



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 2.23.22



A Reflection from our Protestant Chaplain

"Calling" is an important concept in my Protestant Christian tradition and in other faiths. From my upbringing in a Dutch Reformed congregation to my current life as an Episcopal priest, questions of how God is calling me have always been there. But it doesn't have to be a strictly religious idea. Calling can be described in many ways, like how people understand their purpose in life, how they find meaning in what they do, and what values they live by. All these things can be a helpful framework for figuring out "the big questions," including what to study, what career to pursue, where to settle down, whether to have a family, and so on.

Questions like these can feel overwhelming and anxiety-provoking at times. For this reason I really appreciate this insight from Howard Thurman, the first Black dean of Boston University's Marsh Chapel: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

Asking ourselves what makes us come alive is a great prompt for individual reflection and is also a great question to ask others about us. People who know us well and are honest with us can serve as a mirror, helping us see what they see in us--our passions and talents, strengths and growing edges, hopes and fears. This was true for me as I discerned a call to ordained ministry and sought out the guidance of clergy mentors and trusted friends. Today, I continue to rely on the insights of others who care for me and challenge me to be my best self.

At the Discernment Dinner I am hosting tonight, we will share who these people are in our lives and look at a model for group discernment called a clarity team, not unlike a clearness committee in the Quaker tradition. [Please email me](#) if you're interested in attending tonight at 6pm in Goddard Chapel or if you want to learn about future dinner events. Also, be sure to check out "To Be of Use: Who We Are, What We're For and Why it Matters, a special lunch gathering next Monday, February 28, hosted by the Career Center and University Chaplaincy; you can see below for more information and to sign up. This a unique opportunity to reflect on calling, however you understand that term, in a safe and supportive space. Please register by this Friday at noon if you would like to attend.

May you find people at Tufts and beyond who will help you ask the big questions, and may you find what makes you truly come alive.

Blessings,

Reverend Dan Bell
Protestant Chaplain

Upcoming Signature Programs



"To Be of Use"

Monday, February 28, 12pm - 1:15pm

Join the Career Center and the University Chaplaincy for a meaningful conversation about purpose and professional journeys.

Lunch provided.



Copyright 1982 Marge Piercy, "To be of use"

"To Be of Use"

Monday, February 28, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Join the Career Center and the University Chaplaincy for "To Be of Use:" Who We Are, What We're For, and Why It Matters. "To Be of Use" comes from the Marge Piercy poem with the same title, which inspired this collaboration. As a group, we will ask: what it means to live an authentic life of both joy and service? What brings deep purpose and meaning to my life and how might I connect these passions and commitments to my education and career? What if I don't really know what is meaningful to me? Chaplains and Career Center team members will be present to share their stories, some wisdom and resources, and to facilitate the conversation. [Please register](#) by Friday, February 25 at noon; all undergraduate and graduate students are welcome. You will receive an email with more information about meeting place and time. Please contact University Chaplaincy program manager [Nora Bond](#) with any questions and accessibility needs.

RUSSELL LECTURE ON SPIRITUAL LIFE & SOLOMONT SPEAKER SERIES

Valarie Kaur

Monday, March 28 • 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. • Breed Memorial Hall



Join Tisch College and the University Chaplaincy for a joint Solomont Speaker Series and Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life event as we welcome civil rights leader, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, and best-selling author Valarie Kaur on campus.

“The revolutionary love compass is: See no stranger, tend the wound, breathe, and push. It’s loving others, loving opponents, loving ourselves. At any given moment, there’s a place where we are most called to be; *what is your work right now?*”

The Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life, the oldest lectureship at Tufts, is meant to offer a spiritual perspective on the present historical moment, and Kaur’s call to see no stranger is a timely one.

The Alan and Susan Solomont Speaker Series at Tisch College brings to campus civic leaders and change-makers who are working for the greater good to participate in a public forum with the Tufts community.



Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life



University
Chaplaincy

Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life & Solomont Speaker Series: Valarie Kaur

Monday, March 28, 4:30 p.m., Breed Memorial Hall

Tufts Interfaith Ambassadors Curry Brinson, A22 and Neha Ratnapuri, A23 interviewed Valarie Kaur in preparation for her forthcoming lecture at Tufts. You can [read the full interview here](#), and view her reading a portion of her book *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifest of Revolutionary Love* in the video linked at the top of the article. The event is sponsored by Tisch College and the University Chaplaincy as a joint Solomont Speaker Series and Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life event. Kaur is a civil rights leader, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, Sikh American, and best-selling author and will speak on Revolutionary Love—the way of being that allows us to be present for and fully respect others. You can [read more about the event here on our website](#), and you can [register for the event here](#).

Register for Russell Lecture

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Wellesley ALM + Tufts MSA + BMTV Present

Reclaiming Black

*Muslim Joy: Exploring Self Love Through
An Islamic Lens*



FEATURING

**Virtual Speaker Session
Presented By: Angelica
Lindsey-Ali, The Village
Auntie**

**In-Person Workshop Led by:
Amadu Kunateh**

**Saturday, Feb 26, 4:00-6:30 PM
Tufts Alumnae Lounge
40 Talbot Ave, Medford, MA, 02155**

Reclaiming Black Muslim Joy: Exploring Self-Love Through an Islamic Lens

Saturday, February 26, 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., 40 Talbot Avenue, Medford, MA, 02155

Wellesley College Al-Muslimat, Tufts Muslim Student Association, and Black Muslim TV are excited to host our collaborative event in celebration of Black History Month this Saturday from 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at Tufts Alumnae Lounge. We will be joined by Angelica Lindsey-Ali, the Village Auntie, who will present a virtual talk on Allah-centered Self-Love. Following the Village Auntie's virtual speaker session, Boston College Muslim Chaplain, Amadu Kunateh will facilitate an in-person workshop on how to cultivate 'self love' by wrestling with our past and reflecting on our story of 'self' through tying in knowledge from the Qur'an and seerah. Food and dessert will be provided, and all are welcome!



true colors

COMMUNITY AND CRAFTS

Join the University Chaplaincy in the return of the LGBT+-only space contemplating the relationships between our "**queerness**" and "**faith**" as we create a casual comfortable community relaxing over coloring

True Colors Affinity Space

Sunday, February 27, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., LGBT Center

The University Chaplaincy is offering a queer affinity space with coloring and conversation to help build comfortable community here on campus. This event is intended for those who identify with the LGBTQ+ community and is open to everyone, no matter their religious, philosophical, or spiritual identity. With a few guiding questions and provided materials, the space is yours to make it however you want! So come take a break from studying to spend time with your queer peers and embrace your true colors! If you have any questions, please contact Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#).

Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Services

Liturgy of the Word with Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, March 2, 2022
12:00pm and 5:10pm, Goddard Chapel

On Ash Wednesday, many mark the beginning of Lent by honoring the ancient call to be rooted in our truest selves through prayer, reflection, and acts of discipline. It is a call to journey through the wilderness as we move towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb.

All are welcome to join in this time of prayer, singing, and reflection hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell.

Please contact the University Chaplaincy if you wish to receive ashes but are unable to attend one of these services.

For questions or more information, contact chaplaincy@tufts.edu.

Ash



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Wednesday Services

Wednesday, March 2, 12:00 p.m. and 5:10 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join the Catholic Chaplaincy and the Protestant Chaplaincy for a service and the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season to prepare for Easter. You are most welcome, and please reach out to Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) with any questions. If you would like to receive Lenten reflections, sign up for daily email prompts to journal your way towards a clearer sense of vocation. If you are interested, please let Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) know.



Hillel First-Year Retreat

Saturday, March 5 - Sunday March 6

Sign-ups for the Hillel First-Year retreat are open. Space is limited. [Find more information and reserve your spot here](#) by Thursday, February 24. Please [reach out to Hillel staff](#) with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thanks to all those who attended the Catholic Chaplaincy and Catholic Community at Tufts Retreat this weekend!

The annual retreat to Cape Cod resumed this year for the Catholic community, and enjoyed the togetherness, the chilly beach, and reflection on the theme "Living An Incarnational Life in an Extraordinary Time." To get more updates about Catholic life and events, please reach out to Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#).



Partner Programs



Tisch College Solomont Speaker Series: Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley

Thursday, February 24, 5:30 p.m. ET, held virtually

Join Tisch College for a conversation on building a multiracial democracy with U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. Congresswoman Pressley is an advocate, a policy-maker, an activist, and a survivor. She was elected to represent Massachusetts' 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018, making her the first woman of color to be elected to Congress from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This event is generously cosponsored by the Africana Center, Tufts CIVIC, the Tufts Democrats and the Political Science Department. [Register for the virtual event here.](#)

SPRING 2022

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Virtual, confidential, and free
for Tufts students

@tuftscmhs

Tufts Counseling and Mental Health Services Spring 2022 Groups and Workshops

Counseling and Mental Health Services offers a wide variety of confidential groups and workshops for Tufts students. All groups and workshops will meet virtually. Some groups (noted below) require an individual meeting with the facilitator before joining. [Find out more about the Spring 2022 Groups and Workshops here.](#)

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



A Celebration of Black Interfaith and Religious Diversity in America

Wednesday, February 23, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Virtual

The Second Gentleman of the United States, Douglas Emhoff, will keynote the event, A Celebration of Black Interfaith and Religious Diversity in America in honor of Black History Month. The occasion, co-hosted by the

White House and the Black Interfaith Project at Interfaith Youth Core, will also feature a diverse panel of Black Faith Leaders to spotlight the long-standing diversity of Black religious traditions in America. The panelists will share the current state of Black interfaith engagement in the United States, and cite specific ways Black-led faith efforts continue to improve the spiritual, social, economic, and health and wellness outcomes in Black communities and beyond. [You can register for the event here.](#)



JewishGen Future Scholars Fellowship Program

Tuesday, July 5- Thursday, July 14

The JewishGen Future Scholars Fellowship Program aims to inspire and begin the training of the future generation of leaders in Jewish genealogical involvement. Traveling to Poland, we will seek to explore basic tools of genealogical searching in Poland, once home to more than half of world Jewry, and share and protect the history that gave shape to that genealogy of the past and future. During the ten-day program, participants will help clean-up a cemetery, learn about symbols and epitaphs on tombstones, the general state of Jewish cemeteries in Poland after the Holocaust, efforts to preserve them from both a communal, political, and Halachic perspective, and what lessons can be gleaned to inform our own life choices today. The program is fully subsidized (except for a \$350 registration fee to be paid upon acceptance), and is open to graduate students, and juniors and seniors. [The application process is now open until midnight February 28.](#) You can also [find more info here.](#)

Upcoming Religious Celebrations and Observances

These events are drawn from the multifaith calendar maintained by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Harvard Divinity School. To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, please follow the link to the [Harvard Divinity School calendar.](#)

Laylat al-Isra'wa al-Mi'raj (Mi'raj al-Nabiy)

Sun., Feb. 27, 2022

Tradition: Islam

Commemorates the ascension (al-Mi'raj) of the Prophet to heaven following his night journey (al Isra') from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent to heaven and return the same night. Begins at sundown.

Maha Shivaratri

Mon., Feb. 28, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

A feast dedicated to the Hindu deity Shiva. The night before the feast fasting is observed, texts are recited, songs are sung, and stories told in honor of this God whose cosmic dance creates, preserves, destroys, and recreates the world.

Nineteen Day Fast

Tue., Mar. 1 – Sat., Mar. 19, 2022

Tradition: Baha'i

A designated 19-day period of fasting each year immediately before the Bahá'í New Year. The fasting is seen as a period of spiritual preparation and regeneration for the new year ahead.

Ash Wednesday

Wed., Mar. 2, 2022

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

A special day of repentance observed by Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians to mark the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, repentance, and self-denial preceding Easter. The name derives from the practice of marking of the faithful with ashes to signify penitence.

Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti

Fri., Mar. 4, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

Celebrates the birthday of Sri Ramakrishna, teacher of Swami Vivekananda.

Great Lent

Mon., Mar. 7 – Sat., Apr. 23, 2022

Tradition: Christianity-Orthodox

In Orthodox churches, the first day of Lent marks the beginning of the Great Fast, the final six weeks of a 10-week period leading up to Holy Week and Easter (Pascha). In the churches that follow the Gregorian calendar, Lent is a six-week observance (40 days excluding Sundays) beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating in Holy Week. It is a time of repentance and sacrifice in preparation for Easter.

Support the University Chaplaincy

Supporting dynamic programs at Tufts University in religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life is easy and vital to our work. To donate, please click on the button below. Thank you for your generosity.

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ABOUT US

The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. We provide pastoral care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement.

Tufts University Chaplaincy | Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green | Medford, MA 02155 US
chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | 617.627.3427



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