A Reflection from the Protestant Chaplain

Dear Friends,

For Protestant and Catholic Christians around the world, this week is Holy Week, a sacred time considered to be very special for the faithful, falling between the end of the Lenten season and the coming of Easter, when Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Holy Week is when Christians remember with special devotion Jesus' final days on Earth, including His arrest, crucifixion, and execution at the hands of the Romans. (There is a long and horrific history of Christian persecution of the Jewish people at this time of year that still must be addressed in many congregations. To learn more, I invite you to visit this United Church of Christ resource site).

The "Triduum" is an especially profound part of this week, beginning on Maundy Thursday when the Last Supper is commemorated, sometimes with a foot washing ceremony, continuing into Good Friday, when the death of Christ on the Cross is commemorated with prayers and acts of devotion, and culminating at the Easter Vigil on the night of Holy Saturday, when a series of biblical stories, spanning from Genesis to Revelation, are read to celebrate salvation history.

For clergy like me, it's a long week, to say the least. As with any time of great activity and busyness, it's hard to always stay present in the moment. Clergy always need to be thinking about things like unlocking the church, remembering the next prayer or reading, what vestments to wear, and, above all, how all the liturgies and sermons speak to people's lived realities. I am sure you can relate in your own way to this challenge of being present to the moment, and of trying to live a new life that is relevant to the needs of the world. For me, Holy Week is a reminder
that every week is in fact holy. Every day we have a divinely appointed opportunity, a call from God, to be present with others, especially those who are suffering. Christians speak of this call as walking in the way of the Cross. We pray that we may find that journey of suffering and compassion to be "none other that the way of life and peace" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 220), trusting that the Cross leads us to an Empty Tomb.

May you, in your own way, have a holy week.

Blessings,
Dan
The Reverend Daniel Bell
Tufts Protestant Chaplain

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We are hiring!

Join our team as an Interfaith Ambassador or a Student Staff Member
Apply by April 18

University Chaplaincy Work Opportunities
Apply by April 18

Are you interested in joining University Chaplaincy student leadership in some way? We invite you to apply for our Student Staff and/or our Interfaith Ambassador Program. Student staff members work anywhere from 3-15 hours/week, and support our whole team administratively – you might be setting up an event, creating posters, tabling, or supporting a chaplain’s projects. Our team meets monthly for community-building and skill development, and you are a part of treasured team. Find more information about the Student Staff position here. Please reach out to program manager Nora Bond with any questions about this role.

The Interfaith Ambassador team works directly on our programs, from the Pax et Lux concert to the Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life, and engages the questions in the overlap of religious pluralism and civic engagement. They receive direct mentorship, and have weekly meetings as part of the 6-8 hour/week stipend. Find more information about the Interfaith Ambassador position here. Please reach out to University Chaplain Elyse Nelson Winger with any questions about this role.
University Chaplaincy Senior & Young Alumni Award Nominations
Nominations due by Friday, April 22 at 12pm ET

This year, the University Chaplaincy launches a new initiative to honor and uplift the wonderful contributions of our seniors and young alumni across all of our religious and philosophical communities. Our Senior & Young Alumni Awards will provide an opportunity for our community to nominate and celebrate our graduating seniors. We encourage you to nominate a graduating student. You are welcome to submit more than one nomination, as well as nominate yourself. You can nominate a senior or young alumnus anonymously or share your name and email. Sharing your information ensures that you will be notified of the final awards decisions and Senior Award Celebration. All nominees will be honored at our gathering at the Interfaith Center on Tuesday, April 26, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please submit all nominations by noon on Friday, April 22 here. Reach out to University Chaplain Elyse Nelson Winger with any questions.

Share your hopes for the new Africana Spirituality Chaplain

This spring, the Tufts University Chaplaincy will hire a new Africana Spirituality Chaplain. The Africana Spirituality Chaplaincy, first established in 2017, seeks to create a comfortable space at Tufts for all students, staff and faculty, especially those of the African Diaspora, to grow in worship, fellowship, and community. The chaplain will be a member of the multifaith University Chaplaincy team and work in collaboration with campus partners to support and celebrate Afro-indigenous and Afro-diasporic traditions and communities. The chaplain will work with the Africana Center and offer collaborative programs and will build relationships and actively
engage with the existing communities across Tufts' campuses. You can take the survey here. The posting for the position may be found here.

Take the Survey

Upcoming Signature Programs

HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE: ONE JUMBO’S JOURNEY TO OVERCOME HUNGER
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW FROM 5:30 P.M. - 6 P.M.
GODDARD CHAPEL

From The Hill to Capitol Hill, the White House and the United Nation’s, Max Finberg, A92 has spent his career working to help hungry people in the US and around the world. As CEO of Growing Hope Globally, a non-profit of farmers helping farmers, he credits Tufts with helping him embark on this calling.

Come hear his story and learn how to put your passion into practice!

Sponsored by the University Chaplaincy, the Career Center, the Institute for Global Leadership, and the Department of Political Science

Hungry for Justice: One Jumbo's Journey to Overcome Hunger
Wednesday, April 13, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Goddard Chapel
From The Hill to Capitol Hill, the White House and the United Nations, Max Finberg, A92 has spent his career working to help hungry people in the US and around the world. As CEO of Growing Hope Globally, a non-profit of farmers helping farmers, he credits Tufts with helping him embark on this calling. Come hear his story and learn how to put your passion into practice. Sponsored by the University Chaplaincy, the Career Center, the Institute for Global Leadership, and the Department of Political Science. Reception to follow from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Goddard Chapel.

Kalyānamitta (A Good Friend) Medford Opening
Wednesday, April 27, at the Interfaith Center

Come celebrate friendship and experience the original artwork of Kiara Reagan, A22, Kat Guzman, A26 and Muri Mascarenhas, A25. Each of these artists has created pieces inspired by the Jataka stories of friendship from the Pāli canon. The exhibit is currently on display at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. This program grew out of a partnership between the University Chaplaincy, Project Connect at Counseling and Mental Health Services, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. A big thank you to Venerable Vineetha Mahayaye, our Field Education student from Harvard Divinity School who dreamed this project into being.

Religious and Philosophical Programs
Ramadan at Tufts
Saturday, April 2 - Sunday, May 1

Ramadan, the holy month of fasting for Muslims, will begin on Saturday, April 2nd, and continue until Sunday, May 1st this year. Ramadan is a time for introspection, devotion, and service, as well as time for communal worship and cooperation. The significance of Ramadan is highlighted in the Qur’an in Chapter 2, Verse 183: “Oh you who believe, fasting has been prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those who came before you so that you can become conscious of God.” Those observing Ramadan abstain from food and drink from dawn until sunset each day. After sunset, the fast is traditionally broken with dates and a drink, after which the evening prayer is performed. In the late evening, Muslims often gather for congregational night prayers at the mosque or in homes, sometimes offering prayers deep into the night. The pre-dawn meal is then eaten before starting a new fast the following day. The end of Ramadan is marked by the holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr, which will take place this year on May 2, 2022. Sometimes there is variation in the exact start and end dates of Ramadan, depending on how Muslims interpret the lunar calendar each year. For more information about Ramadan at Tufts, including information about dining, iftars, prayers, and academic accommodations you can click here.

Passover
Friday April 15 - Saturday April 23

It’s hard to believe that Passover will be here in just a few days. To optimize your holiday experience, and to help us with preparation, we encourage you to plan in advance. Please reserve your spot at the First and Second
Seders in advance by registering here by April 14th. You can order a complete seder plate, register for Community Lunches/Dinners (listed below), and sign up for Kosher for Passover Shabbat Dinner on 4/22 using this form. To sign up for the Chabad meals listed below, use this link. We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating with you!

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Friday, April 15, 12:10 p.m.
Goddard Chapel

Like Christians all over the world, we come together on Good Friday to witness to Jesus' passion. 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.

Hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell.

Art by Sadao Watanabe, Japan
Good Friday Ecumenical Service  
Friday, April 15, 12:10 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Like Christians all over the world, we come together on Good Friday to witness to the passion of Jesus. 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. Hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell. All are welcome. Please email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for more information.

Holi  
Saturday, April 16, 12:00 p.m., Res Quad

Join Tufts Hindu Student Council (HSC) and Tufts Association of South Asians (TASA) in celebrating our favorite festival of the year: Holi. Holi is the festival of colors and welcomes the joys of spring. For Hindus, it is a time of abundant celebration for nature’s blessings and a symbolic reminder to turn over a new leaf. Stop by to throw some rang on your friends, vibe to some Bollywood music, snack on some samosas and mango lassi, and enjoy the spring weather. Make sure to come early so you can grab a free white t-shirt and enjoy the performances.
Easter Dinner with CCT and PSA
Sunday, April 17, 5 PM Goddard Chapel, Dinner 6 PM Interfaith Center

Join us for our annual Easter celebration with the Catholic and Protestant communities. A delicious Mediterranean dinner will be provided. All are welcome, so please invite friends as we gather to rejoice in the Resurrection and enjoy each other's company.

Partner Programs
Project SHARE's Food Underrated Workshop Night
Wednesday, April 20, 9:00-10:00 p.m., Cummings Center Room 140 or Virtual

Are you passionate and interested in food justice and food equity? Are you curious about food insecurity in the Greater Boston area? Do you want to better connect with communities of color and help empower them? Then, you should come to Project SHARE's Food Underrated Workshop Night! This event is happening on 4/20/22 from 9-10 PM in a hybrid format, either in Cummings Center Room 140 or on Zoom. We hope you can join us to learn more about how you can take action to provide more equitable and inclusive resources that are culturally sensitive and appropriate to recipients of local food pantries! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Hillary Matos or Zyi Zeng.
Mental Health Mini-Grant with Counseling and Mental Health Services
Rolling deadline

Apply for up to $500 to implement your own program, event, or initiative on campus to promote student mental health. Available for Tufts students, staff, and faculty. Learn more and apply here.
Tufts Earth Month
All April

April is Earth Month. The Tufts Office of Sustainability is compiling events and activities happening on and off campus for Tufts community members to easily take part in this year's festivities. If your campus group is planning a sustainability event in April, email the Sustainability Office to be included in their events calendar. More details on Earth Month can be found here.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities
The Green Fund
Applications open April 15 and are due October 1

Looking for a way to improve sustainability on campus? The Green Fund provides an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff from across Tufts' campuses to receive funding for on-campus sustainability-related projects. Submit a proposal for up to $40,000 for studies or projects to take place in the upcoming academic year! All applications, regardless of the amount for which you’re applying, will be considered. Applicants should expect to manage the project implementation. Applications will open here on April 15 and are due October 1.
To learn more about the Green Fund and projects supported in the past, please visit here or contact greenfund@tufts.edu.

Environmental Justice Exhibit
Community Response to Emergency Weather is proud to be part of the Environmental Justice Exhibit at the Boston Public Library Copley location inside the Leventhal Map and Education Center. Our work is spotlighted among the many other great features of the exhibit. The exhibit will run until the end of December 2022.

Find the website here and the link to register here. Let us know your accessibility & interpretation needs here.

StAAR Center Hiring Graduate Writing Consultants
Priority application deadline is April 10, but the portal will stay open through April 20

The StAAR Center is now hiring Graduate Writing Consultants for the 2022–2023 academic year. This is a paid position ($21/hour) working individually with both undergraduate and graduate student writers in all Tufts academic disciplines. We are seeking applicants from any discipline in GSAS, SOE, or Fletcher. See our Hiring Page for full information. Questions? See the FAQs on our Hiring Page, and email staarwriting@tufts.edu if the answer isn't there.

On Being a Monastic: Personal Journeys, Hindu and Buddhist Perspective
Wednesday, April 20, 5:15 p.m., Virtual

A conversation with three monastics at HDS, representing several living monastic traditions: Swami Harinamananda (Ramakrishna Mission), Sadhak Vandan (BAPS Swaminarayan Sampradaya), and Ven. Vineetha Mahayaye (Theravada Buddhist tradition). They will introduce the traditions to which they belong, explain why they chose monastic life, and what this calling still means for them today. Francis X. Clooney, SJ, Parkman Professor of Divinity, will moderate the conversation.

Cosponsored by HDS Office of Academic Affairs, Center for the Study of World Religions, the Office of Development and External Relations, the Office of the Chaplain and Religious and Spiritual Life, and the Buddhist Ministry Initiative. To attend virtually, email Marissa Compton.

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.

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.

Ramadan
Fri., Apr. 1 – Sun., May 1, 2022
Tradition: Islam
The Holy Month of Ramadan is the month of fasting during which Muslims who are physically able do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad. The evening meal is celebrated with family.

Anniversary of the Founding of the Church
Wed., Apr. 6, 2022
Tradition: Latter Day Saints
Annual World General Conference of the Church held on Saturday and Sunday closest to this date each year.

Palm Sunday
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
Celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of Holy Week that culminates in Easter or Pascha. In some churches, Palm Sunday is combined with the anticipation of Christ's death and so is also known as "Passion Sunday." Orthodox Christians often observe this Sunday on a date different from the date on which Protestant and Roman Catholics observe it.

Ramanavami
Sun., Apr. 10, 2022
Tradition: Hinduism
Celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the God Vishnu. The Ramayana, one of the Hindu epics that tells the story of Rama, is read during the previous eight days.

Vaisakhi
Wed., Apr. 13, 2022
Tradition: Sikhism
Occurs on the first day of the solar year. It is primarily an agricultural festival, celebrating the harvest, and is especially important in North India. It is named after the month Vaisakh. For Sikhs, it is also the anniversary of the creation of the Khalsa (the "Brotherhood of the Pure") in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh.

Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday
Thu., Apr. 14, 2022
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
Commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper/the Eucharist by Jesus prior to his arrest and execution. "Maundy" is derived from the Latin text of John 13:34, in which Jesus gives a mandatum novum ("new commandment"). The date observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics differs from the date observed by Orthodox Christians.

Mahavir Jayanti
Thu., Apr. 14, 2022
Tradition: Jainism
Celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira. Born with the name Vardhamana in ca. 599 BCE, he was later given the titles of honor, Mahavira ("Great Hero") and Jina ("Conqueror" or "Victor"), a title applied also to the other Tirthankaras.

Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)
Thu., Apr. 14, 2022
Tradition: Hinduism
Occurs on the first day of the solar year. It is primarily an agricultural festival, celebrating the harvest, and is especially important in North India. It is named after the month Vaisakh. For Sikhs, it is also the anniversary of the creation of the Khalsa (the "Brotherhood of the Pure") in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh.

Good Friday
Fri., Apr. 15, 2022
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
Commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ, i.e., his death by crucifixion. Observed as Holy Friday by Orthodox Christians on a different date from the one observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Passover (Pesach)
Fri., Apr. 15 – Sat., Apr. 23, 2022
Tradition: Judaism
Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. It is celebrated for eight days with special prayers and symbolic foods at home, starting with the Seder, a ritual meal that re-enacts that ancient deliverance and emphasizes the freedom of the Jews under the guidance of God. The first two and the last two days are holidays.
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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