A note from the Muslim Chaplain

Many of our community members are gathered during the month of Ramadan, the month of fasting during which Muslims who are physically able do not eat or drink after sunup to sundown. Taking time to fast during Ramadan provides an opportunity for Muslims to reflect upon their lives, express gratitude, and make amends. This year’s unique reality means communal and spiritually fast from dawn to dusk, distancing ourselves from food, drink, and intimacy. This year’s unique reality promotes the aspiration of drawing closer to God and knowing ourselves better. For the last 1400+ years, we physically mean communal itfars, meals shared with friends and family. While we are not able to physically share iftar, our hearts are hungry for connection and better connected with God.

Gratitude is a practice that keeps her connected to the people here, to her family, and to her community. She prays that this time, and speak to people from a range of religious and spiritual ways. Personally, it has challenged me to contemplate what “closeness to God” means and our hearts are hungry for connection and better connected with God.

May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you!

Jennifer Howe Peace, University Chaplain