

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Cultivating Peace

BY JER

“How can I be a presence of peace during so much chaos?”

This is the question I have repeatedly asked myself since the news broke of violence in Israel.

I took off a few days over midterm break, and with my Juzu (Buddhist prayer beads) in hand, I spent hours chanting. I meditated on a world where Oneness is fully realized. I read poetry by the late Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh.

Yes, as a chaplain, it is important for me to spiritually center myself so that I can care for others. In the spirit of Thich Nhat Hanh, I must have peace within so that I may create peace in the world. I lean on my twenty-year Buddhist practice to help me do so. I chant. I meditate. I cultivate calmness. I tend to all of those I have been called to care for. I, like so many Buddhist chaplains, strive to be a presence of peace for all faculty, staff, and students, no matter their faith or secular traditions. Even during chaos, we practice to remain centered.

I sit with those who are scared, those who are deeply grieving this violence. I go home and breathe carefully and deeply. I reset and come to campus again the next day ready to provide care for those who need a compassionate presence.

I wonder, dear reader, how you are caring for yourself through the chaos. How are you processing the images of war on tv and computer screens? Are you taking walks in nature? Are you visiting your place of worship? Are you checking in on friends and family?

Like me, are you meditating on or praying for peace?

I urge our community to think about members who are suffering. I urge us to exercise even more compassion for each other. We never know what burdens another may be carrying. Beings from multiple faith traditions are grieving this violence. May we be a loving presence for all. And do not forget that our University's wonderful counselors and chaplains are here to support you. Yes, one of the greatest gifts we are given is that of community. May we be a supportive and loving community today and always. May we keep peace within so that we may foster peaceful spaces for all. May a world of peace and Oneness come into being.



Calligraphy by Thich Nhat Hanh

This issue:

“Cultivating Peace”
by Chaplain Bryant
PAGE 01

Lynchburg Cares
Fundraiser
PAGE 02

Lavender Week Information
PAGE 02

Dates to Remember
PAGE 02

“When Do You Feel Safe?”
PAGES 02 AND 03

Homecoming
2023

LYNCHBURG CARES FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 21st

BE KIND
LOVE OTHERS
don't be a jerk, please.



- Stickers
- T-shirts
- & more!



Stop by our table at the tailgate!

LAVENDER WEEK 2023

OCTOBER
23

LGBT+ TRIVIA
WITH PRIZES! 5:30 PM OEI OFFICE



OCTOBER
24

KARAOKE
5:30 PM WESTOVER GRILL



OCTOBER
25

**COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION WITH
JAMIE PANDIT**
3:00 PM GOOGLE MEET



OCTOBER
26

PRIDE WALK & VIGIL
6:00 PM HOPWOOD STEPS



OCTOBER
27

ROCKY HORROR
WITH PRIZES! 7:00 PM SYDNOR



GENDER AND SEXUALITY ALLIANCE

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 Linkt.ree (Link is in email).

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

Friday, October 20

WHEN DO YOU FEEL SAFE?

- 12 p.m. Lunch panel - East Room
 - 3 p.m. Bullet melting ceremony - Outside Dillard Fine Arts Center (Rain location - Pavilion)
 - 5-7 p.m. Artist reception - Daura Museum of Art
 - Through Dec. 7 - Exhibition - Daura Museum of Art
- (See more details on page 3 poster)

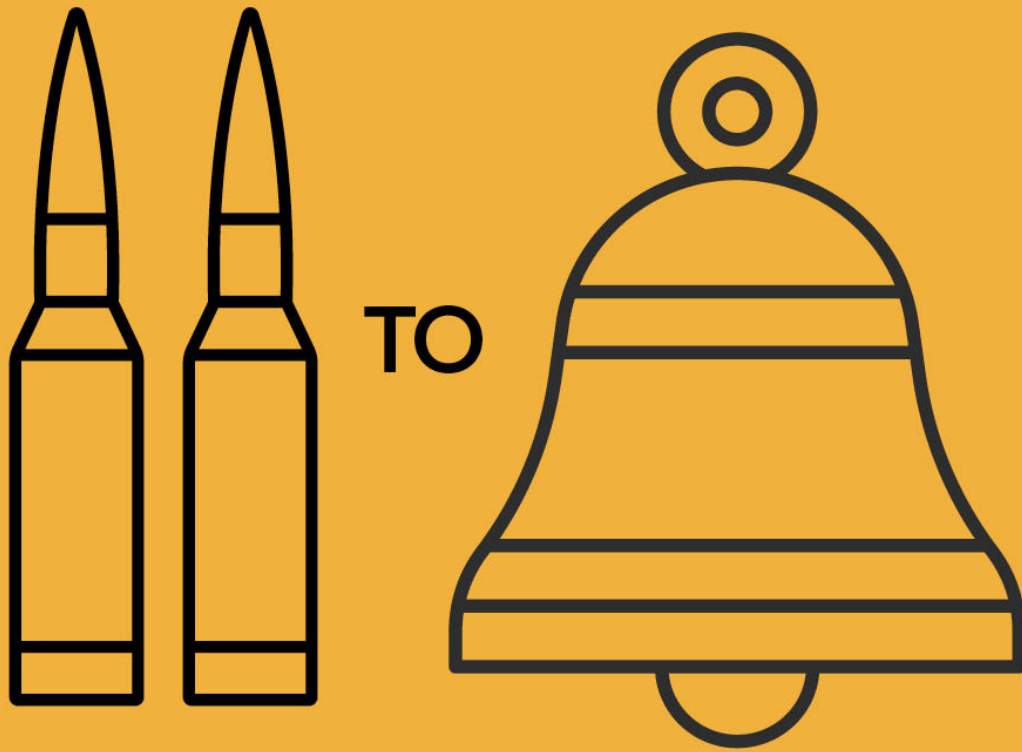
The week of October 23-27
is **LAVENDER WEEK**
(Details in box on Left)

Wednesday, November 1

8 p.m. in Snidow Chapel

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Anyone who has experienced a loss is invited. Contact the SLC to have a candle lit even if you cannot attend. Email SpiritualLife@lynchburg.edu or call 434.544.8348.



**FRIDAY
OCT. 20
2023**

WHEN DO YOU FEEL SAFE?



Mercedes is a Washington, D.C.-based artist who melts down weapons and turns them into musical instruments,

installations, and public works of art. She has exhibited and performed at The Bronx Museum, Queens Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Kennedy Center, and the National Gallery of Art.

"When do you feel safe?" was created in response to the current crisis of school shootings in the U.S. The project and installation will tour the country until school shootings stop.

"When do you feel safe?" is sponsored by the Roger C. Dowdy and Janie Wineman Dowdy Endowment for Initiatives in Peacebuilding through Spirituality and the Arts, the Spiritual Life Center, the Daura Museum of Art, and the Student Government Association.

PHOTO: AMIR POURMAND

Four events will be held at the University of Lynchburg:

- **Lunch panel discussion**, noon
Burton Dining Hall, East Room
(Lunch provided by Spiritual Life Center, campus community only)
- **Bullet melting ceremony**, 3 p.m.
Loading dock outside Dillard Fine Arts Center
- **Artist reception**, 5 p.m.
Daura Museum of Art
- **"When do you feel safe?" exhibition**, through Dec. 7
Daura Museum of Art

For more information,
email spirituallife@lynchburg.edu.



University of Lynchburg