

# Update from the Protestant Chaplain: May 3, 2020

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Good Morning,

As I write this weekly letter, I am aware that the semester that we could not have ever imagined is about to end. The last day of classes is less than two weeks away. I feel like I'm just beginning to get the hang of this new remote life, but I am realizing how much I miss the way things used to be. I am sure things will be different, but studying in a residential setting has been a tradition for centuries. The question is, how will your experience in temporary remote learning shape your intellectual development? And how has this semester shaped your spiritual development?

Medieval monasteries where scholars would live as cloistered monks and nuns and participate in various roles: teacher, scribe, student, school administrator. These cloistered scholars would also be part of a community. They developed in solitude that fed into their development as community members.

I have a tradition of taking a silent retreat at a monastery each year. The four day retreat would involve being in my own room in a building with other people being in their rooms. None of us would speak to each other. We would eat together, go to services together. Between services and meals, we would be in our rooms, reading alone, talking only ourselves and to God. Then, on the fourth day, we would be allowed to talk during lunch. After which, we would go home.

What surprised me was how I felt like I had been in conversation with these people for three days. At the lunch, the conversation came quickly and it was as if we already knew each other. This is still a mystery to me. It was as if we were learning something from each other in our silence that was just as informative as constant conversation. I am wondering what it will be like for all of you as you return from your cloistered solitude. I am wondering how this experience may have shaped you in different ways. While it seems as if you were torn from school, in many ways, your remote learning experience may have widened your academic experience. There is so much emphasis placed on the social aspect of higher education. Perhaps we should revisit the ebb and flow of monastic life where the cycle of solitude is part of the building community.

These are mysteries for you to think about as you finish your remote learning semester. Seniors, I am looking forward to seeing you next year and celebrating your special day. I hope you are able to return. And for others, please come back – but when it's safe. You are a Williams student and you are living through one of the most important historical moments of your time. I am looking forward to hearing about your experiences and your insight. Good luck with the end of the semester – and please visit me either in the Thursday check out room or let's make an appointment via Zoom or Google hangout.

Peace and be well,

Rev. Valerie

**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. 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](mailto: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](mailto:rec4@williams.edu) for information about other ways you can provide support or Chloe Henderson at [cgh1@williams.edu](mailto: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](mailto:vb7@williams.edu)

Imam Sharif Rosen - 413-672-7048 — [sar4@williams.edu](mailto:sar4@williams.edu)

Rabbi Seth Wax - 617-460-3317 — [smw4@williams.edu](mailto:smw4@williams.edu)

Tracy Finnegan - 413-455-5790 — [tff1@williams.edu](mailto:tff1@williams.edu)

Nancy Luczynski - 413-597-2483 — [nluczyns@williams.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nluczyns@williams.edu) or call the office at 413-597-2483. Your voice message will automatically be sent to my computer here at home.

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