

Friendship International



DECEMBER 1, 2023

TOP U.S. CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Is this your first Christmas season in the U.S.? Here are some traditions you can expect to see and hear a lot about!

Decorating the Christmas Tree: Whether real or artificial, families often make an event out of decorating the tree together.

Advent Calendars: A special countdown to Christmas during December. Each day might have a picture or small candy or gift in a small compartment. Originally meant to build anticipation to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Stockings by the Fireplace: A stocking is hung for each member of the family in that house and filled with small gifts for Christmas morning.

Santa Claus and Gift Giving: Children are often told the legend that Santa travels from the North Pole on Christmas Eve to deliver presents. Santa Claus appears in stores and malls where you can get your kids' picture taken with him.

Christmas Carols and Songs: Communities may organize caroling events, and you'll hear Christmas music playing on the radio and in stores.

Holiday Lights Displays: Many homes and businesses decorate with elaborate light displays, inflatables (a new tradition) and Nativity scenes (the scene of Jesus' birth).

Christmas Cookies: People bake and give Christmas cookies and treats throughout December. Recipes are passed down in families, and cookie decorating or cookie exchange parties are held.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Meals: Traditional Christmas foods may include roast turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and various desserts like pumpkin pie.

Watching Christmas Movies: Classics like "A Christmas Carol," "It's a Wonderful Life," and newer films like "Home Alone" and "Elf" are big favorites.

Attending Church Services: For Christians celebrating the birth of Jesus, attending a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day church service is an important part of the celebration! Many churches hold special services, including choir concerts and candlelight ceremonies.



UPCOMING DATES

Dec 1	Christmas Ornaments
Dec 8	The Christmas Story (No Classes)
Dec 15	Last FI for Semester/ Extended Classes
Dec 19	Last Day of School Fayette County
Jan 12	First Day of Friendship Spring Semester

ROUND UP OF SANTA EVENTS (AND MORE)

So many options! The link below has a full list of all the places you can go to see a Santa Claus in the Lexington area this December. Options include visits, photos, train rides, breakfasts and more. Many events include more fun than just Santa. Some may be free, but many have costs or may require tickets. Read carefully for each event!



[Click here to view the full list](#)



SONGS OF THE SEASON AT ASBURY UNIVERSITY

Friday, December 1st
Free concert begins at 7:30PM
(recommended you arrive 30 minutes early to get seats)

Asbury University
1 Macklem Drive, Wilmore
In Hughes Auditorium

[Click here for the livestream event](#)

You are invited to Asbury University in Wilmore for a special Songs of the Season performance. Presented by Asbury's English and Music departments, Songs of the Season is a free concert and gift to the local community. If you can't attend in person, you can watch on livestream as well.

Wilmore is a small town south of Lexington, about 20-25 minutes if you are traveling from Ashland Avenue Baptist Church.



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED CHRISTMAS CRAFT:
DIY YARN CHRISTMAS TREES



DOWNLOAD PRESIDENT JULIE'S FAVORITE CHRISTMAS COOKIE RECIPE: WHITE CHOCOLATE GINGERSNAPS