



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 10.11.23



A Reflection From Your University Chaplain

The news of these days

has ripped our hearts and torn our souls.

In the depths of pain and anger, we gather.

We have only begun to mourn those we have lost.^[1]

Dear Tufts community,

I write this today from a place of deep sorrow. The stories, videos, and images of the crisis in Israel and Palestine proliferate. The scale of human suffering is overwhelming. It is ripping our hearts and tearing our souls. And it is affecting cherished members of our Tufts community. Our colleagues, classmates, students, professors and friends are grieving the deaths of beloveds. They are worried about the safety of their friends and families. They are fearful of what happens next. In this moment, what shall we do? To whom shall we go?

The truth is, I don't fully know. But I do believe this: No one's life matters more or less than another's and our responses to one another in times of suffering and deep conflict must begin—again and again—with the spiritual and moral affirmation of the absolute worth of every single human being. As human beings, we viciously and systemically violate these truths in word and deed, day in and day out. And the only way toward healing ourselves and our societies from this disease of dehumanization is to claim—again and again—that every person is innately worthy of care and compassion, that every person, as

Valarie Kaur writes so profoundly in *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, is a “a part of me I do not yet now.” Every person is our sibling, or parent, or grandparent, or cousin. Every person in Israel and every person in Palestine is our kin. A mother in Israel and a mother in Gaza both deserve to raise their children free from poverty and oppression. A child in Gaza and a child in Israel both deserve to play and wonder in safety. Young people in Israel and in Gaza all deserve opportunities to learn and discover what they love so they can craft lives of meaning, service, and joy.

Our shared lament and courageous listening to one another’s stories and perspectives are necessary pathways to reclaiming our shared humanity. As hostages remain captive and families experience inestimable fear, as food and water become ever scarcer and bombs destroy innocents, might we have the courage to grieve together, to turn to each other with compassion, to witness the fear and anger that is present among us? To recognize the grief and anxiety in each other, and let it not separate us further?

The team of Tufts multifaith chaplains are here for you, and are available for you and your campus communities in these coming days and weeks.

In closing, I offer a prayer from my own tradition.

*Where hearts are fearful and constricted,
grant courage and hope.
Where anxiety is infectious and widening,
grant peace and reassurance.
Where impossibilities close every door and window,
grant imagination and resistance.
Where distrust twists our thinking,
grant healing and illumination.
Where spirits are daunted and weakened,
grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.*^[2]

In sorrow, solidarity, and hope,
Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

[1] Adapted; Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

[2] Adapted from: Other Service Texts: © 2016, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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](#).

the Tufts LGBT Center presents...

Out & Proud Week

October 10-13, 2023

TUESDAY 10.10

Flower Giveaway

@ Goddard Chapel, 12-1pm

Chosen Family Dinner

@ Alumnae Lounge, 4-6pm

WEDNESDAY 10.11

Queer Sex Health Tabling

@ Campus Center, 12-1:30pm

Queer Affirmations

@ SMFA Atrium, 11am-3pm

Break/Down

Queer Performance Symposium

@ Aidekman, 6-9pm

THURSDAY 10.12

Flower Giveaway

@ SMFA Atrium, 12-1pm

FRIDAY 10.13

Chalking at the Chapel

@ Goddard Chapel, 1-3pm

Queer International Social

@ LGBT Center, 5-6pm



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Out and Proud Week with Tufts LGBT Center

The LGBT Center is excited to announce their third annual Out and Proud Week! In celebration of National Coming Out Day, the LGBT Center hosts Out and Proud Week as an opportunity to celebrate trans and queer identities openly and take up space on campus. The University Chaplaincy co-hosts events throughout the week in partnership with the LGBT Center. Join for events every day on the Medford and SMFA campuses!

Wednesday, October 11: Drop by the Campus Center for a queer sex health raffle and free goodies; if you are at the SMFA, stop by the Queer Affirmation station in the Atrium to share love with the community. And lastly, join us at Break/Down, an evening of experimental queer performance art and conversation.

Thursday, October 12: SMFA students, get a free flower from the LGBT Center and University Chaplaincy in the Atrium from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday, October 13: Join in closing out the week by chalking the steps and the space in front of

PROTESTANT *Evening Worship*



Every Sunday, 7pm | Goddard Chapel

ALL ARE WELCOME. ALL ARE VALUED AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY.
ALL ARE LOVED BY GOD.

Refreshments and community time afterwards

There's always room for you in the PEW.



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
PRIDE IN THE PEW
DINNER CHURCH**

**Guest Preacher:
Ms. Penny Cost**

**Drag Queen and United Methodist
Ordination Candidate at BU**



University Chaplaincy
Protestant Chaplaincy

Pride in the PEW: Center Drag Me to Church with the Protestant Chaplaincy

Sunday, October 15, 7:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Please join the Protestant Chaplaincy for Protestant Evening Worship (PEW) this Sunday with guest preacher Ms. Penny Cost. Ms. Penny Cost she/her/hers is not your average, every day, bless-your-heart-ing church lady! She (as her real-life counterpart, Isaac Simmons, the/them) is reportedly the first drag queen in the world to become a Certified Candidate for Ordained Ministry within the United Methodist Church, currently studying at Boston University School of Theology. Her artistry is rooted in a uniquely subversive reclamation of faith, showing all around that queerness and spirituality are not now, nor have they ever been, diametrically opposed. Please contact Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) with any questions.



Open Mic with Dee-1

Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join the Tufts University Chaplaincy and Interfaith Ambassadors for an open mic night with Tisch College's Artist-in-Residence, Dee-1! Showcase your artistic talents and connect with the Tufts community in a wonderful celebration of expression hosted in Goddard Chapel, with a Meet and Greet and refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Whether on the mic or an audience member, we can't wait to see you for a night of musical performances, poetry, and more! If you would like to perform, [please complete this form](#).



Tufts Sunday Concert Series: Tufts Wind Ensemble - Pax et Lux

Sunday, October 15, 3:00 pm, Distler Performance Hall

Tufts' motto "Pax et Lux" was adopted in 1857 and inspires this program. Repertoire includes Frank Ticheli's *Lux Perpetua* and David Maslanka's *Hymn for World Peace*. TUWE will also present music written for Tufts College some 100 years ago. Find more information on the [Department of Music events calendar](#).



The Tufts Fall Market

Wednesday October 13, 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Tufts Academic Quad

Come join TCU Senate and Tufts University Social Collective for their second biannual Farmer's Market. Make sure to sign up on Tufts Tickets for your ticket to receive subsidized produce. You don't want to miss out on this event! Find the [event on JumboLife here](#).

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



Acorns & Octavia: A Workshop with Kaitlin Smith at the Royall House and Slave Quarters

Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 1:00pm - 3:00pm, 15 George Street, Medford.

This event on the museum grounds will invite participants into the fun, fascinating, and filling (!) world of acorn harvesting, processing, and consumption. We will also learn about the Afrofuturist thought and writing of science fiction author Octavia Butler, who wanted us to know how acorns can be a vessel of liberation.

Kaitlin Smith is a scholar, writer, and public humanist-naturalist who runs Storied Grounds, a venture that delivers unique place-based educational experiences and tools informed by folk knowledge and humanistic ideas. Kaitlin is a PhD student at Harvard in History of Science. Attendance is free but [registration](#) is required. You can [find more information on the Royall House and Slave Quarters website](#).



The University Chaplaincy Inauguration Celebration

Last Wednesday we were deeply glad to host President Kumar for our University Chaplaincy celebration during Inauguration Week. The chapel was full of generous words of welcome, songs from Shir Appeal and Ladies of Essence, and the beautiful glow from our art installaion (picture below to the right). Thank you to all those who attended, and to all the students who participated as speakers!



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](#).

Ghambar Ayathrem

Thu., Oct. 12, – Mon., Oct. 16, 2023

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Celebrates the creation of plants, the sowing of the winter crop, and the return of herds from pasture.

Birth of the Bab

Sun., Oct. 15, 2023

Tradition: Baha'i

The anniversary of the birth of the Bab, the herald of the new age for Baha'is. The Shrine of the Bab in Haifa, Israel, is part of the World Center of the Baha'i faith.

Navaratri

Sun., Oct. 15 – Mon., Oct. 23, 2023

Tradition: Hinduism

A nine-night (nav-rat) celebration of nine auspicious forms of Shakti/Devi (feminine divine power/the Goddess).

Reformation Day

Tue., Oct. 31, 2023

Tradition: Christianity, Protestant

Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation of Christianity with Martin Luther's challenge to the Roman church in the sixteenth century C.E.

Samhain

Tue., Oct. 31, 2023

Tradition: Wicca, Paganism

The New Year and the final harvest festival, celebrating the last gifts of the Earth before winter and the return of the spirits of the dead.

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.

Tufts University Chaplaincy | Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green | Medford, MA 02155 US
chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | 617.627.3427



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