



Fall 9-20-1999

IWU Chaplain's Office Meets Educational and Ecumenical Goals

Jessica Munds
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Munds, Jessica, "IWU Chaplain's Office Meets Educational and Ecumenical Goals" (1999).
News and Events. 842.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/842>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Sept. 20, 1999

Contact: Jessica Munds, 309/556-3181

IWU Chaplain's Office Meets Educational and Ecumenical Goals

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Seventeen services designed to be educational and ecumenical--with topics ranging from Catholicism, Judaism, Protestantism, Black Liberation Theology, and special events dealing with social and ethical issues--will be presented this fall semester at the Illinois Wesleyan University's Evelyn Chapel. These programs are sponsored by the IWU University Chaplain's office and the Evelyn Chapel Advisory Board.

Dennis E. Groh, university chaplain and a 1961 graduate of IWU, states that, "Illinois Wesleyan is a special place where people can pursue a number of religious options where the religious devotees show respect and caring for each other."

In an innovative move, the University Chaplain's office has developed a website at [<http://titan.iwu.edu/~chaplain/>] giving the addresses and phone numbers of the chaplain's staff, IWU religious organization advisors or contact persons, and a selected directory of Bloomington-Normal churches and other places of worship. The website, created to fulfill a long-standing need for a directory that can be easily updated and available at any time, also includes a full list of the services to be held at Evelyn Chapel during the fall semester.

The following events will be held, unless otherwise noted, at Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday mornings:

- Sept. 22, "Excelling in Stress," Rev. Bradley E. Watkins II, Pastor, Wesley-Bethel United Methodist Church, East. St. Louis, Ill.
- Sept. 26, Family Day Service, (Sunday, 10 a.m.).
- Sept. 29, "Blessed Rage for Others," University Chaplain Dennis E. Groh.
- Oct. 3, Seventy-Five Years at Illinois Wesleyan: Sigma Alpha Iota Anniversary Chapel, (Sunday, 10 a.m.).
- Oct. 6, "Finding the Still, Small Voice," Faculty Credo Chapel, Professor J. Scott Ferguson, associate professor of music and director of choral activities, Illinois Wesleyan University.
- Oct. 13, "Hearing Women's Voices Speak Torah," Rabbi Susan Talve, Central Reform Congregation, St. Louis, Mo.

- Oct. 20, "Bright Lights Shining in the Darkness," Rev. James E. Fouthner, 1986 IWU graduate, Senior Minister, Church of the Open Door (United Church of Christ), Miami, Fla., co-sponsored by Multi-Cultural Affairs.
- Oct. 24, "Connecting with Your College Home," Homecoming Chapel, University Chaplain Dennis E. Groh. (Sunday, 10 a.m.).
- Oct. 27, "Finders Keepers," Fr. Ron Palmer, Pastor, St. Anthony Church, Bartonville, Ill.
- Nov. 3, A Service of Contemporary Christian Music.
- Nov. 10, Faculty Credo, Professor Ruth Ann Friedberg, associate professor of accounting, Illinois Wesleyan University.
- Nov. 17, University Community Hymn Sing.
- Nov. 18, "Martin, Malcolm, and Black Liberation Theology," Professor James Cone, Charles A. Briggs Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology, Union Theological Seminary, New York, co-sponsored by Multi-Cultural Affairs and the Departments of history and religion,

(Thursday, 7:30 p.m., C101, Center for Natural Sciences).
- Dec. 1, Student Senate AIDS Awareness Chapel.
- Dec. 2, Hanukkah Celebration. Rabbi Theodore Gordon, IWU Associate Chaplain, (Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center).
- Dec. 8, All University Christmas Chapel.
- Dec. 10, Joint Midnight Advent Communion Service: Illinois Wesleyan University and the Wesley Foundation of Illinois State University, University Chaplain Dennis E. Groh and Rev. C. Raydean Davis, (Friday).

Future religious programming events for the spring semester will feature the speaking engagement of Professor James Tabor of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Professor Tabor will speak on the events at Waco, Texas, and other millennial groups as part of the university chaplain's focus upon the millennium. In addition to this speech, the millennium will also bring an organ concert, featuring both past and present Evelyn Chapel organists, later in the spring semester.

The University Chapel Hour seeks to provide interesting, informative, and aesthetically satisfying religious worship and programming for a university community of all

religions, in keeping with the importance of co-curricular programs in aiding the mission of the University.

In choosing programs for each semester, Groh looks to the diverse Evelyn Chapel Advisory Board, comprised of representatives from the Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim faith, in order to achieve an ecumenical balance. The Advisory Board works to create an atmosphere where students from each religious group can worship and learn from each other in a multi-faith community.

Other elements of religious programming are influenced by requests from IWU faculty in order to fit a particular curriculum, personal student requests, and, most importantly, the availability of speakers. Chaplain Groh states that the choice of a Wednesday speaking engagement is a hindrance to some speakers who may have to leave work to come to IWU to speak.

In 1998, IWU students represented 29 different Christian faiths and 10 other religious and cultural groups. 1999 figures are not yet available.

Past events this semester at Evelyn Chapel has included services for first-year students and their families and a celebration of the Jewish High Holidays, led by Rabbi Theodore Gordon, IWU associate chaplain.

Information on the University Chapel Hour and other religious services held on the IWU campus may be obtained by calling Evelyn Chapel at (309)556-3005.