

Update from the Protestant Chaplain: May 10, 2020

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Easter 5A

Good Morning!

We do not know much about the future but we do know this – the semester ends this Friday. So, how does one mark the end of a virtual semester? The end of the semester usually means with the end of work, followed by many activities, performances, final presentations, lunches, dinners, coffees...all social things that we have not done in ten weeks. This semester, the work will end, but the social time will not increase and quite possibly, may not appear at all, or at least in person.

Here is something else to think about, unless we end the semester, we can't move forward to the next stage of our individual and community spiritual and intellectual development. So, with this in mind, I am merely making an observation -- the semester ends this week, but the pursuit of knowledge and meaning is endless. To that end, semesters are milestones in your lifelong pursuit of knowledge and meaning. For some, finishing college is an even bigger milestone. This semester will give us something to think about for a long time. It will be interesting to see how this semester will shape your individual and community engagement with issues of the spirit and faith, and the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. Congratulations on ending one of the most challenging semesters on record.

I have been trying to catch up with all of you as well. I know it's the end of the semester, but I am still holding office hours – drop by for five minutes and say hello. And I still have appointment slots if you would like to meet with me via Google Hangout on Thursdays. I would like to hear how your semester is going and what you have learned from this experience. I am sorry for my responses being slower than I would have liked – but with the end of the semester comes an increase in time to be social! So, before you sign off for the summer, please stop by and say hello.

Thank you for receiving these weekly letters. And thank you for responding to the letters in real time via email and through the survey. I have enjoyed the conversation and I have enjoyed learning from all of you. This will be my next to last letter for the semester – as a way of marking the hours and reminding us that it's time to switch into summer mode. I will send out one more letter next week – with a message especially for the seniors. During the summer, I will still be available via email and text messaging. I will have a summer letter which you are all invited to sign up for – via the survey. I may resume a regular letter in the fall, especially if there is a need to send out more information or reflection on the situation – whatever that might be.

Although the semester is over, our work in the Chaplains' Office will continue virtually until we are allowed to return to campus. Our work is not defined by the physical space as much as it is defined by the people. Meeting with students to facilitate their spiritual and intellectual development and meaning making reflection is what we do as chaplains. We are also here for pastoral care (which means if you need a listening ear or if you have celebrations or troubled times, we want to offer support). The Chaplains' Office at Williams supports the entire community, but supporting students is our priority. We are not therapists (although therapists are great); chaplains help facilitate meaning-making for individuals and communities. Sometimes we discuss ideas in books, films or sacred text and sometimes the literature and sacred text we discuss are the moments in our lives. Sometimes people just check in and say hello. The virtual office hours are actually fun, with people stopping by for five minutes from different places in the country. But I miss the real office hours and seeing you all in person. But we meet again in person, you are welcome to stop by virtually, even in the summer: make an appointment and don't worry about the frequency. Yes, there are other things that chaplains do (and please

forgive me and others for not making an immediate response during the busier times of the year). But we will always make time for students. Enjoy this last week of school! And seniors – congratulations for finishing in these challenging times!

Be well,

Rev. Valerie

CHAPLAINS' OFFICE END OF THE YEAR SENIOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Chaplain's Office is planning an end of the year ceremony May 13th at 8:30 pm where the annual Chaplains' Office and Kaplan award winners will be announced and seniors will be recognized. This Zoom ceremony will be brief, but please send names and pictures of seniors to Chaplains' Office Ambassadors Aliya Klein (adk2@williams.edu) and Lois Umutesi (lku1@williams.edu) by Tuesday 10 a.m. We will send out a link to the event on Monday.

Grief Support Group for Students Who Have Lost Loved One to Covid: Weekly on Wednesday, 7pm EDT/6pm CDT/4pm PDT. Zoom room info and password will be given after RSVP'ing to Rabbi Seth at smw4@williams.edu. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the chaplains.

Williams Mask Initiative: Masks for service workers and volunteers who help higher-risk populations.

Reach out to family and friends you know that have sewing abilities! Help from anyone is greatly appreciated. We are specifically requesting the [sewn masks made along the guidelines](#) provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

After you are finished making your masks, please contact Julia Pham at jhp2@williams.edu with the number of masks you have made. She will give you packaging instructions and a shipping address to ensure that our delivery services run smoothly for both the handlers and the receiving organizations.

If you would like to help the initiative but do not have the ability to sew masks, please contact Rachel Cross at rec4@williams.edu for information about other ways you can provide support or Chloe Henderson at cgh1@williams.edu if you would like to make a donation!

INFORMATION AT THE END OF THE EMAIL:

Hello all -- I will be including new information at the top of this section of the weekly letter. Most of the information will not change and will be provided for your convenience. As always, the survey is available -- If you are interested in meeting with me by Zoom and Google Hangout, please fill out the survey -- it's not really a survey but a way of being in touch. I am also going to include the updated information for reaching all of the chaplains at the end of this email.

Visit my weekly check-in time on Thursdays 12 noon EST (<https://zoom.us/j/5167356637>). Drop in, say hello and bring an interesting clip that you found on the internet. The check-in time is 12 noon EST – bring your lunch or breakfast if you're on the west coast or a snack if you are in another time zone. All are welcome.

Protestant Chaplain Survey

Please click [here](#) to fill out a brief survey so that I as Protestant Chaplain (and Chaplain to the College) and we in the chaplains' office know how to support you.

Appointments with Rev. Valerie -- Office Hours Thursday Afternoons

I am available to speak with students on Thursday afternoon. If you are interested in meeting with Rev. Valerie through Google Hangout, please click [here](#) to sign up for a 30 minute slot on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. If you would like to meet at another time, please [email](#) me and I'll find a time that works for you.

The Chaplains' Office is on Instagram!

Follow the Chaplains' Office on Instagram at [williams_chaplains_office](#). Send us pictures of how you are living in the moment!

The Virtual Chaplains' Office is open!

Hello students, we miss meeting you in person, but we are available for one-on-one meetings, groups meetings and other online opportunities. For more information please visit [chaplain.williams.edu](#).

The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer - 413-517-5364 — vb7@williams.edu

Imam Sharif Rosen - 413-672-7048 — sar4@williams.edu

Rabbi Seth Wax - 617-460-3317 — smw4@williams.edu

Tracy Finnegan - 413-455-5790 — tff1@williams.edu

Nancy Luczynski - 413-597-2483 — nluczyns@williams.edu

Rev. Valerie's Office Hours

Thursdays, 1 - 4 p.m., sign up for appointments with Rev. Valerie at my [Google Calendar](#). Once you click on this [link](#), click on an open appointment slot to sign up. To cancel an appointment slot you've already booked, leave this sign-up page and delete the event from your own calendar. If you would like to meet at another time, please email me at vb7@williams.edu.

Thursdays Weekly Check-in: Thursday from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/5167356637>

Meeting ID: 516 735 6637

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,5167356637# US (New York)

+13126266799,,5167356637# US (Chicago)

This is a Zoom meeting room for students to check in, visit with other Williams students and Rev. Valerie. Bring your breakfast, lunch, coffee or tea, depending on your time zone! No RSVP. necessary!

Weekly Letter: Rev. Valerie will email a weekly letter each week. If you would like to receive this letter, please email Rev. Valerie at vb7@williams.edu.

Coming soon: Daily Office zoom meetings (depending on interest, a small group will do morning, evening prayer or compline together for about 30 minutes).

Rabbi Seth's Office Hours Mondays 1:30-2:30pm

At his Zoom Room

<https://zoom.us/j/8321750148>

Meeting ID: 832 175 0148

One tap mobile: +16468769923,,8321750148# US (New York)

No need to RSVP for office hours; just log on!. To set up a meeting at a different time, email him at smw4.

Weekly Shabbat services at 5pm EDT at <https://zoom.us/j/8321750148>

Passover Seders on Wednesday April 8 and Thursday April 9. To RSVP, email Rabbi Seth at smw4.

Imam Sharif's Office Hours Flexible meeting hours.

Please email sar4@williams.edu to schedule your meeting.

Weekly Friday Reflections,

@2pm EST

<https://zoom.us/j/8674799819>

Regular programs to be announced by the MSU and/or Muslim Chaplain

Tracy's Office Hours Tuesdays, noon-1pm or By appointment.

Tracy is available for one on one (or group if interested) meetings by zoom chat & Google Hang out.

Coming soon: Tracy is also available for Centering prayer practice (no experience necessary) and Lectio Divina (no experience necessary).

Nancy's Office Hours

I am working from home and will be periodically checking email and voicemail remotely Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. If there is anything I can do to assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at nluczyns@williams.edu or call the office at 413-597-2483. Your voice message will automatically be sent to my computer here at home.

DISCLAIMER:

This is an email to students who have indicated that you would like to receive information from the Chaplains' Office and whose religious affiliation is widely defined and includes agnostics and atheists and a variety of those Christian communities that could be loosely defined as Protestant.

If you do not want to continue receiving occasional updates and to stop receiving emails from the Chaplains' Office, please 1. email me and 2. log into your People Soft account, click on the Religious Affiliation link and change your answer to: "I'd like to receive information related to my affiliation from Yes to No. I would do this for you but I do not have access to students' Psoft accounts.

I know you must be getting so much information, but I hope to send this email out each Sunday to keep you updated and to offer support as Protestant Chaplain and Chaplain to the College.