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Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 3.27.20

A Note From the University Chaplain

Dear Tufts Community,

We are in a new and unexpected moment. We have all been impacted in so many different ways in the wake of this unfolding global pandemic. I feel stretched and expanded as I try to hold in my imagination our whole community.

While much has changed, much remains the same. Tufts University Chaplaincy is still here, albeit in virtual spaces rather than in Goddard Chapel or at the Interfaith Center. Our commitment also remains unchanged: to support the religious, spiritual, ethical and cultural life of all members of the Tufts community. If you are in need of a conversation, counsel, prayers, or simply a listening ear, our Chaplains are available by email, phone, and Zoom. In addition, many of the weekly group gatherings with the Chaplains will be continuing in new virtual spaces.

In a time when it can feel like everything is shifting, it is important that we find ways to ground ourselves. Let me close by sharing some of what is grounding me these days:

Patience with my fluctuating feelings, my extra fatigue, and my distractibility. We are all working hard as we adjust to shifting information and shifting needs. I'm trying to take time each day to refuel and remember the gift of just being here on this planet, doing work I care about. Think about what refuels you.

Acknowledging the grief caused by all the losses, both large and small, ushered in by the coronavirus. An article

on this topic in the New York Times by Lori Gottlieb helped me name this need.

Relying on my faith, which includes prayer, reading scripture, reflective writing, and connections with my community. This week sparked a short reflection about *Psalm 23 and COVID-19* that you can read here.

I am sending blessings of health and peace from all of us here at Tufts University Chaplaincy. Please let us know if there are particular ways we can continue to support you as you finish your spring semester.

Warmly,

Jenny

Jennifer Peace
Tufts University Chaplain, *ad interim*

Announcing Wendell Phillips Baccalaureate Speaker

Leticia Priebe Rocha, A20, is the winner of this year's Wendell Phillips Award. This means Leticia will be the senior speaker for the Baccalaureate Ceremony which will take place virtually this year as part of Commencement activities.

Congratulations to all three finalists for their stirring speeches, as well as all those who were nominated for the Award. Thanks as well to the members of the Committee on Student Life for their thoughtful deliberations in choosing this year's recipient.

Wendell Phillips was a nineteenth-century attorney, orator, abolitionist, and advocate for women's and Native People's rights. The Wendell Phillips Address is intended to deliver a message to inspire the graduating class and all who are gathered to reflect on how a Tufts education, and specifically the experiences of the graduating senior class, might help make the world a better place through constructive civic engagement.

Check-In with a Chaplain

Our Chaplains are still here for you, no matter where you are in the world or how you are doing at this time. Click on a Chaplain's name below to schedule a time for conversation, meditation, prayer, or to chat about anything else on your heart or mind. You can go to https://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/contact/ to find their bios and additional contact information.

Jennifer Howe Peace, University Chaplain *ad interim*

Rev. Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain

Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain

Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain

Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain

Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain

Venerable Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

Coffee and Kabbalah with Rabbi Naftali Brawer

Engage with Jewish Chaplain Rabbi Naftali Brawer in Coffee & Kabbalah, a short spiritual reflection over excellent coffee. You can view the short videos any time, and new ones are posted weekly on Fridays.

To see this week's reflection, find Rabbi Brawer's video here.

Check-In and Reflection with Tufts Buddhist Sangha
Fridays, March 27 and April 5, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

All are welcome as we gather virtually to exchange hellos, turn to our tradition, and reflect on that which is nourishing us at this moment.

For more information please contact Buddhist Chaplain Priya Sraman at Priya.Sraman@tufts.edu.

Join the events via Zoom by clicking here.

Open Hour - Check-In and Reflection with the Catholic Chaplain
Sundays, March 29 and April 5, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

All are welcome as we gather virtually to be in solidarity with one another. Come for as long or as short as you are able. This informal hour is a time to see one another and to draw from our tradition's wealth of wisdom for sustenance.

For more information, please contact Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper at Lynn.Cooper@tufts.edu.

Join the events via Zoom by clicking here.

Protestant Offerings
Sundays, March 29 and April 5, 7:00 p.m. ET

Wherever you find yourself in mind, body, and spirit in these challenging times, there is always room for you in the PEW. Join the Protestant student community for worship through prayer,

singing, preaching, and reflection over Zoom, led by Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell. While we cannot be together in person right now, Christ is still present among us and the Spirit draws us together to be God's people in the world. After each service, everyone is welcome to stay and hang out.

March 29: Senior Sermon by Elliot Pavlovich, E20

Join PSA in the tradition of Senior Sermons this Sunday. Senior Elliot Pavlovich (pictured below) reflects, “Being an engineer might not be the first thing you think of when you think of how religion affected someone’s life, but when I look back, I realize that it was the friends that I made at Christian camps who led me to engineering at Tufts.” Join us this Sunday to hear more about Elliot’s journey of faith at Tufts.

April 5: Virtual Agape Meal for Palm Sunday

As we enter into Holy Week this year, following Jesus on the Way of the Cross, we do so as the Body of Christ. Since we cannot share in Communion in person, we will instead have a virtual “agape meal” in remembrance of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. If you have bread and wine (or grape juice), please have it with you. Otherwise, feel free to use whatever food and drink you have on hand as we join in fellowship with God and one another.

For more information, please contact Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell at Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu.

Join the events via Zoom by clicking here.

Muslim Chaplain Chats

Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, and 22, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET

Join in a conversation with Muslim Chaplain Abdul-Malik on Thursday evenings. This is a time for students to discuss topics of interest and to be in community together.

Weekly topics are:

April 2 - Relationships
April 9 - Faith & Doubt
April 16 - Ramadan Preparations
April 22 - Practical Spirituality

Join the events via Zoom by clicking here.

For more information, please contact Muslim Chaplain Abdul-Malik Merchant at Am.merchant@tufts.edu.

Do you have an idea for how the University Chaplaincy can support you?

Please contact the Program Manager, Nora Bond, at Nora.Bond@tufts.edu. We are working to be responsive to student needs in this time of a virtual chaplaincy, and welcome your insights, suggestions, and requests.

Email Nora

Congratulations to the CAFE Coordinator and Support Staffer

Jiamin Li, A22
CAFE Student Coordinator

Rowan Gonda, BFA23
CAFE Student Support Staffer

The Tufts University Chaplaincy is pleased to announce the hire of the Student Coordinator and Student Support Staffer for the 2020 CAFE (Conversation, Action, Faith, and Education) Pre-Orientation program. CAFE is designed for first-year students who want to explore identities, improve interfaith understanding, and learn community organizing. The program is organized and led by University Chaplaincy staff members and students who have a shared passion for understanding and creating change in ourselves and our communities. This year, we are lucky and grateful to welcome Jiamin and Rowan to the team.

Find more information about CAFE at https://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/cafe/.

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 click here.

Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra (Khordad Sal)
Thursday, 3.26.2020
Tradition: Zoroastrianism
The anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.

Ramanavami
Thursday, 4.2.2020
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.

Mahavir Jayanti
Sunday, 4.5.2020
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.

Palm Sunday
Sunday, 4.5.2020
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 "Passon Sunday." Orthodox Christians often observe this Sunday on a date different from the date on which Protestant and Roman Catholics observe it.

About the University Chaplaincy Enews

The University Chaplaincy Enews is published weekly by the Tufts University Chaplaincy to promote programs and opportunities related to spirituality, ethics, culture, and social justice. To propose announcements for inclusion please contact the University Chaplaincy at chaplaincy@tufts.edu.

Supporting 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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