

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Festival of Lights Shines Brightly

BY NATHAN

This past Sunday evening, the first ever large-scale Diwali celebration on our campus occurred.

Diwali, or Thibar as it is known in Nepal, is the Hindu Festival of Lights, which honors the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. The five-day celebration culminates on the third day with the Lakshmi puja when individuals usually decorate their homes with lights and lamps as they honor the goddess of wealth and prosperity, Lakshmi.

Our Hindu Community, many of whom are from Nepal, worked so hard to make this a special event on our campus. They decorated the Memorial Ballroom with lights, candles, and an altar devoted to Lakshmi. They made delicious food and desserts that were so good that after I enjoyed some, I left, drove home, got my family, and returned to the ballroom so they could enjoy the food too. Although, much to my kids' chagrin, they had run out of desserts by that point.

With over 100 people in attendance, the energy in the room was electric. Witnessing so many people singing and dancing brought a smile to my face for almost the entire time. The most memorable moments came when a handful of students shared their experiences on campus.

One student expressed their difficulty being so far from home, especially during particular religious and cultural celebrations. However, getting to celebrate Diwali on campus with new friends brought them such gratitude. Another shared that the University of Lynchburg has become his second home and was bursting with thankfulness that he was able to celebrate his culture on campus.

I often say that a delicious meal, with good people and great conversation, is a glimpse of the sacred. On Sunday, as I watched so many in our community eat, sing, dance, laugh, and celebrate together, it was clear this Festival of Lights was truly a bright light for our campus. May light and happiness be yours. Happy Diwali!



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**DONATE \$20 TO
★ RECEIVE A "BE KIND"
T-SHIRT**

PICK UP AT THE SLC

**SUPPORT
LYNCHBURG CARES
& GET SOME SWAG!**

**DONATE AT
PAYMENT.LYNCHBURG.EDU/LYNCHBURGCARES**

**BE KIND.
LOVE OTHERS.**

DONATE HERE

Upcoming Interfaith Holidays

November 26
Guru Nank's Birthday (Sikhism)

Dates to Remember

Weekly on Sundays in Snidow Chapel:

- 11 a.m. Worship with Church of the Covenant
- 4:30 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

Sympathies, Concerns, and Congrats

Congratulations to:

- **Dr. Danny Hedrick** (Sports Management) and his wife, Cynthia, on the birth of their grandson, Micah Everett Nixon, born to parents Sandra and Dylan Nixon on November 8, 2023. Micah weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces.



For more information about the Spiritual Life Center, including info on our student groups, go to our webpage - link in the email signature. You can also visit our Linktree (Link is in email).

The Chaplain's Corner is a newsletter published by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) at the University of Lynchburg. We share campus concerns (only with permission), updates, spiritual life events, and activities. Current and previous issues are on the SLC page of the University website - go to Link in signature (www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual-life) and click on "Newsletter."

Thursday, December 7

4 p.m. in Drysdale Living Room
POP-UP with Hot Chocolate, Hanukkah Cookies, and Gift Bags

Watch our social media regarding the
COFFEE CHAT WITH THE CHAPLAINS
Held on Tuesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at
the Spiritual Life Center (500 Brevard St.)

