

## It's time for the 2018 Yule Feast!

A night of revelry, ceremony & celebration! A special highlight of our life, the 2018 YULE FEAST will take place **Saturday, January 6, 2018** beginning at **5pm**. We open with wassail and cider in the Family Room, where we toast, sing, and enjoy the always irreverent Pig Play. We'll gather in the courtyard where a fire juggling unicycling jester will light up the night and then lead us into the banquet hall for a sumptuous feast, presentation of the Boar's Head and continued magic, music, and merrymaking.

**Reservations begin Sunday, Nov. 19** after Celebration. Please register as early as possible to allow the Yule committee time to organize tables.

**More Info:** all Yule Feast forms, documents, recipes, costume ideas, and photos are available online at: <http://mpcfamily.org/yulefeast>. For Yule history, scroll down or see reverse.

### **Pricing**

*Prices rise \$2 per person after Dec. 17!*

- Adults \$15
- Children and Youth (6-18 years) \$10
- Little ones: (5 and under) \$6 (includes **nursery care**; must reserve by December 17)
- "Kin of Four" Discount: \$45.00 (2 adults and 2 children/youth; pay by December 17)

**Early reservations are very much appreciated! Final deadline to reserve and pay: Sunday, January 1. Financial assistance is available -- please contact Talitha.**

**Table Reservations:** Reservations can be made as a group, a family, a couple, or an individual. **Every individual or family needs to complete a Household Info Form** (available at [mpcfamily.org/yulefeast](http://mpcfamily.org/yulefeast)). Don't worry if you don't have a table in mind when you register; the Yule committee will put you with a group. Please note that we will not have separate Youth tables.

**Nobles:** If you would like to be a Noble (table host) and gather a table together, please reach out to friends, neighbors, or anyone at MPC you'd like to know better, and complete a **Table Reservation Form** (available at [mpcfamily.org/yulefeast](http://mpcfamily.org/yulefeast)).

**Food:** Nobles will organize their tables to supply all drinks and side dishes for that table. The Yule committee will provide everything for the wassail hour, the main course meat, dessert and coffee. The registration form has a place to note if vegan and gluten-free options are preferred.

**Seating:** Your table location will also be posted on a seating chart the night of Yule Feast.

If you have any questions, please call the church office (339-1131) or contact Cindy Gullikson, [cgull4@gmail.com](mailto:cgull4@gmail.com).



## What is Yule Feast all about?

MPC's Yule Feast began in the early 1970's and celebrates the Epiphany, the time when we remember the Magi or the Three Wise Men who brought gifts to the Christ child, and in doing do "reveal" him to the world as God's son. We trace many of our feast traditions to mid-winter Christian festivals of medieval Britain. And many of those traditions date further back to solstice celebrations such as the Roman Saturnalia, the Anglo-Saxon Modraniht (Mother Night), and the Norse Juul. These mid-winter celebrations were characterized by feasting, drinking, and general merrymaking marking a shift to longer days and the return of the sun.

As Christian beliefs overtook pagan customs in Europe, Christmas and the Epiphany were laid atop these earlier winter festivals and incorporated many of the ancient traditions. Yule and Christmas became synonymous.

The Yule Log is one of the oldest traditions dating back to the Scandinavian Juul, a 12-day festival celebrating the rebirth of the sun. In more modern times, a large log was placed in the hearth and burned for twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany. Our Yule Child riding atop the Yule Log is a nod to the early traditions and reminds us of the warmth of the family fireside.

The modern Boar's Head festival dates back to 1340, in Oxford, England but has roots in ancient times when boar was the most feared beast of the forest. Boar was a staple at medieval feasts and the boar's head was served to the head table with an apple in its mouth. Christians adapted the presentation of a boar's head at Christmas to symbolize the triumph of the Christ child over sin.

Wassail, from the Olde English "was hal" meaning "be you healthy" includes many drinking and singing traditions as well as a pre-Christian apple orchard blessing ritual. Revelers sprinkled wassail-soaked bread onto tree trunks and made noise to awaken the trees for the new growing season. The wassail bread or "toast" is thought to be the origin of modern day toasting to one's health!

The candles lighting our sanctuary remind us of the return of light after a long winter, and the evergreens the rebirth of the green, growing season. Our Yule Feast, with its interplay of drama and delight forges ties between past and present and brings the MPC family together at Christmas to remember the baby and God's gifts of light and life.

**This will be MPC's 35th Yule Feast celebration! Make sure you are there!  
Join us on January 6, 2018 beginning at 5 pm!**