



**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
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**UPDATE: JANUARY 1, 2026**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

**JOIN US ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19, AT 2:00 P.M. FOR OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION ON ZOOM. OUR THEME IS "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND VOTE."**

This free, public event is offered via Zoom in cooperation with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at West Virginia University. **Advance registration is required to join the audience for this special MLK Day celebration, using the following link: <https://olliatwvu.wufoo.com/forms/m1vaxnxd0n9crxa/>. The Zoom link to sign on to the event will be emailed on the morning of January 19th.**

This year's MLK Day celebration focuses on voting-related issues. Jascenna Haislet and Cynthia Nelson of the League of Women Voters-Morgantown/Monongalia County will present information about voting access for individuals in long-term care facilities. This is a big but little-known issue affecting hundreds of voters in Monongalia County and thousands throughout West Virginia. Delegate Anitra Hamilton, past president of the Morgantown - Kingwood Branch of the NAACP, will talk from the topic "Your Vote, Our Future," which was the Branch's voting initiative in 2024. She will focus on the importance of voting, how every vote impacts our communities and our state and how we must start preparing now.

In addition, Barb Howe will present "The Road to the Vote" chronicling voting rights from 1776 to 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Executive committee member of Fair Districts PA (FDPA), Tony Crocamo, will present "Lobby Legislators on Any Issue: A Non-confrontational, Team-approach to Citizen Advocacy." Morgantown musicians Chris Haddox and the Osage Soul & Gospel Choir featuring Al Anderson and Aristotle Jones will provide the music.

**Because of this special event, there will be no regular meeting in January.**

**CCSJ EXHIBIT ON VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AT MORGANTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM.** This 3-panel exhibit focuses on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will be at the Morgantown History Museum in January for a “to be determined” length of time. The museum is at 175 Kirk Street in downtown Morgantown and is open Wednesday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m. It is closed on all major holidays. The phone number is 304-319-180. The website is [morgantownhistorymuseum.org](http://morgantownhistorymuseum.org), and the email is [morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov).

If you wish to exhibit the original 6-panel exhibit on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or the Voting Rights version, please contact Eve Faulkes at [faulkeseve@gmail.com](mailto:faulkeseve@gmail.com), who designed both exhibits. Both exhibits “travel” in the back of her car. We also have half-size posters of the six panels of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to show in smaller spaces.

**WEST VIRGINIANS’ EXPERIENCES IN CIVIL RIGHTS: HOW WE HAVE BEEN CONNECTED ALL ALONG!**, our graphic novel, is available at:

**Appalachian Gallery**, 270 Walnut Street, Morgantown. The phone number is 304-296-0163.

**Barnes & Noble**, 3000 University Town Centre Dr., Morgantown. phone: 304-599-1294.

**Terra Cafe**, 4325 Industrial Avenue, Star City. phone: 304-554-2233.

The book also is available on Amazon as both paperback (\$15) and Kindle (\$8) versions. The easiest way to find it is to type “Eve Faulkes” in the Amazon search engine.

If you buy the book on Amazon, you may be able to leave a review. Go to Amazon.com, search for Eve Faulkes to bring up the book title. Then go to the bottom of the page where it says “Review this product” in the lower left corner for the guidelines.



We still have a few copies of this printing for libraries, museums, schools, and related organizations.

It is important to note that *“This project [our reprint] is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, the official state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.”*

**CONTACT US:** Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at [mdattfieldo@gmail.com](mailto:mdattfieldo@gmail.com). Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at [ccsjwv@gmail.com](mailto:ccsjwv@gmail.com). Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at [barbarahowe3@gmail.com](mailto:barbarahowe3@gmail.com).

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES** - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!** Just look for “Community Coalition for Social Justice” under “Groups” and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group “leader.”

## LOCAL NEWS



**MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The next regular meeting should be Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Contact information for the commission and information on filing complaint forms is at [www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission).

You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at [www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/).

The Human Rights Commission’s International Human Rights Day celebration on Sunday, December 7th, recognized the Appalachian Prison Book Project “for its many years of dedication to protecting Human rights & Promoting Volunteerism” and Natalie J. Sal, Esq. “for her many years of dedication to advancing the Human Rights of Morgantown’s most vulnerable.”

**Vacancies on Human Rights Commission.** There are currently three vacancies on the commission. “Appointments of to the Commission are made by City Council, and all must be residents of the City. All seats are non-ward specific.” Information on applying for the commission is available at [morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-7/Application-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45](http://morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-7/Application-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45).

Laura Fletcher, one of the members of the commission, has posted a google map of Blessing Boxes in northern West Virginia at <https://www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission>. These are places where people can donate or take food and, maybe, other items as needed.

**Here are events for January from**

**<https://www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF/>**

**January 18: World Religion Day** – Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

**January 19: Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** – Established in 1983 and observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Also known as King Service Day – Federal legislation signed in 1994 challenged Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service.

**January 27: Holocaust Memorial Day** - Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The United Nations urges all its member states to honor Nazi era victims and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM).** Thanks to Cynthia Nelson, the secretary of the LWV-MM, for this report:

On January 7, 2026, LWV of West Virginia will co-host a webinar with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority entitled “Real People Casting Personal Votes to Make Real Impact. This free webinar features a speaker from the WV Center on Budget and Policy discussing “WV and the Big Beautiful Bill.” D4 Women in Action will lead a discussion entitled “Project 2025-A Year into the Trump Administration.” Additional topics are “Casting Your Personal Vote” and “Call to Action” for 2026. Registration is required and there is no charge to sign up. Visit <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/CoQqvwY7RpOJevc66DgKVw> to register for access to the webinar prior to the January 7 event.

On Saturday January 10, 2026 LWV-MM will be at the Morgantown Library on Spruce St from 9:30am until 12 noon. The Not Your Grandma’s League Anymore themed event is open to all League members and interested potential members. Please join us for refreshments, discussion, Q&A, education, and organization.

The WV Legislature begins session on January 14, 2026. LWV-WV LLAW team is watching attentively and will be alerting citizens to be aware of bills introduced that are in opposition to, or in support of League priorities. We feel those priorities are congruent with CCSJ member interests and encourage you to participate in the “Make Some Noise” alerts in your email, if you are a member, or on the League of Women Voters of West Virginia facebook page. LLAW has been successful in years past drawing attention to legislation that is of great importance that mainstream media outlets have ignored. When legislation is introduced that impacts your concerns, the best time to contact your representative is immediately. The 2026 election cycle is going to be a decisive time for office holders and they should know how their constituents feel about their sponsorship and votes on the laws that impact us all!

The LWV of Morgantown-Monongalia County invites everyone to subscribe to LWV-MM’s Substack <https://lwvmorgantown.substack.com>. A subscription gets you automatic updates. And it’s free.

Follow the League on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LWVMM](http://www.facebook.com/LWVMM) and contact them by email at [lwvmorgantown@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmorgantown@gmail.com). You can join the League of Women Voters at [tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm](http://tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm).

The next monthly board meeting will be via zoom on Thursday January 15, 2026 at 6:30pm.

We encourage all members to participate in the monthly meetings!

The Morgantown/Monongalia County League has been a member organization of CCSJ.



**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETS JANUARY 13TH:** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 648 Brockway Ave. Judy Ball of the Morgantown & WV League of Women Voters (LWV) will be the speaker, explaining the LWV legislative scorecard. This program will take place on the evening before the first day of the WV legislative session.

Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/) or email at [morgantownnow@gmail.com](mailto:morgantownnow@gmail.com). Adrienne Dering is the new president of Morgantown NOW.

#### NAACP

**MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH.** This meeting of the membership will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at [3241naacp@gmail.com](mailto:3241naacp@gmail.com) for more information and to learn how to participate.

The branch has a Readings on Race and Rights group and does its work with a variety of committees, including Education, Political Action, Legal Redress, Criminal Justice, and Health.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal).

We appreciate the fact that the Branch shares this Update with its membership and is contributing to our Martin Luther King Jr. Day program this year.



**MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS ONE MEMBER:** The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications for the one vacancy on the board, and you can get a link to the application and more information by going to [morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar](http://morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar). "The Board shall consist of nine members appointed by City Council. Each member shall be a resident of the city or an active member of an organization that works within the city to promote purposes consistent with the purpose of the Board."

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Morgantown Public Safety Building conference room. For links to agendas and minutes of past meetings, go to [www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47).



**MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE:** Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. Services are in person or on Zoom at 10:30. All are welcome to stay for a potluck in the church fellowship hall after the service. For Zoom instructions, please go to <https://www.morgantowncob.org/>.

The church has a Blessings Box outside the church at 464 Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, where you can drop off extra food you may have or take some if you need it, or swap food. Feminine hygiene products are also welcome.

The church is a member organization of CCSJ.

**MONONGALIA FRIENDS MEETING:** First Day meetings are at 11:00 a.m. at 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown. Contact them at [monquakers@gmail.com](mailto:monquakers@gmail.com).

Monongalia Friends Meeting is a member organization of CCSJ.



**DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER “IS ON BREAK.”** Stay tuned for further information in January.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MORGANTOWN:** The church is located at 456 Spruce Street. Adult Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. Online worship is at 10:00 a.m., and in-person worship is at 11:00 a.m. The church’s Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/FPCMorgantown](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMorgantown) and has details about the many activities. The church has been a member organization of CCSJ.

It is a value of First Presbyterian Church that when we gather we welcome one another just as God loves us, without any conditions.

No matter who you are or where you’re from  
 No matter where you live or work  
 No matter your family of origin or ethnicity  
 No matter who you love or how you identify, or wherever you are on your spiritual journey  
 We welcome you just as God loves you, without any conditions.



“Blessing of the Toys - Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 4. We are starting a new tradition and blessing the toys and other gifts that help us play and use our imaginations. Children and youth are invited to bring along a favorite toy, hobby, or item that sparks their imagination to worship on Jan. 4. We will take time in the service to ask God to bless our sense of play and imagination! We encourage toys and items that are not screen-related. 😊”



Bev’s Mitten Tree is now available for donations through January 4. Late member Beverly Shumaker started the tradition of collecting cold weather accessories in children and adult sizes to be donated to local school districts and community members. Please decorate the tree with warm hats, scarves, gloves and socks!



**FAIRMONT PRIDE:** Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fairmontpride](https://www.facebook.com/fairmontpride) or at [fairmontpride.com](http://fairmontpride.com).



**MORGANTOWN PRIDE:** Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at [www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en). Follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride](https://www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride).

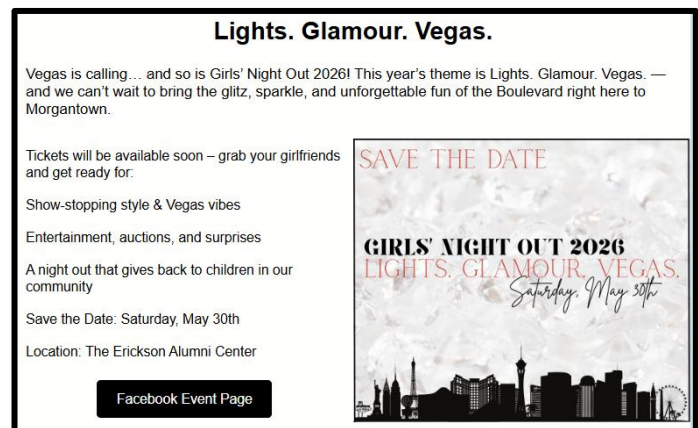




**PROJECT RAINBOW:** Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/projectrainbowwv](https://www.facebook.com/projectrainbowwv) or on the web at [www.projectrainbowwv.com](http://www.projectrainbowwv.com).



**MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC).** Follow this group at [moncocac.org/news/](http://moncocac.org/news/) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC](https://www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC).



**OSAGE SOUL & GOSPEL CHOIR:** The choir will be singing during our Martin Luther King Jr. Day program.



**MORGANTOWN MUTUAL AID:** Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=morgantown%20mutual%20aid](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=morgantown%20mutual%20aid).

"In these chaotic and stressful times, community is more important than ever, and that's why we are hoping you'll assist us in fulfilling these TWO mutual aid requests we received. 🏠"

1: One of our disabled community members needs to raise \$372 for rent by Jan. 5th. Funds can be directed to our MoMA member, Danielle, who will post receipts once funds are given to her landlord. Cashapp: \$DanielleStoneberg; Venmo: @Danielle-Stoneberg; Paypal: @daniellestoneberg

2: A community member needs to raise \$375 by January 5th for rent. Funds can be sent on Venmo to @Aaron-Woodson-7.

Help us take care of one another!"



**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. UNITY BREAKFAST IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026.** Everyone is welcome. Free tickets are available via Eventbrite at [www.eventbrite.com/e/west-virginia-university-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-unity-breakfast-tickets-1685267523529?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-virginia-university-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-unity-breakfast-tickets-1685267523529?aff=oddtcreator)

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## STATEWIDE NEWS

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION STARTS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH.** CCSJ is a non-partisan organization. Please note that events can move very quickly once the session starts – or start quickly and then stall – or never move at all. Check any of these statewide groups or other social justice and environmental justice groups to keep up with their issues and learn who to contact when. Follow the groups on Facebook or with email alerts if you are a member.

Find your legislators at <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/>. You can also track bills from this site.

The session will end at midnight on Saturday, March 14th.

**ELECTION SEASON IS STARTING:** For information on everything you need to know about registering, voting, or running for office, go to <https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx>.



**WEST VIRGINIA NOW:** For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow](https://www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow) or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at [amandajray@yahoo.com](mailto:amandajray@yahoo.com).

**Kanawha Valley:** KVNOW meets on the 4th Thursday of every month at the Public Library. Follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068111934197>.

**Huntington NOW:** Follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564175287992>.



## FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA:



“Do you care about what happens in West Virginia, but feel confused, frustrated, or unsure how to make a difference? You’re not alone. And you don’t have to navigate any of this by yourself.

“Join Fairness West Virginia for a clear, practical, and empowering workshop that will give you the tools to understand **how the Legislature works, where LGBTQ+ rights stand today, and how to talk to lawmakers in ways that actually move people.** Whether you’re brand-new to advocacy or you’ve been following these issues for years, this session will break everything down in plain, accessible language.

### “In one training, you’ll learn:

- ✓ How bills really move (or stall) in Charleston
- ✓ The major LGBTQ+ policy issues shaping West Virginia right now
- ✓ What motivates lawmakers and how to communicate through shared values
- ✓ How to tell your story in a way that opens hearts instead of raising defenses
- ✓ How to follow legislation in real time and make your voice heard
- ✓ Practical, real-world steps you can take to protect your community this session

“If you’ve ever thought, **“I want to help, but I don’t know where to start,”** this workshop is for you.

“Come learn how to understand the process, talk about LGBTQ+ issues with clarity and compassion, and advocate in ways that actually make an impact. You’ll leave with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to stand up for your neighbors — and to make sure fairness, dignity, and freedom truly belong to everyone in West Virginia.

“We’re offering this training on **three different days and at different times** so you can choose the session that fits your schedule. Each session covers the same content, so just pick the one that works best for you. **Click below to register for your preferred date and time,** and we’ll send you all the details you need to join us on Zoom.

**Jan. 8 @ 7 p.m. – REGISTER** at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/L6NmVkDmR-ax2y6zJPdzDw#/registration>

**Jan. 12 @ 11 a.m. – REGISTER** at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NNdSbZW7TZWS-g1nozEwHg#/registration>

Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fairnesswv](https://www.facebook.com/fairnesswv).



**ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES:** Follow this group at [www.acluww.org](https://www.acluww.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ACLUWV](https://www.facebook.com/ACLUWV). This is a very active Facebook page so please check it for current issues and actions.



“On January 13, our client Becky will have her case heard at the U.S. Supreme Court. Outside the court, we’ll be rallying for trans kids like Becky who just want to be part of a team and belong. Secure your free seat on the bus now (meals included) to join us as we show up loud, united and impossible to ignore!”

“Seats are filling up fast. Secure yours now at the link. You’ll receive pickup details after signing up: <https://act.aclu.org/a/bpj-hecox-rally>.”

“In 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear two cases that will shape the future of transgender and nonbinary (TNB) people in this country: *West Virginia v. BPJ* and *Little v. Hecox*.

“On January 13, 2026, the ACLU, Lambda Legal, GSA Network, and the Transgender Law Center along with national and local partners are joining together to say clearly: Together We Win: Fight for the T in Team. And we need you with us.

“These cases ask whether states can categorically bar transgender girls and women from participating on girls' and women's sports teams, a direct challenge to the Equal Protection Clause and Title IX. A broad ruling could go even further, opening the door to widespread discrimination against transgender people in every part of public life.

“In a moment where President Donald Trump is abusing his power to target our communities, suppress dissent, and create a climate of fear, we know politicians are using these cases to legitimize discrimination and push TNB people out of public life altogether. We refuse to let that happen.

“WHAT: Together We Win: Fight for the T in Team: BPJ & Hecox Rally at SCOTUS

WHEN: January 13th, 2026, at 10:00 AM

WHERE: Outside the Supreme Court of the United States: 1 1st St NE, Washington, DC 20543”

The ACLU has a Police Accountability Dashboard “to provide insight into officer careers and accountability. Go to [dashboard.dragline.org](https://dashboard.dragline.org) for a variety of ways to search information about law enforcement officers in the state.



**RAINBOW PRIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

For more on this group’s events, go to [www.facebook.com/RainbowPrideWV](https://www.facebook.com/RainbowPrideWV) or [rainbowpridewv.org](https://rainbowpridewv.org).



**WEST VIRGINIA TRANS COALITION:** Follow this group at [www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/](https://www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/).

#### JANUARY DEI CALENDAR

<https://www.diversityresources.com/diversity-calendar-2026/>

January is a month to celebrate the diverse ways in which we communicate and connect with each other. From recognizing the importance of Braille for the visually impaired to observing cultural and religious celebrations, this month highlights the many ways people express identity, memory, and community.

**January 3 – Buddhist: Mahayana New Year:** Celebrated in many Mahayana communities on the first full moon of January, focusing on reflection and renewal.

**January 4 – UN: World Braille Day:** Celebrates the importance of Braille for people who are blind or visually impaired.

**January 7 – Coptic & Eastern Orthodox Christian:** Christmas. Marks the birth of Jesus Christ according to the Julian calendar.

**January 19 – US: Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** Observed on the third Monday in January, honoring Dr. King's leadership in the civil rights movement.

**January 27 – UN: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust:** Marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and promotes Holocaust remembrance and education.

#### January 2026 Holy Days

*If a holiday begins the evening before, we will mark it with an asterisk (\*) below.*

**January 5 – Sikh: Guru Gobind Singh Gurburab:** Celebrates the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the Sikhs' 10th master and teacher.

**January 3 – Buddhist: Mahayana New Year:** Celebrates the Buddhist New Year in Mahayana traditions.

**January 6 – Christian: Epiphany:** Celebrates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus.

**January 7 – Coptic Orthodox Christian: Christmas:** Marks the birth of Jesus Christ according to the Julian calendar.

**January 14 – Hindu: Pongal:** A harvest festival thanking the Sun God for the agricultural abundance.