

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Caring for Community

BY JER

One of the Ten Commitments in Humanism is ethical development, working to become a better person. What does this look like? I wonder as I watch ladybugs bunch together on my chandelier for warmth. They stick together.

Is becoming a better person about taking care of one's community? Which community—work, family, friends, one's neighborhood, township, city? It can all become overwhelming. Where do we start? Should we, can we, serve more than one community?

I think of the University's food pantry, the one outside Spiritual Life. Each time I get groceries, I purchase items for it—soups, noodles, peanut butter. Having tended to the pantry last spring when the University's grounds were closed, I know that community members frequently visit it for foodstuffs. Contributing items to our pantry serves two communities, members of our University and members of Lynchburg City.

I also care for my community of artists. Each week, I send handwritten letters to writer friends in West Virginia, Maryland, and Arizona. I hold them close through cursive penmanship. I tend to the poems they send me, offer whatever advice swells inside as I read their heart work. Through our letters, we also talk about living during a pandemic, our hopes and fears. We hug each other through drawn hearts or flower stickers.

CONT'D ON P. 3



This issue:

"Caring for Community"
by Chaplain Bryant
PAGE 01

Dates to Remember
PAGE 02

Sympathies, Concerns,
and Congrats
PAGE 02

Helpful Links
PAGE 02

World Day of Prayer
Information
PAGE 03

Sympathies, Concerns, and Congrats

Congratulations to:

- **Gwen Mills** (Career & Professionalism Center) and her husband, Kent, on the birth of their grandson. Liam Pryde Guill was born on February 27, 2021, to their daughter, Taylor Mills Guill '17, and Christian Guill. He weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 22 inches long.



Our sympathies are extended to:

- **Jill Farley '99** MBA (Campus Store) whose father died on February 23, 2021. [Link](#) to obituary.

For a list of regularly scheduled fellowship group meetings, go to the [Spiritual Life webpage](#) and click on "Spiritual Organizations on Campus."

Like us on Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/LynchburgSLC>

Helpful Links on LinkTree at - [SpiritualLifeCenter](#)

Dates to Remember

Vespers

will resume virtually at 9 p.m. on the following Sundays:

March 7
March 21
April 4
April 18
May 2

(Use YouTube Link on page 3)

Wednesday, March 17
12:30 - 2 p.m. in the Dell

Catholic Campus
Ministry
St. Patrick's Day table -

Come by, guess the correct number and win a gift card

Friday, March 19
3 p.m.

Interfaith Panel on
Meditation

(Use YouTube Link on page 3)

Caring for Community (cont'd)

I extend this care of letters to writers on campus. In my Introduction to Creative Writing class, I write to each student concerning the pieces they create. I give thanks for their sharing, offer praise and careful criticism. I work to go beyond the standard feedback of this works and this doesn't. I see them as artists, encourage them to see themselves the same. I think of the kindness my mentors at West Virginia Wesleyan College extended to me, the heedful letters of encouragement and advice, letters that took time to write. Educating writers goes beyond a letter grade. I bring them into the community of art, demonstrating how we show each other respect through caring.

A considerable part of becoming a better person involves caring for others. We should not only be mindful of community during trying times. Every day is a trying time for someone. We can never be sure of what the members of our communities are experiencing in private. Perhaps we should always have community in the front of our minds, on the tips of our fingers. When we stick together, whatever that may look like, we remember warmth, our shared experience of being human. The blessing is our being in this together.

World Day of Prayer

MARCH 5, 2021

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

More info at www.worlddayofprayer.net



The Chaplain's Corner is a newsletter published by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) at the University of Lynchburg. We share campus concerns and updates, spiritual life events and activities, and words for the journey.

If you have a joy or concern you'd like to share, reply to this message, email the SLC office - spirituallife@lynchburg.edu, or call 434.544.8348. We only share with your permission. Current and previous issues are on the SLC page of the University website - www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual-life.



SPIRITUAL LIFE SERVICES
are live- streamed via our
YouTube Channel