs.
- The third day is the main day of the festival with fireworks at night and a feast with family and friends.
- Diwali's significance and celebration varies across different religious traditions.

Common Dietary Restrictions
- Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist practitioners are often lacto-vegetarian.
- Jain cuisine is also lacto-vegetarian but excludes root vegetables.

Impact to U-M Community
- Hindu employees may likely request the day off.
- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts.](#)

U-M Campus Resources
- [Maize Buddist Organizations](#), U-M
- [Maize Hindu Organizations](#), U-M
- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

Information Sources
- [Diwali, Wikipedia](#), accessed 12 August 2020
- [Diwali fact sheet](#), Tanenbaum

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