

Dear NU Family,

This past week was the conclusion of my favorite holiday of the year, Thanksgiving. I look forward to it every year, and I am already looking forward to it again next year. If you ask most people what makes Thanksgiving special to them, the common response will be spending time with people they love. Food, of course, comes in close second, especially for me, since my weakness is dark chocolate or almost any kind of dessert!

While this holiday is special for many, there are also those who struggle with it due to difficult relationship dynamics. A recent conversation led me to understand just how painful holidays can be for some, since the individual I was speaking with was looking for another option rather than going home.

As I return back to the regular routine at NU, I am reflecting on the words of Peter as he encourages us, above all else, to love each other deeply (Greek: fervently) because love covers a multitude of wrongs. He also expects us to offer hospitality to one another without grumbling (1 Peter 4:8,9). This week, there are those who are returning from broken homes, family struggles, relationships that are less than perfect, and friendships that have grown cold. However, we can be thankful that we enjoy a community at NU that has chosen to love one another. I am reminded of the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear". Choose love as you return to school and work. Be thankful for the community of love around you, and if you feel a sense of loneliness, be the first to extend love to others, and you will see it grow in you as well.

*Jesus, thank you for the love you have demonstrated to us by loving us with a fervent, deep love. Help us continue to be a community who loves one another beyond our differences and beyond our mistakes. Help us to be thankful for the community we call NU. In Jesus name, Amen.*

#### **COMING UP THIS WEEK**

**Mon, Nov 27** | Chapel: Brandon Riel | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

**Mon, Nov 27** | Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

**Wed, Nov 29** | Chapel: Student Speakers | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

**Fri, Dec 1** | Chapel: Student Speakers | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

**Fri, Dec 1** | Christmas Tree Lighting | Argue HSC Patio, 6:30pm



**GLOBAL MISSIONS**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE - DEC 4TH**

Due by December 4th 5pm in the Campus Ministry office. Applications can be found online.

In Christ,

Phil