Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 9.23.20

Yellow maple leaves on Medford/Somerville campus

Welcome Letter

There is nothing so wise as a circle.
-Rilke

Dear Tufts Community,

As the days cool and fall colors begin to appear across campus, I bring you greetings of peace and a note of farewell. I joined the Tufts community at the end of last summer and my time as interim chaplain has come full circle to the start of another academic term. It has been a genuine pleasure and a blessing to get to know this community over the course of the year. I hope you will join me in welcoming the permanent Tufts University Chaplain, Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger, who joins the team on Thursday, October 1.

So much has happened and so much awaits our attention. It is easy to feel impatient and want to rush past the uncertainties. But I invite you to be present to this moment and absorb the insights of all your senses. I invite you to embrace this season of learning and the gift of your education, knowing it will bear fruit in a new season.

Please enjoy this issue of ENews. The opportunities to connect are abundant. The invitations to reach out to us are genuine. If you don't find what you're looking for here, let us know so we can co-create something new.

Warmly,

Jenny

Jennifer Howe Peace, Ph.D.

Tufts University Chaplain *ad interim*

Check in with a Chaplain

Our chaplains and advisors are here for you, no matter where you are in the world or how you are doing in this time. Click on a chaplain's name below to schedule a time for conversation, meditation, prayer, or to check in about anything else on your heart or mind. You can go to the contact page on our website to find bios and additional information, too.

Jennifer Howe Peace, University Chaplain ad interim
Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor
Rev. Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain
Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain
Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain
Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain
Azmera Hammouri-Davis, Africana Spirituality Advisor
Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain
Venerable Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain

Be-Friend: Interfaith Friendship Program

In this acute moment, building and nourishing relationships is vital to good health and wellbeing. This 9-week interfaith friendship project is designed to help you go deep and to talk about things that matter like your values, your sense of purpose, and your questions about life. You will learn the skill of active listening while experimenting with shared spiritual practices from different religious and philosophical traditions. Several of our chaplains have contributed to the program offering a diverse array of spiritual practices, including nature walks, meditation exercises, listening to music, deep reading—of poetry, art, the world, our lives and one another. Participants are paired in dyads and commit to spending an hour together each week, as well as another half hour in private reflection. Please follow this link to view the flyer pictured. Please note: there is a program for students, and a parallel program for faculty and staff; students will be paired with other students, and faculty and staff will be paired with other faculty and staff members. Contact Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper if you are interested or have any questions; there is no deadline to apply by.

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

You can find more information about our weekly gatherings and student group meetings on our website. You can also find the Zoom links for each event there. If you have an idea for how University Chaplaincy programming can

better serve you this semester, please contact program manager Nora Bond.

A scene from the 2019 Illumination Ceremony

University Chaplaincy Offerings

Illumination Ceremony
Sunday, October 4, 8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The tradition of Illumination continues this year virtually for incoming first years and transfer students. The event will be livestreamed, and students will receive information from their residential advisors. Please look for more details on the University Chaplaincy website and on JumboLife.

Knitting with the Chaplain
Friday September 25, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. ET

Join University Chaplain *ad interim* for her last session of virtual crafting. Jenny can help you with your knitting, admire your artistic creations of any kind, and answer your thorny theological questions in a fun, casual Zoom setting. All are welcome! For more information, contact University Chaplain *ad interim* Jenny Peace.

Buddhist Chaplaincy Offerings

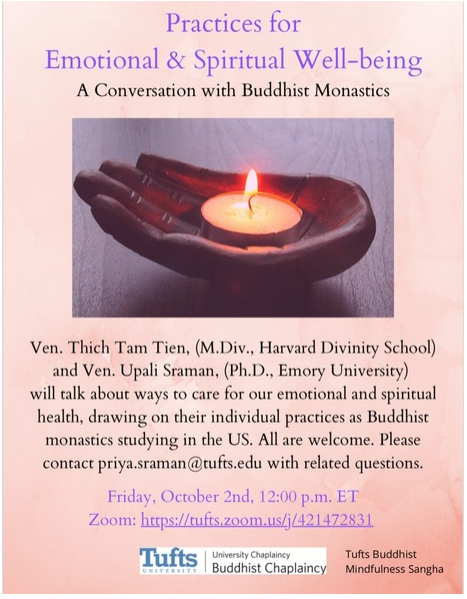
Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha Meditation and Reflection
Mondays and Fridays, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. ET

This semester, Sangha will meet on Mondays for a discussion and shorter meditation, and on Fridays for a full hour of meditation. In September, Monday discussion topics will include: how to make an altar for personal use, and the purpose and practice of Buddhist prayer. Please connect with Buddhist Chaplain The Venerable Priya Sraman for more information. All are welcome.

Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain

Practices for Emotional & Spiritual Well-being: A Conversation with Buddhist Monastics
Friday, October 2, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. ET

The Venerable Thich Tam Tien, (M.Div., Harvard Divinity School) and the Venerable Upali Sraman, (Ph.D., Emory University) will talk about ways to care for our emotional and spiritual health, drawing on their individual practices as Buddhist monastics studying in the US. Click here to view the flyer. Please contact Buddhist Chaplain Priya Sraman with questions. All are welcome.



For the Zoom link to the offerings listed above, please visit our website.

Catholic Chaplaincy Offerings

Lynn Cooper
Catholic Chaplain

Catholic Spirituality Hour
Wednesdays, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. ET
Note: No session on Wednesday, September 23

Catholic Virtual Mass Gathering
Sundays, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. ET

The Catholic community will not be offering in-person worship this year, but will be gathering virtually at 5 p.m. ET each Sunday to watch and celebrate Mass together. Throughout the course of the semester, they will "visit" the parishes of different members of the Catholic Community at Tufts by watching that week's previously recorded Mass. All are welcome.

Confession by appointment

For more information please connect with Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper.

Rooting Out Racism: An Online Retreat for White Christian Folks
Launching in October; dates and times to be determined

Author Isabel Wilkerson notes that, "This moment we're in is not just a social crisis and not just a political crisis. It's a spiritual crisis." The Catholic and Protestant Chaplaincies are seeking to address this spiritual crisis by offering a small group series based on "Rooting out Racism," a pray-at-your-own-pace online retreat consisting of streaming audio reflections and prayer prompts. It invites white Christians to search their souls, understand how Christianity has contributed to racial inequity, and to commit more deeply to uprooting racism from their hearts and from the world. The group will meet over the course of five weeks in small groups facilitated by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for discussion and mutual support. If you would like to participate or learn more, please email Catholic chaplain Lynn Cooper or Protestant chaplain Dan Bell.

For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Humanist Chaplaincy Offerings

Weekly Gathering
Fridays, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. ET

Join the Humanist Community at Tufts for their weekly moment of connection and reflection by candlelight. Each week, they explore questions of philosophy, language, art, and meaning, drawn together by a shared concern for the goodness of humanity and our shared natural world. For more information, contact Humanist Chaplain Walker Bristol. All are welcome.

For the Zoom link to the offering listed above, please visit our website.

Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain

Naftali Brawer

Jewish Chaplaincy Offerings

Weekly Shabbat Virtual Offerings
Fridays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. ET

Join Tufts Hillel for Shabbat Dinner To-Go meals, now with both a meat and vegan option. Pre-ordering is mandatory. If seats are available when you pick-up, you are welcome to stay and eat at Hillel. For questions please email Hillel, and to find more information about Shabbat this semester visit the Hillel Calendar. For more information about Yom Kippur observances through Hillel, please visit the Hillel website.

Jewish Chaplain
Executive Director of Tufts Hillel

Israel Story Podcast with Founder Yochai Maital
Wednesday, September 30, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. ET

Join Hillel for an evening of storytelling and a Q&A with Yochai Maital, the founder of *Israel Story*. *Israel Story*, the world's leading Jewish podcast, brings you modern tales from an ancient land - the kinds of stories you would share with a friend over a plate of hummus on a Friday afternoon, or with your partner at the end of a long day. These are everyday stories, told by and about regular Israelis, that bring to life the beauty and complexity of this fascinating corner of the globe. Click here to register for the event.

Rabbi Naftali's New Podcast: Being and Becoming

Check out Rabbi Naftali's podcast *Being and Becoming*, which offers Jewish spiritual inspiration for every day living. You can listen to the first episode, "When Words Are Not Enough" right here.

For more information about any of the offerings listed, please visit the Hillel website.

Muslim Chaplaincy Offerings

Islam at Sea Level: Foundational, Practical Islamic Theology
Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. ET

Exploring foundational Islamic theology through a practical lens using a short 18th century poem. Though the class will be intentionally catering to the Muslim community, attendance is completely open to everyone. For more information contact Muslim Chaplain Abdul-Malik Merchant. The first session will be Thursday, September 24.

For the Zoom link to the offering listed above, please visit our website.

Abdul-Malik Merchant
Muslim Chaplain

Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain

Protestant Chaplaincy Offerings

Protestant Evening Worship (PEW)
Sundays, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. ET

Join the Protestant student community and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for worship through prayer, song, sermon, and reflection over Zoom. While we cannot be together in person right now, Christ is still present among us and the Spirit draws us together as God's people. After the service, everyone is welcome to stay and hang out. All are welcome, no matter who you are or where you find yourself in your journey of life and faith. You can also email Dan or visit his Calendly to set up a time to meet.

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For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Thank you to incoming first years and transfer students who took the Spiritual Interest Survey over the summer!

The winner of the Apple Watch raffle is Jimmy Wang, who will be receiving his prize soon. The survey helps the University Chaplaincy understand what kinds of offerings new students are looking for, but any Tufts community member is welcome to connect with us if you have an idea for a program or event. Contact program manager Nora Bond with ideas or questions.

Partner Programs

TUSC x Africana Center Benefit Concert
Saturday, September 26, 1:14 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. ET

The Tufts University Social Collective, in collaboration with the Tufts Africana Center is hosting a benefit concert, curated and hosted by Oompa and featuring Porsha O and STL GLD. The concert will last 8 hours and 46 minutes in recognition of the brutal murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other lives lost at the hands of the police. All proceeds will go to the Tufts Africana Center in hopes of expanding support and services for students at Tufts.

The concert aims to amplify Black and Brown students and local artists, and will include five student and seven local artists with performances varying from spoken word to original music. The show will be live streamed to Tufts University Social Collective’s YouTube, and is open to all. Follow this like to make a donation; any contribution over $25 will be thanked with a commemorative t-shirt designed by Tufts undergrad Denzel Oduro and printed by Villeside Customs, a Black owned business in Somerville, MA. You can find out more about the concert on JumboLife.

Tisch College Election 2020 Initiatives

JumboVote is a nonpartisan, student-led organization at Tufts University dedicated to promoting civic engagement and voter turnout. JumboVote wants to ensure all our Tufts community members are ready to participate in democracy this fall, wherever they are and however they plan to vote. JumboVote has an updated website and up-to-date resources to help students make a voting plan, check their registration status, and know state-by-state absentee voting deadlines and processes. Through Tufts TurboVote, all member of the Tufts community—students, staff, and faculty—can register to vote, receive election reminders, and more. Remember, students can register to vote in Massachusetts or in their home state, and the Massachusetts deadline to register to vote is Saturday, October 24. The Massachusetts deadline to request an absentee ballot is Wednesday, October 28, but the state is encouraging voters to submit applications no later than October 20. Early voting runs Saturday, October 17 through Friday, October 30. Find more election-related news, research, and resources on the new Tufts Votes 2020 website.

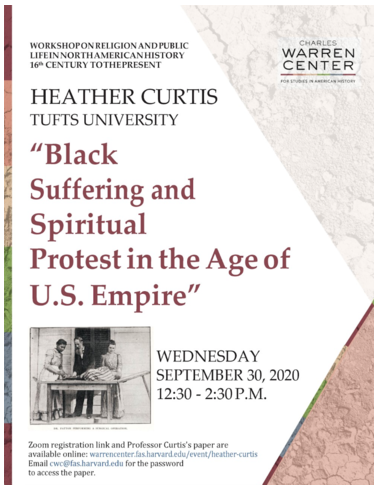
Here Together: Drop in Spaces for Students in COVID Isolation or Quarantine
Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. ET Facilitator: Marilyn Downs (feel free to bring your tea or meal)
Fridays 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. ET Facilitator: Jennifer Granquist

Join Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS) staff for informal conversations on Tuesdays and Fridays. You can connect with other students to share experiences, discuss challenges, and learn strategies for self-care. Please

contact Marilyn Downs or Jennifer Granquist with any questions.

Please know that CMHS is offering a range of programs for students this semester, including Oasis, for Black-identifying students, TRANScend Connection for trans and nonbinary students, and Connection Matters, for international students - and more. You can always find out more on their website, and seek their services as a member of the Tufts community.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunies



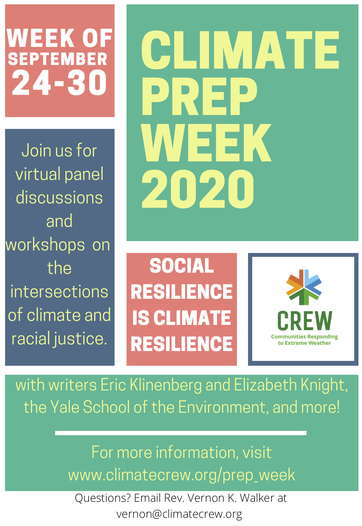
Black Suffering and Spiritual Protest in the Age of U.S. Empire
Wednesday, September 30, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University is hosting the Workshop on Religion and Public Life in North American History 16th Century to the Present with Tufts religion professor Heather Curtis. The two hour workshop is titled Black Suffering and Spiritual Protest in the Age of U.S. Empire.

Zoom registration link and Professor Curtis's paper are available online. You can email the Charles Warren Center for the password to access the paper. You can download the flyer here.

CREW Climate Prep Week
September 24 - 30 2020

Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) Climate Preparedness Week, is a network of local leaders building grassroots climate resilience through inclusive & hands-on education, service, and planning. CREW was a collaborator for this year's CAFE program, and is dedicated to learning, service, and actions that better prepare our communities for extreme weather events. By coming together to host events, CREW provides the resources and space to think about the ways that climate change disadvantages some communities more than others.



The theme for the virtual conference this year is: Social Resilience is Climate Resilience. In light of the recent critical conversations around racial justice in society, the conference will be focusing several of the central events around the intersections of climate resilience, racial justice and social resilience. Find out more on their website, and click here to download the flyer.

Learning to Walk with God in the World: Online Retreat Hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
Register by September 25

The Episcopal Diocese of Masachusetts is hosting an online retreat on Saturday, October 3 for young adults (ages 18-39). The theme of the retreat is Learning to Walk with God in the World and it will focus on helping participants gain practices of discernment, which "help us listen to our lives and sort out where the Holy Spirit may be active." Dr. Kathy Staudt, a college and seminary teacher, spiritual director and writer, will facilitate the event. This event is offered free of charge to all participants thanks to the Young Adult Ministries budget of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Follow the links to find more information about the event, and the registration form. Please contact Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell with any questions.

Upcoming Religious Holidays and Festivals

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.

Yom Kippur (Or Day of Atonement)
Sunday, 9.27 – Monday, 9.28.2020
Tradition: Judaism
The conclusion of the Ten Days of Awe, Yom Kippur is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish year. It is characterized by repentance, fasting, and forgiveness. Begins at sundown.

Sukkot
Friday, 10.2 – Friday, 10.9.2020
Tradition: Judaism
Also known as Feast of Booths. An eight-day Jewish festival of booths (or tabernacles) and the fall harvest. The name refers to the booths (sukkot) used by Israelites during desert wanderings and constructed in the fields during the harvest season. It is a time of thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people. The Eighth Day (Shmini 'Atzeret) is considered both the end of Sukkot and a distinct festival.

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.

Give Today

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.

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