The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts University community. Embracing diversity and fostering understanding, the Chaplaincy promotes spiritual well-being and supports students, faculty, and staff in their spiritual journeys.

**Holy Week and Easter Observances**

- **Christian Observances**:
  - **Pascha**: In some churches, Palm Sunday is combined with the anticipation of Christ's death and so is also known as Holy Saturday. It marks the beginning of Easter and commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
  - **Good Friday**: A day of mourning and reflection, commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus.
  - **Easter Sunday**: Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- **Jewish Observances**:
  - **Passover (Pesach)**: A week-long celebration commemorating the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, with special prayers and symbolic foods, particularly the Seder meal.

- **Other Traditions**:
  - **Hinduism**: The month of Vaisakh is especially important in North India.
  - **Jainism**: This is the anniversary of the creation of the Khalsa (the "Brotherhood of the Pure") in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh, which is especially important in North India.

**Ramadan**

Ramadan is a pivotal month in the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting. It begins on Saturday, April 2, and ends on Saturday, May 1. During this month, Muslims engage in daily fasting from dawn until sunset, which means abstaining from food, drink, and other physical needs. This period of fasting is seen as a means ofculminating in the annual World General Conference of the Church held on Saturday and Sunday closest to this date each year.

**Death Cafes**

Death Cafes provide a safe space for people to explore their thoughts and feelings about death and dying. This year, the University Chaplaincy is offering a series of Death Cafes throughout April 2022, including one on April 8th. These events are open to Tufts community members and aim to facilitate open and compassionate conversations about mortality.

**Interfaith Observances**

- **Death Vigil**: Hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell, this service will be a time of prayer and song as we keep vigil and stay awake to the tombs in our world and the tombs in our hearts.

**Reflections and Integrations**

During this season of renewal and possibility, I invite you to reflect on how you might do more to center others in your own life. Unleavened bread represents a de-centering of the self in service of others. The ritual removal of leaven from our diet for eight days is a symbolic act of sacrifice and humility. The puffed-up quality of leavened bread represents self-importance and self-centeredness. The flat nature of unleavened bread, in contrast, signifies how a selfless life is centered in God.

**Yearly Events**

- **Senior Awards**: This year, the University Chaplaincy is launching a new initiative to honor and uplift the wonderful seniors on campus. Senior Awards will provide an opportunity for our community to celebrate the achievements and contributions of our graduating students. You can nominate a senior or yourself. Details on how to nominate can be found [here](#).

- **Earth Month**: Throughout April, Tufts community members can participate in a variety of sustainability initiatives, including Earth Day activities on April 22nd. More details can be found [here](#).

- **Earth Day Campus Event**: Join us on Zoom for the first of a series to explore three universal themes that flow across the sacred texts of our world: creation, life, and death. Details can be found [here](#).

**Spirituality and Culture**

- **Africana Spirituality Chaplain**: The Africana Center and Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity have established a new Africana Spirituality Chaplain position to hire a new chaplain and work in collaboration with campus partners, especially those of the African American community. Applications are now open. Details can be found [here](#).

**Supporting Programs**

- **Growing Hope Globally**: As the CEO of Growing Hope Globally, a non-profit dedicated to providing food to those in need, I am committed to working to help hungry people in the US and around the world. Available for Tufts students, staff, and faculty.

**Join Us**

- **Interfaith Center Event**: Visit our website to get notified of the final awards decisions and Senior Awards. You can also nominate a graduating student. You are welcome to join us for the Senior Awards ceremony. Details can be found [here](#).

**Sign Up for Updates**

- **Subscriptions**: Stay updated on upcoming events and initiatives by signing up for our news and updates. Details can be found [here](#).