About the University Chaplaincy Enews

The University Chaplaincy is a place for students, faculty, and staff to find a community of support in times of spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement. We provide pastoral care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about religious and spiritual practices, and partner with students, faculty, and staff on campus to support their needs in the Tufts community. We are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive space for all individuals, regardless of their beliefs or lack thereof.

Upcoming Religious Holidays and Festivals

Vonisite

The day that commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ, i.e., his death by crucifixion. It is the Orthodox equivalent of Good Friday. 

Sukkot (Jewish)

Celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of Holy Week that culminates in Easter or Resurrection Sunday.

Easter Sunday, 4.12.2020

Christians observe the resurrection of Jesus Christ on different dates from the one observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics. "Maundy" is derived from the Latin text of John 13:34, in which Jesus gives a mandatum novum (new commandment) to love one another.

Passover (Pesach)

Commemorates the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. It is celebrated for eight days with special foods and a meal called a Sedar.

Laylat al-Bara'ah

This is the first night of the Ten Days of Atonement, a period leading up to Holy Week and Easter (Pascha). In the churches that follow the Gregorian calendar, Lent is a 40-day period that begins with Ash Wednesday.

In Orthodox churches, the first day of Lent marks the beginning of the Great Fast, the final six weeks of a 10-week period that leads up to Holy Week.

Upcoming Programs

Mindfulness and Yoga Opportunities

Fridays, April 17 to May 8, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET

This confidential group aims to help you build connection, get support, deepen your spiritual practice, and find peace in our turbulent time. You will have opportunities to explore your practice and practice with others. We provide access to resources for deepening your practice, as well as tools for building your own practice in everyday life.

Sustaining Practices with the Humanist Hangout by Zoom

Friday, April 10, 2:00 p.m. ET

Good Friday Devotional Hour

Fridays, April 10, 17, and 24, 9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. ET

In this event, we will focus on the story of Good Friday and Jesus’ crucifixion. This will be a time for reflection, prayer, and community. If you feel so moved, you can bring candles or other materials to light. We will meet on Zoom and will have a Zoom link available for those who want to join in person.

Chapel of the Cross Meditation: Good Friday

Friday, April 10, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

Join in a conversation with Muslim Chaplain Abdul-Malik on how he is approaching this Good Friday in prayer and reflection.

Hindu Students Council Discussions

Fridays, April 10, 17, and 24, 9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. ET

These events are drawn from the multifaith calendar maintained by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Tufts University, and are intended to provide opportunities for reflection, discussion, and community building.

COVID-19 Documentation Project

April 16 - Ramadan Preparations

Join Rabbi Naftali Brawer for a mindful exploration of major Jewish holidays in light of COVID-19. Please join us in a conversation with Rabbi Brawer to learn about the Vale of Atonement and the cultural implications of our current situation.

Do you have an idea for how the University Chaplaincy can support you? Contact Marilyn Downs and Venerable Priya Sraman, or visit the website for additional information.

Do you want to be a partner in the journey of looking through that window together? And wishing strength to your own oak tree in the day when we are impatient with the sun and brokenness as we await Easter. Sponsored by the Protestant and Catholic Chaplaincies.

Related Events

Celebrating Sex and| Sexuality

Sundays, April 12, 4:00 p.m. ET and April 19, 7:00 p.m. ET

This event will feature a discussion about sex and sexuality, with a focus on love, trauma, and the body. The discussion will be moderated by Venerable Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain.

Humanist Hangout by Zoom

Friday, April 10, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

This is a time for students to discuss and engage with ideas, concepts, and topics related to humanism, critical thinking, and secular ethics. The events will be moderated by Marilyn Downs, Director of Initiatives for the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.

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