“Do Not Fear...I Have Called You By Name”
Welcome from the Protestant Chaplain

Names matter. In the Bible, a name can tell us something very significant about a person’s identity. At our worship services, we seek to honor the names and identities of everyone who joins us. At all of our gatherings, be they in person or, as this year demands, virtual, you’re invited to share your name and pronouns. It is a simple act but can make a profound difference to helping people to feel welcome as they are. This is just one example of how the Protestant Chaplaincy and the Protestant Students Association (PSA) seek to be a loving and inclusive Christian community at Tufts. Throughout the year, we join for worship and reflection, fun and fellowship, holiday celebrations, retreats, and more. This year we are designing creative ways to be together that prioritize the health and safety of the community. In the pages that follow, I invite you to learn more about the many ways we offer a vibrant Christian witness at Tufts.

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine,” God says in Isaiah 43:1. My hope and prayer is that the Protestant community at Tufts allows you the opportunity to discover that belovedness and belonging that Isaiah describes. We invite you to bring your whole self into this community, as we seek to be a people of justice, love, and peace.

We would love to know your name.

Blessings,
Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain

Welcome from the Protestant Community
Sara Mitchell, A21, PSA Executive Board Treasurer

Being a part of the Protestant Students Association has been such an unexpectedly wonderful and impactful college experience that I’ll cherish forever. What truly unites all of us are our common core values: unwavering compassion, hard work and the desire to serve others. If you’re curious to see what our worship community is like, we would love for you to join us for a service! We look forward to getting to know you.

Sara Mitchell, second from left, with PSA friends on an apple-picking trip, October 2019
All are welcome. All are valued as part of the community. All are loved by God.
The Protestant Chaplaincy and the Protestant Students Association (PSA) strive to be a radically welcoming and inclusive community. We invite people of every race, color, national and ethnic origin, age, religious background, veteran status, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to bring the fullness of who they are into this community.

History of the Protestant Chaplaincy
While Tufts University no longer affiliates with a particular religious tradition, it was founded by members of a Protestant denomination, the Universalist Church. The Reverend Dan Bell is the thirteenth person to lead the Protestant Chaplaincy since it was established in 1988, with support from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.
The Protestant Chaplaincy has a long history of engaging with the entire student body and has been a student-driven chaplaincy for the last 32 years.

Regular Programming
Please note: We continue to adjust our programming in creative ways to retain the spirit of past events and programs while following Tufts guidelines for the health and safety of the community in the 2020-2021 academic year.
• Orientation brunch on the Tisch Library Roof
• Weekly Protestant Evening Worship, with hymns, reflection, prayer time, and guest preachers from various traditions
• Special services for LGBTQ+ Pride
• Monthly Somerville Homeless Coalition trips to Davis Square
• Annual winter retreat
• Seasonal observances and holiday celebrations, including a Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas dinner, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Ash Wednesday service, and Easter brunch

The Reverend Steven Bonsey speaking with students outside Goddard Chapel, circa 1992

The Protestant community celebrates Lessons and Carols, December 2019
Spotlight Event: Winter Retreat

The winter retreat to Rolling Ridge has become one of PSA’s most beloved annual traditions. Below, Olaoluwa Faleye, A21, offers his reflections on this wonderful opportunity and how it has helped him connect more with God and friends at Tufts.

“I am a rising senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering. I also play on the football team. I am the Interfaith Student Council representative for PSA this year. One of the things I love most about PSA is the winter retreat we go on every year. We go to a retreat center by a lake and get to spend some time away from campus. We enjoy bonding with each other outside of the school setting. Also, the food there is really good, which always helps! Connecting with the PSA family has been fun for me and I always look forward to it.”

Olaoluwa Faleye, A21

Interfaith Collaboration: Field Trip to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

The Protestant Chaplaincy is dedicated to strengthening bonds among the various religious, spiritual, and philosophical communities at Tufts. Each year the Protestant and Muslim Chaplaincies co-sponsor a trip into Boston to visit the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, an Episcopal house of worship where Muslim Friday prayers (Jummah) have been held for many years. Students attend Jummah and then meet over lunch with faith leaders from both communities. This is a great opportunity for students to experience firsthand a major interfaith partnership in the heart of Boston.

Students joined Muslim Chaplain Abdul-Malik Merchant and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell on a visit to St. Paul’s in downtown Boston, February 21, 2020
Alumni Feature: Elliot Pavlovich, E20

“Being involved with the Protestant Students Association gave greater meaning to my time at Tufts. I served on the Executive Board as the music and outreach coordinator. I helped to plan weekly worship services and organized monthly trips to the Somerville Homeless Coalition. After cooking we would stay and talk to the residents, all of whom had amazing stories they were willing to share. From the get-go, I knew the Protestant community was some place I would be able to call home, and over the past four years, PSA has not disappointed. Even during the shut down and into the summer Chaplain Dan Bell and Music Director Tom Dawkins have worked hard to keep the community going. Everyone who is a part of this group wants to be here and it really shows. I love them all and will miss them as I start this new chapter of my life.”

Support Protestant Life at Tufts University

Please consider making a gift to support the Protestant Chaplaincy’s vital ministry at Tufts. Here are some suggestions for how you can help make a difference in students’ lives:

$50 Provides community with books and other resources for deeper study of Protestantism

$100 Supports chaplaincy’s programming, including care packages, virtual speakers, and virtual gatherings

$200 Ensures our chaplaincy is ready to support any emergent needs of our community this year

To give to the Tufts Protestant Chaplaincy online, please visit [http://go.tufts.edu/giveProtestantLife](http://go.tufts.edu/giveProtestantLife). To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact Protestant Chaplain, The Reverend Dan Bell, or our Advance ment liaison Rob Ayles:

617-627-2675 | Robert.Ayles@tufts.edu

Thank you for your generosity and support.