

# Friendship International



DECEMBER 20, 2024

## TOP U.S. CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Is this your first Christmas season in the U.S.? Here are some of our favorite Christmas traditions!

**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 box. Intended 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, malls and festivals 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

December 20	Extended Class/ Last FI of the semester
December 25	Christmas Day
December 30	Planned release of the Spring Class Sign-up Link
January 17	First Friendship Meeting of the Spring Semester
January 31	International Music Day at FI

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – DRIVING TOUR AROUND LEX!

Driving around Lexington to see Christmas lights is a fun holiday tradition for everyone. It's a great way to spend time with your kids and family in the car—and it's free! To find the best lights and addresses, visit [this guide to Lexington Christmas lights!](#)

Don't forget to add Ashland Avenue Baptist Church to your list! Come visit Ashland's first year for a light display every evening in December from 6PM to 11PM.



## INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY

We have four open spots for internationals to share a musical piece with us on Friday morning, January 31st. If you would like to participate, please text Carol Sue Ray at 770-500-6458 or email her at [casuray@aol.com](mailto:casuray@aol.com) and let her know what you would like to present.

## CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES



Many churches host special services right around Christmas and encourage visitors to attend. Even if you do not normally attend church, the services are a welcoming, family-friendly chance to learn more about the Christian Christmas season in America.

**Here are several options you may enjoy:**

Ashland Avenue Baptist Church

Tuesday, Dec 24 at 4PM

[Immanuel Baptist Church \(click here\)](#)

Mon, Dec 23 at 6PM or Tues, Dec 24th at 2PM, 4PM or 6PM

[Southland Christian Church \(click here\)](#)

Nicholasville Campus (this is their main campus – located on Harrodsburg Road just over the Fayette Co./ Jessamine Co. line)

Sunday, Dec 22 at 9:30AM, 11:15AM, 3PM or 5PM



## WHITE CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT BARK



## MAKE YOUR HOME SMELL AMAZING! EASY CHRISTMAS SIMMER POT