

HUMANIST CHAPLAINCY

2025-2026 newsletter



**Humanist Chaplain
Anthony Cruz Pantojas**

I see you. Welcome.

I am delighted to welcome you to the Tufts Humanist Chaplaincy, a community for students seeking a space to explore questions of life, meaning, and purpose through secular, non-religious, atheist, agnostic, and/or humanist ways of thinking and knowing. Our vibrant community of practice is centered on reciprocity, inquiry, and creativity.

Each week, at Humanist Community at Tufts (HCAT) meetings, students lead discussions on various philosophical topics and current events. Each semester, HCAT hosts seasonal events like Winter Solstice Celebration and Death Café. There are also opportunities to join in community with me and others through our weekly reading group where we discuss compelling books like *What I Believe: Humanist Ideas and Philosophies to Live By* by Andrew Copson and our annual summit, Kindling the Humanist Spark, which will be a virtual convening of young people across the country this fall!

The Humanist Chaplaincy holds space for you to dialogue, question, and practice the possibilities to repair and reimagine the world. Your full self and becoming have a place here, and I look forward to meeting you!

À se,

Anthony Cruz Pantojas

Humanist Chaplain

Regular Programming

- HCAT student-led meetings
- Reading Group with the Humanist Chaplain
- Solstice and Equinox Celebrations
- Death Café
- Candle-making



Students celebrate Summer Solstice in Spring 2025 in Goddard Chapel



The Tufts Humanist Chaplaincy is a homeplace for students, staff, and faculty to come into deep relation in a transgenerational and collaborative approach about life, meaning-making, and existential quandaries through a way of life centered on the here and now and rooted in a naturalistic orientation to life.

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Program Spotlight: Death Café

Death Café, a signature and popular event co-hosted by the Humanist Chaplaincy and HCAT, takes place each semester at the Interfaith Center. Over a delicious meal (including cake!), students, staff, and faculty ask real and honest questions about death and dying and about living a joyful and meaningful life in the here and now. Questions include: What do you believe happens after death? Does it matter? How do you support a grieving friend or family member? What does it mean to you to leave a legacy? We hope you will join us!



Death Café at the Interfaith Center



"The chaplaincy at Tufts has been a welcoming place of conversation and growth for me. I have met wonderful people within it who never cease to be supportive, kind, and authentic. This caring community

has changed the way I see Tufts and the way I see myself."

-Mark Schaffler, E27

"The Humanist Chaplaincy helped me think more critically about my life and the world around me. From discussing difficult but important topics, to hearing from a broad range of perspectives, it broadened my outlook and became an integral part of my every week. I'm so glad I found this community!"

-Nicholas Molho, A25

SUPPORT HUMANIST 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:

- **\$25** contributes to meals at our weekly Book Group discussions
- **\$75** contributes to an evening of candle-making for the Humanist community
- **\$150** brings a guest speaker to a community event to share about modern spirituality and Humanism



Give Today!

To give to the Tufts Humanist Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit <http://go.tufts.edu/giveHumanist>. 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.