

PROTESTANT CHAPLAINCY

2025-2026 newsletter



Protestant Chaplain
The Reverend Dan Bell

Dear Jumbos,

Have you ever been on a pilgrimage? Someone I know recently walked five hundred miles to the ancient shrine of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. That's quite an accomplishment, especially in the summer heat! For more than a thousand years, countless Christians have traveled the Camino de Santiago ("the Way of St. James"). While these pilgrims certainly have an end point in mind, a cathedral wherein lies the remains of the Apostle James, the journey is at least as important as the destination. Along the way, many grow spiritually as they pray, meet new companions, and challenge themselves on long roads and difficult terrain.

You too are on the pilgrim's path. As you make your way through college or graduate school, you are on a unique journey in mind, body, and spirit, a way that is often hard and yet, I pray, fulfilling. In fact, the earliest Christians were called "the people of the Way," a reminder that we're called to travel this path together as Jesus' beloved community. The Protestant Chaplaincy exists to companion you on your journey. Across different backgrounds and denominations, we meet one another on campus as fellow pilgrims seeking a common home in the heart of God.

I provide spiritual care and programming to everyone across our campuses, with a special focus on our Protestant Christian student communities. Whether you grew up in a church or you are exploring religion and spirituality for the first time, you are always welcome to all of our gatherings.

Please email me if you have any questions or would like to meet. I am always glad to have tea, coffee, or a conversation in my office. Also, consider signing up for our weekly e-news to stay in the loop about upcoming programs and events.

May God bless and guide you on your Jumbo journey and all the pilgrim paths that lie ahead.

Peace and light in Christ,
The Reverend Dan Bell
Protestant Chaplain

Regular Programming

- **Protestant Evening Worship:** Sundays at 7 p.m. in Goddard Chapel, with music, prayers, guest preachers from different denominations, and monthly Dinner Church events
- **Bible study and dinner:** Weekly gatherings led by Chaplain Dan focusing on a different theme each semester; please check website for day, time, and location
- **Fall field trip:** Come pick apples or pumpkins and enjoy the glory of autumn in New England!
- **Retreats:** off-campus times of rest, reflection, fun, and fellowship
- **Seasonal observances and celebrations:** Pride in the PEW in October, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper before Lent, ecumenical worship for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and Easter Dinner
- **Community service opportunities:** on- and off-campus ways to serve our neighbors, led by students and chaplains
- **The Breakfast Club:** faculty and staff Bible study and prayer group, Wednesdays, 8am on Zoom



Students light candles together at Protestant Evening Worship, Goddard Chapel, January 2025



The Protestant Chaplaincy strives to be a radically welcoming and inclusive Christian community. We celebrate our diversity in the Body of Christ as we join together for worship, prayer, fellowship, and service to love God and our neighbors.

Program Spotlight: Feasting on the Word... and Pizza

Chaplain Dan hosts a midweek Bible study for students. Each semester the theme or topic changes, but some things always remain the same: a thoughtful conversation that delves into Scripture and its bearing on our lives today, time at the end when we share our prayer requests with each other, and, last but not least, delicious pizza! Please join us. Recent Bible studies have invited reflection on stories of God's call, the issue of loneliness and the importance of community, and what it means to work for justice as people of faith. All are welcome, regardless of prior knowledge, experience, or tradition.



Students enjoy dinner and conversation with Chaplain Dan, Aidekman Arts Center, November 2024



"My experience with the Protestant Chaplaincy has been friendly and welcoming. Everyone I met in the Protestant Students Association accepted me as a new member from day one. I applied to serve as the student worship coordinator on a whim during my sophomore year, and it was an amazing decision! I got to connect closely with members of not only the Protestant Students Association (PSA) but the wider Christian community at Tufts through things I am passionate about, like art and social events. I love being the worship coordinator because simple jobs like passing out hymnals and leading mindfulness activities have taught me a lot about church life, tradition, and community."

-Grace Lee, A27

Student Organizations Served by the Protestant Chaplaincy

Undergraduate

- Asian Baptist Fellowship
- C. Stacey Woods Programming Board (InterVarsity)
- Daily Flame (Non-Denominational)
- Protestant Students Association (Mainline/Progressive)

Graduate

- Christian Medical Dental Association (Boston)
- Christian Veterinary Fellowship (Grafton)
- Fletcher Christian Fellowship (Medford)

SUPPORT PROTESTANT LIFE AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

A vital portion of our programs are made possible by community donations. Here are some suggestions for how you can help make a difference in students' lives:

- **\$30** covers the cost of a weekly pizza dinner and Bible study with students
- **\$100** helps to fund one semester's worth of chaplain's meetings with students over a coffee or tea to offer spiritual care and support
- **\$200** helps to pay for our monthly Dinner Church gathering on Sunday nights



Give Today!

To give to the Tufts Protestant Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit <http://go.tufts.edu/giveProtestant>. To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact University Chaplain Elyse Nelson Winger:

(617) 627-3427 | Elyse.Nelson_Winger@tufts.edu

Thank you for your generosity and support.