



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 02.14.24



An altar draped with purple vestments for the start of Lent

A Reflection from your Catholic Chaplain

When I was in divinity school, new terminology seemed to sprout from just about everywhere. I was awash with language for which I constantly needed definitions and contexts. One such word was “ecumenical.” I knew that it had something to do with the different Christian churches coming together, but that was it. I came to learn that the term “ecumenical” comes from the Greek word *oikoumene*, which translates as “the whole inhabited earth.” It refers to the work of global Christian unity or, in the words of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, the belief that “what binds us together in Christ is stronger than what divides us.” This mission is at once inspiring and deeply challenging. In this time of intense polarization, it is the call to both humility and empathy.

Each spring at Tufts, I have the great gift of collaborating with my Protestant colleague, Dan Bell, to offer our Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Services. This tradition began decades ago as our Tufts' predecessors embraced the spirit of the ecumenical movement beginning in the 1970s. We gather to honor this solemn day, which inaugurates the season of Lent. We lift up voices from different denominations—the prayer of a Methodist, a Lutheran’s poem, a Catholic hymn, an Anglican call to worship, a United Church of Christ benediction, a Baptist blessing from a pastor in Melbourne, Australia. It is a uniquely meaningful and gratifying practice to find such unity within difference. And it is only the beginning, for ecumenism doesn’t end with shared prayers.

When Christians around the globe read scriptures today, they will hear the prefix “re” over and over—return, renew, relent, reconcile, recompense. All these “re’s” demand our attention. To me they say that we are always being called back to this work, again and again. A friend of mine thinks of Lent as the annual spiritual tune-up. It is time to strip away our behaviors and ways of thinking that are in fact obstacles to God, self, and one another. But within the context of ecumenism, the “re’s” sound to me like the nudge I need to refocus and refine so I may be more equipped to reside in those places of connection and intersection where life is inherently less neat, less tidy, less predictable. I like thinking of the invitation to meet holiness there.

To our Orthodox Christian friends whose Lenten journey through the wilderness begins March 18, we will see you soon! To those observing Ash Wednesday, remember we will be hosting ecumenical services at 12:10pm and 5:10pm today at Goddard Chapel.

With care,
Lynn Cooper
Associate Director, University Chaplaincy, and Catholic Chaplain

Featured Program

Circles of Peace

TIBETAN MANDALA PROJECT

Join us as we welcome the monks of Gaden Shartse Monastic College—to offer a mandala of Avalokitesvara and a series of healing and empowerment ceremonies. Each offering is designed to help illuminate the nature of mind and provide us with the courage and renewal needed to meet the challenges of a modern life.

Wednesday, February 14

The Interfaith Center

7:00 p.m.

Losar Celebration with Tea Ceremony

Thursday, February 15

The Interfaith Center

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Green Tara Mandala Opening Ceremony

12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Mandala Viewing

Friday, February 16

Goddard Chapel

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dialectic Debate: the Three Stages of the Path

The Interfaith Center

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Mandala Viewing

Saturday, February 17

The Interfaith Center

10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Mandala Viewing

Monday, February 19

The Interfaith Center

10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Mandala Viewing

8:00 p.m.

Vajrasattva Empowerment

Tuesday, February 20

The Interfaith Center

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mandala Viewing

4:00 p.m.

Dissolution Ceremony

For more detailed information about these events, please contact Buddhist Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma at jihyangpadma@tufts.edu and visit <https://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/buddhist/circlesofpeace/>.



Sponsored by the University Chaplaincy, the Buddhist Chaplaincy, the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha, the Asian American Center, and the Office for Institutional Inclusive Excellence

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Tufts University Chaplaincy, Tufts Buddhist Chaplaincy, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, the SMFA, Tufts Asian American Center, and the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha welcome Tibetan monks of the Gaden Shartse Monastic College for Circles of Peace: A Tibetan Mandala Project. Tufts University will be welcoming the monks of Gaden Shartse Monastic College to offer a mandala of Green Tara and a series of healing and empowerment ceremonies. Each offering is designed to help illuminate the nature of mind and provide us with the courage and renewal needed to meet the challenges of a modern life. Highlights also include a Vajrasattva Empowerment (associated with the purification of karma and removal of obstacles) and a dialectic debate on the three aspects of the path. All events are open to the Tufts community and the general public. Please email [Buddhist Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma](#) with any questions and find more information on the website linked below.

Circles of Peace: a Tibetan Mandala Project

Upcoming Signature Programs

Join the Interfaith Ambassadors and the University Chaplaincy for

MLK DAY OF COMMUNITY ACTION

February 24, 2024

Noon to 2:00pm in JCC 160

Join us for lunch, a panel with campus and community leaders on MLK's legacy in modern activism, and opportunities to get involved!



Together, we will explore our own roles in the fight for change through the lens of educational access and voting rights. Engage in conversation, learn from history, and explore advocacy opportunities with local organizations.



Please register by February 21

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For more information, visit
<https://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/mlkdoca2024/>

MLK Day of Community Action

Saturday, February 24, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., JCC Ballroom, register by February 21

Join the Interfaith Ambassador Team for lunch, a panel with campus and community leaders on MLK's legacy in modern activism, and opportunities to get involved in direct action. Find more information through the link below, and register by February 21. You can find more information about the [Day of Community Action](#) (DOCA) on our website.

Register for Day of Community Action



Save the date: Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life and Solomont Speaker Series with Dee-1

Wednesday, March 6, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Distler Performance Hall (20 Talbot Ave)

We look forward to welcoming Tisch Scholar-in-Residence Dee-1 as our Russell Lecture speaker this year, with support from the Tisch College Solomont Speaker Series. Save the date and register below.

[Register for the Russell Lecture](#)



Apply to be a Summer Program Support Staff

Apply by Monday, February 26

The Summer Program Support Staff work closely with University Chaplaincy staff to prepare for the inaugural year of first year experience programming for Fall 2024. This role and the program offerings are funded by an Advancing Religious Pluralism grant from Interfaith America. We seek two students who will work in collaboration and independently on these three projects: 1) a service-learning opportunity offered in collaboration with Pre-Orientation in Summer 2024 2) first year experience field trips offered in Fall 2024 and 3) curriculum support for the Spring 2025 class hosted by Tisch College of Civic Life. All Tufts undergraduate students are eligible to apply. SPSS will work 20 hours/week (mostly in office, with remote hours available) early June to early September 2024.

[Apply to be a Summer Support Staffer](#)

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Our gatherings are open to all members of the Tufts community! Please find more information and more regular weekly programming and events [here on our website](#). If you have any questions, or would like to connect about convening a new gathering, please [reach out to the University Chaplaincy](#).

Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Services

Liturgy of the Word with Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

12:10pm 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.

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



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Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14, 12:10 p.m. and 5:10 p.m., at Goddard Chapel

Join us as we gather with Christians across the globe to mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent. This 45-minute service is a time to pause and reflect. We will sing, pray, meditate on scripture and live into the rhythms of the liturgical calendar. Please email Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) or Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) with any questions.

Rustin

Film Screening and Discussion



Bayard Rustin was the architect of 1963's March on Washington. He challenged authority and never apologized for who he was, but was forgotten despite making history. Directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Oscar-nominated actor Colman Domingo, Rustin shines a long overdue spotlight on the extraordinary man who, alongside giants like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Ella Baker, dared to imagine a different world, and inspired a movement in a march toward freedom.

WHEN: FEBRUARY 22, AT 6 PM
WHERE: THE CABOT ASEAN AUDITORIUM
160 PACKARD AVE
MEDFORD, MA 02155

RSVP HERE:



Office of the Vice Provost for
Institutional Inclusive Excellence



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Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life



AFRICANA
CENTER



Rustin Film Screening

Thursday, February 22, 6:00 p.m., Cabot ASEAN Auditorium

As a part of Black Legacy Month, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Excellence and co-sponsors Africana Center, LGBT Center, Tisch College, and the University Chaplaincy will be screening *Rustin*. Bayard Rustin was the architect of 1963's March on Washington. He challenged authority and never apologized for who he was, but was forgotten, despite making history. Directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Oscar-nominated actor Colman Domingo, *Rustin* shines a long-overdue spotlight on the extraordinary man who, alongside giants like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Ella Baker, dared to imagine a different world, and inspired a movement in a march toward freedom. Register to attend below.

Register to view Rustin

AFRICANA SPIRITUALITY DINNER SERIES

Spirituality, Movement, and Creative Practice with Jenny Oliver

FEBRUARY 26, 2024 · 5:00 - 6:30 P.M.
INTERFAITH CENTER, 58 WINTHROP STREET



Join Jenny Oliver, Head of Dance Performance, for dinner and a conversation about creative practice and the humanity that she brings to it. As a movement practitioner her work and studies have taken her to places such as Brazil and Haiti focusing on the deep connections of dance and ritual. During this fellowship experience you will be invited to interact and engage with one another through reflective prompts and as well as an opportunity to move.

Africana Spirituality Dinner with Jenny Oliver

Monday, February 26, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Interfaith Center

All are welcome for the first spring semester gathering of the Africana Spirituality Dinner Series, co-hosted by the Tufts University Chaplaincy and the Africana Center. Join Jenny Oliver, Head of Dance Performance, for dinner and a conversation about creative practice and the humanity that she brings to it. As a movement practitioner her work and studies have taken her to places such as Brazil and Haiti focusing on the deep connections of dance and ritual. During this fellowship experience you will be invited to interact and engage with one another through reflective prompts and as well as an opportunity to move. Please contact Humanist Chaplain [Anthony Cruz Pantojas](#) with questions or for more information.

Sign up to attend Africana Spirituality Dinner

HUMANIST HUB: CULTIVATING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

5-6:30p
Interfaith Center

How can we navigate the challenges posed by the "tyranny of the historical present"?

In the presence of gross atrocities and pervasive polarization, how do we foster caring relationships?

What steps can we take to envision flourishing futures for everyone?

Join the Humanist Chaplaincy for an engaging dinner and conversation series aimed at tackling these questions. We'll explore the themes of trauma, repair, and re-worlding as we seek meaningful insights together.

February 27: Power and Historical Trauma
March 26: Repair
April 26: Re-worlding



To register, use the QR code or
visit: <http://tinyurl.com/humanisthubdinners>

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Humanist Hub: Cultivating Meaningful Relationships

Tuesday, February 27, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., at the Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St)

How can we navigate the challenges posed by the "tyranny of the historical present"? In the presence of gross atrocities and pervasive polarization, how do we foster caring relationships? What steps can we take to envision

flourishing futures for everyone? Join the Humanist Chaplaincy for an engaging dinner and conversation series aimed at tackling these conversations. We will explore the themes of trauma, repair, and re-worlding as we seek meaningful insights together. Please contact Humanist Chaplain [Anthony Cruz Pantojas](#) with questions or for more information.

Sign up for Humanist Hub Dinner

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities



The Oys & Joys of Interreligious Engagement with Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership

Wednesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., in person or over zoom

The Miller Center at Hebrew College invites you to join, in person or on Zoom, for a book launch event discussing two recent publications: *With the Best of Intentions: Interreligious Missteps and Mistakes*, and *Pluralism in Practice: Case Studies of Leadership in a Religiously Diverse America*. Published by Orbis Books, each volume presents a series of case studies to explore interfaith relations. You can register below.

Register for The Oys & Joys of Interreligious Engagement

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](#).

Ash Wednesday

Wed., Feb. 14, 2024

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.

Nirvana Day

Thu., Feb. 15, 2024

Tradition: Buddhism

In the northern tradition, it commemorates the parinirvana of the Buddha. In cultures of Southeast Asia, the buddha's parinirvana is remembered during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary significantly among cultures and communities.

Laylat al-Bara'ah

Sun., Feb. 25, 2024

Tradition: Islam

Begins at sundown.

(Night of Repentance)

On this night, God approaches the Earth to call humanity and to grant forgiveness of sins. Observed on the 14th day of the lunar month of Sha'ban.

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.

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