

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Divine Presence

BY JER

Last Thursday, I was on campus late. I had just finished attending a wonderful lecture by a visiting scholar, Dr. Sawyer Kemp, and I was walking from the Memorial Ballroom back to my car. The wind was blowing in the way that wind often does—majestically and softly. I stopped at the big tree near Carnegie.

I notice this tree a lot.

I often find myself wanting to wrap my arms around it.

What is it about this beautiful tree?

There are times in my life when I feel the Divine in nature. I am known for asking, “Do you feel God in that rock?” I have been known to weep at Collins Creek near Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. My grandmother’s name was Collins.

Ram Dass once said, “The Universe is an example of love. Like a tree. Like the ocean. Like my body. Like my wheelchair. I see the love.” What a beautiful and radical way to see the world, a place where love (and maybe even the Divine) pulses through everything!

I had a great spiritual awakening in my thirty-ninth year. I more sharply began to see God in all people; it was something I believed—the way one may believe that the stars shine to remind us of wishing and hoping—but I really started to feel in the very core of my being that God lives in all. Years later, I still carry this with me. When I look at my students, I see God. When I look at my coworkers, I see God. When I look at the big tree near Carnegie, I see God.

What would our world be like if we saw the Divine in each face we encountered? Would we forgive more? We would judge less? Would we love unconditionally? I leave you with these questions, dear reader. I leave you with hope for seeing beauty and goodness in each other. I leave you with a prayer for love and all things holy to be present for you each day.

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



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by Chaplain Bryant

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THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER PRESENTS THE

Online Reflective Exhibition

"AT YOUR OWN PACE" EXPERIENCE
FREE WORKBOOK PROVIDED

Connect with your spirituality through art!

LINK IN THE EMAIL

QUESTIONS? EMAIL: SPIRITUALIFE@LYNCHBURG.EDU

Join us for

DOGGIES IN THE DELL

Thursday, April 4th
3-5 p.m.
in the Dell

Rain Date: April 11th

Registration links for:

- Doggies
- Owners
- Volunteers

can be found in the email!



Upcoming Interfaith Holidays

March 10 - April 9
Ramadan (Islam)

April 9-12
Eid al-Fitr (Islam)



Dates to Remember

Thursday, April 4 - 3-5 p.m.
DOGGIES IN THE DELL
(See box at left. Rain date is April 11)

Monday, April 8 - 5 p.m.
Front Yard of the Spiritual Life Center
(Rain location is Schewel 231)
BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY
WITH TEA AND HONEY
AND MEDITATION