

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Peacebuilding Through Spirituality and the Arts

BY MIMI

In my time as a Graduate Assistant at the Spiritual Life Center, there has been a lot to learn. Originally, I thought that it would be a daunting task to assist in supporting students who came from many different cultures, backgrounds, and religions, that while beautiful and diverse, were mostly unfamiliar to me. However, during my time here, I have found that each of these boil down to a spiritual foundation, which provides each of us a framework for understanding our connection to others and the universe. Each practice shares core values of compassion, empathy, and love, which promotes a sense of unity that transcends cultural and religious differences. From this foundation of peaceful coexistence, I was able to build upon the mission of peacebuilding given to my position.

My graduate assistantship was born through the The Roger C. Dowdy and Janie Wineman Dowdy Endowment for Initiatives in Peacebuilding through Spirituality and the Arts. I was given the mission of creating programmatic opportunities and initiatives for students and the University of Lynchburg community to explore how the arts and interfaith traditions can collaboratively impact peacebuilding for the common good. I was drawn to this position because I have always seen art as a universal language, with its ability to transcend barriers and communicate emotions, thoughts, and ideas. Whether through visual arts, literature, or music, these expressions evoke in each of us the essence of the shared human experience. Art has the ability to encourage dialogue and mutual respect while being a catalyst for change on topics such as injustice, inequality, and conflict. It has the unique power to inspire us towards activism and advocacy, by being able to recognize a piece of ourselves in the "other."

Often, it is challenging for us to find time in our busy lives to pause and reflect upon art, not only to cultivate our inner peace,

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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).

Peacebuilding (cont'd.)

but to confront the fundamental aspects of the human experience. Reflecting on this, I created a Reflective Online Exhibition (link in email) that is easily accessible to you anytime and anywhere. It is an opportunity to have a personal encounter with the arts in different forms and on varying topics. My hope for you is that you will take some time, each day or each week, to utilize this resource and the accompanying workbook, to embrace these interconnected realms that contribute to our global tapestry of understanding, compassion, and unity.



JENNIE CUTLER SHUMATE LECTURE

Jay Hulme

Transcending Expectations — Spiritual Calling in a Modern World

**Monday
Feb. 26, 2024
7 p.m.**

Snidow Chapel
University of Lynchburg

Jay Hulme is an award-winning transgender poet, speaker, and theologian. He also serves as churchwarden of an 1,100-year-old English church, teaches poetry, offers poetry writing workshops, and performs sensitivity reads. His lecture at Lynchburg will focus on his spiritual journey as a trans poet in the United Kingdom and how his faith shapes his life and work.

For more information, email the Spiritual Life Center at spirituallife@lynchburg.edu.

 University of Lynchburg
Undeniably Life-changing

The Chaplain's Corner is 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."

Upcoming Interfaith Holidays

February 24-25
Laylat al-Bara'ah (Islam)

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

Celebrating Black History Month

2024 GOSPEL CONCERT
Featuring Diamond Hill Baptist Church
Mass Choir
Sunday, February 25 - 4 p.m.
Sydnor Performance Hall
Schewel Hall

Monday, February 26
7 p.m. in Snidow Chapel
JENNIE CUTLER SHUMATE LECTURE
Jay Hulme - speaker
(See box at left for details)