

Comfort & Joy

Holiday Pre-Planner

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Holiday Book Club Pre-Planner

Perry Como was right when he crooned, “there’s no place like home for the holidays.” While your home can be a haven at any time of the year, during the holidays you’re given so much potential.

Unfortunately, all of the potential can also be the source of panic, as pressures and expectations for a “perfect” holiday season build.

Will you host many holiday gatherings? If so, how simple or elaborate will they be? How many people will you invite? What will you serve? When will you get together?

On and on, the questions pile up until it can be very tempting to want to wish the holiday season away.

The holidays don’t need to be wished or scheduled away. They can be celebrated and enjoyed. This pre-planner will help you think through the details for your upcoming holidays so you can have direction and feel prepared before you make final plans. Work on your pre-planning now, so that once it’s time to set dates with others, your ideas are already percolating on paper.

Once your pre-planning turns into actual plans and your celebrations begin, may you experience much comfort and joy this Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year!

Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent "H" and a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

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Before You Begin Planning ...

Instead of jumping right into setting dates, deciding menus, or establishing any other plans for this Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, first take a while to consider what you'd like your holiday season to include.

Here are a few questions to help you get started:

Who?

Who would you like to see at Thanksgiving?

Who would you like to see at Christmas?

Who would you like to see at New Year's?

Who do you NEED to see this holiday season?

How?

How will you get to see these people? Think through possible gatherings, events, and traditions.

What? (Thanksgiving)

What do you want to make sure you do this Thanksgiving?

What traditions do you want to make sure you keep this Christmas?

What would you like to plan for this Thanksgiving?

What food is needed?

What supplies are needed?

What décor would you like?

What? (Christmas)

What do you want to make sure you do this Christmas?

What traditions do you want to make sure you keep this Christmas?

What would you like to plan for this Christmas?

What food will be needed?

What supplies are needed?

What décor would you like?

What? (New Year's)

What do you want to make sure you do this New Year's Eve? New Year's Day?

What traditions do you want to make sure you keep this New Year's?

What would you like to plan for this New Year's Eve? How about New Year's Day?

What food will be needed?

What supplies are needed?

What décor would you like?

What?

What do you need to make sure is on your grocery shopping list?

What?

What do you need to make sure is on your shopping list?

Where?

Looking at your WHO, HOW, and WHAT plans, where will you celebrate Thanksgiving?

Christmas?

New Year's?

If you're hosting any gatherings, where will you welcome and entertain your guests? Where will everyone gather? Where will they sit?

When?

When will you celebrate Thanksgiving?

When will you celebrate Christmas?

When will you celebrate New Year's?

If you're planning to celebrate with different groups of people, you may have many events to add to your calendar. When is each specific event?

When will you start coordinating dates with others?

If hosting, when will you invite your guests?

When will you enjoy your traditions? When will you try something new?

When?

Considering all of the plans you've just made, when will you prepare for your:

Menu planning?

Grocery shopping?

Cooking?

Cleaning?

Gift shopping?

Gift wrapping?

Decorating?

Worship?

Time to rest and enjoy some peace and quiet?