

PROTESTANT CHAPLAINCY

2023-2024 newsletter



Protestant Chaplain
The Reverend Dan Bell, MDiv

All are welcome. All are valued as part of the community. All are loved by God.

Welcome! My name is Dan Bell and I serve as the Protestant Chaplain at Tufts University. I provide spiritual care and support to anyone on campus and work closely with the Protestant Students Association (PSA) to offer engaging programs. As you explore what the Protestant Chaplaincy has to offer, I hope you will find a warm and welcoming community open to all people and identities. We celebrate the many traditions that make up the Protestant family of faith, and we are passionate about building an inclusive and justice-oriented Christian community on campus. Whether you grew up in church or you are exploring religion and spirituality for the first time, I would be delighted to get to know you.

I pray that you find a sense of belonging at Tufts as we explore faith, enjoy fellowship, and work together to help make God's dream for the world come true. Please email me if you have any questions or would like to meet for coffee and conversation. I look forward to learning how I can best serve you at Tufts.

Blessings,

The Reverend Daniel Bell, MDiv

Protestant Chaplain

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.

Regular Programming

- Protestant Evening Worship with music, prayers, and guest preachers from different denominations, followed by food and fellowship, Sundays at 7pm in Goddard Chapel
- Discernment Dinners, Bible studies, and other small group gatherings
- Weekly "Breakfast Club," a prayer and study group for faculty and staff, held on Zoom
- Fall apple-picking trip and overnight retreat
- Seasonal observances and holiday celebrations, including LGBTQ+ Pride in the PEW, Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas celebration, and Easter brunch
- Community service opportunities coordinated by chaplains and student leaders
- Annual interfaith field trip to Boston with the Muslim Students Association, and other interfaith programs, such as film screenings and panel discussions



PSA retreat in September 2022

Program Spotlight: Being Christian at Tufts and Beyond

The Protestant Chaplaincy is committed to engaging with the campus community about the urgent issues of our times, particularly systemic racism, white supremacy, and the troubling rise of Christian nationalism in the United States.

Last year we invited BIPOC activists and filmmakers Marisa Prince and Calvin Lee to show and discuss their documentary “Are We There YET?” The event helped students engage thoughtfully with the oppressive history found in white American Christianity, and how we can respond.

Later in the semester, students met with Chaplain Dan for a series of discussions on the theme “Being Christian at Tufts.” They unpacked their religious upbringings and reflected on being a person of faith who engages critically with the Bible and the pressing justice concerns of today.



Discernment Dinner, October 2022, with Tufts Hindu Chaplain Dr. Preeti Banerjee



“The Protestant Students Association has been a welcoming and accepting community of students devoted to service, faith, and fellowship. Through PSA and the University Chaplaincy, I have been able

to explore the diversity within the Protestant community and across different faith backgrounds, which has been a truly unique and insightful experience for which I am most grateful.”

–Liam Randall, A25

“First year of college is scary. I came to the Protestant Chaplaincy seeking a home and a family, and I found it! The people there are all unmeasurably kind, caring, and fun. I love how loving the community is!”

–Grace Acton, A26

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:

- **\$25** Provides students with study resources and meals for Discernment Dinners to gather in a supportive community and reflect on life's big questions and their sense of calling
- **\$75** contributes to a semester's worth of chaplain meetings to offer pastoral care and support to students over a coffee or tea
- **\$150** covers the cost of one student to attend the fall retreat and begin the academic year with a time of fun, friendship-building, and reflection in the beauty of Creation

To give to the Tufts Protestant Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit <http://go.tufts.edu/giveProtestantLife>. To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact our Advancement liaison Lorraine Sparrow:

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Thank you for your generosity and support.