Tao-te Tien-tsun is a Taoist festival celebrated on the 15th day of the second lunar month. This festival celebrates the birthday of Lao Tzu, the founder of Taoism and author of the Tao te Ching (Taoist scripture). The festival also celebrates the Three Pure Ones (Taoist trinity): Yu-ch’ing, Shang-ch’ing and T’ai-ch’ing. They are believed to be different manifestations of Lao Tzu. The third of the three purities, T’ai-ch’ing, also known as the Grand Pure One, is said to be the direct manifestation of Lao Tzu.

2019 DATE: MARCH 21

HISTORY AND MEANING
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TYPICAL OBSERVANCES
- Taoists live simply and peacefully. They respect life and recognize the equality of all.
- Observers pray, make offerings, sing, dance and invoke the deities.

TIPS FOR SUPPORTING THE VANDERBILT COMMUNITY
- While students are not automatically excused from class for this observance, they may work with their faculty members to make accommodations. Graduate and professional students must refer to their own school and departmental vacation policies and calendars for more specific information.
- Staff members may request paid time off for this observance. Support their preference to take leave for their religious observance.

RESOURCES FOR MANAGING WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH
People feel many types of emotions during the holidays—joy, peace, stress and depression, to name a few. Whatever you feel, know you are not alone, and Vanderbilt has resources to help you through these challenges.

Faculty, Staff and Postdocs
Work/Life Connections-EAP
(615) 936-1327
vumc.org/health-wellness/work-life

Students
Office of Student Care Coordination
(615) 343-9355
vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination

This resource is part of a toolkit created by Equity, Diversity and Inclusion to highlight religious and cultural observances that members of our community may practice. This toolkit is not meant to be exhaustive, but instead to provide a general overview of how we can support staff, faculty and students. We continually refine this information and welcome your suggestions.

For more information, please contact Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at edi@vanderbilt.edu. For more information on the university’s policy on religious holy days and observances, contact the Office of the University Chaplain & Religious Life, at religiouslife@vanderbilt.edu or Human Resources at human.resources@vanderbilt.edu.

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