Welcome to the Chaplain’s Corner newsletter. If you have a joy or concern you’d like to share with our staff, send an e-mail, or call us at 434-544-8348. We only share concerns with the campus community, via newsletter or e-mail, with permission. You can view current and previous issues of our newsletter (in PDF format) on the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) page of the Lynchburg website—www.lynchburg.edu/student-life/spiritual-life/.

A Message of Peace

John 20:19-20
On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

In the days after the crucifixion, the disciples moved secretly around the city. They moved quietly, looking over their shoulders in fear, trying to process the horror of what had happened to their master.

We find ourselves as modern-day Christians sometimes battling with fears ourselves. Whether it’s disease, financial troubles, employment issues, school issues, or changes in social norms, it seems the list of reasons that we might have fears grows longer by the day.

When you look at the text of John 20, we see Jesus shows up during the disciples’ gathering and immediately seeks to ease their fears and their tensions. In our lives Christ comes not just as conquering Lord who defeats death, but also as a comforting consult and competent friend who by his presence and his words seeks to help us better deal with the crazy world in which we live.

Almost daily I find something in the news or my local neighborhood that causes me to scratch my head and or causes me to seriously pause and battle with my own thoughts, feelings, and emotions. It is in these times, when I see things that make me uneasy and sometimes feel unsafe, that I turn to Christ. Christ comes to ease our feelings, provide inspiration, and help us to find direction.

I invite you, in your moments of discomfort, to not lean on your fears, and not fall into despair. Instead, turn to Christ and the comfort that he provides. Also, don’t disconnect the other lesson of the text: when they could change the situation, or they didn’t even know how to deal with the situation, they didn’t turn their backs on each other. Instead, they pulled closer together. Make sure you don’t withdraw from, but instead learn to lean into, your community of faith. And together with God’s help, you will get through, whatever you have to go through.

Be Blessed,

By Rev. Kevin McNeil
Campus Pastor

Concerns
Our sympathies are extended to:
• Jeremy Craft (Music), whose great aunt died.
• Ryan Walsh (grad student, Hull, MA) on the death of her grandmother.

Doggies in the Dell

Wednesday, April 25, 2018
3-5 p.m.
Register your dog

Faculty & staff bring their dogs, providing students with stress relief and joy!

Sponsored by Office of Residence Life and the Spiritual Life Center

Dates to Remember

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<th>Date/Time/Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 7 5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>InFaith Worship Spring Concert</td>
<td>Free admission ODU Gospel Choir and more Contact Ashley Moore for more information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 19 5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Israeli Independence Celebration</td>
<td>Mediterranean food, music, drumming, volleyball, corn hole. Sponsored by LC Hillel</td>
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Regularly Scheduled Meetings
For a list of our regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year, go to the Spiritual Life webpage and click on “Spiritual Organizations on Campus.”

Spiritual Life Center
500 Brevard Street 434.544.8348
Send e-mail messages to spirituallife@lynchburg.edu