

Dear NU Community,

I love the spirit and passion of our Campus Ministries leadership team to see people grow in their faith in Christ. Spiritual formation is at the heart of Northwest University and our Campus Pastor Christian Dawson, along with Megan Netherton and key students leaders, work very hard to lead that charge. One of the tools for spiritual transformation that the team has developed is an online devotional that now has over 35,000 views. They are written by students, staff, faculty, and alumni of Northwest University. You can find these devotionals at www.northwestudevo.com. This past week, we read one of the devotionals in chapel, written by Ilona Trofimovich, Northwest University Alumna, class of 2014. I would like to share it in this email.

As an alumna of Northwest University, I can say with conviction that when my friends and I look back on our time there, one of the most meaningful aspects of the experience was the community: student leaders who walked us through difficult seasons, professors who challenged our thinking, coaches who pushed us to our limits, and peers who helped deconstruct our misconceptions about each other and the world.

However, I can also say with conviction that there were myriad moments during our years on campus that we lamented that same community. We saw the good, but also the bad, and the ugly.

Richard Plass and James Cofield in their book, The Relational Soul, argue that "in the midst of broken, sinful, frustrating people, God's Spirit is at work creating a transformed community. God is not surprised by our brokenness...In fact, it is in and by the messiness that God does the supernatural work of drawing us into the likeness of his Son" (119).

God's Spirit calls us to humbly engage with each other, acknowledging our limitations as we journey together towards Christlikeness. Let us not make the mistake to demand of our relationships the perfection, understanding, and acceptance only God provides. Instead, may we immerse ourselves in the complex, refining process of communal living, knowing we desperately need it.

Read [Romans 12:10-18](#)

Question to Consider

How might I engage with the people in my community in a way that promotes mutual love, accountability, and growth?

Prayer

Jesus, grant me the courage to vulnerably and authentically participate in the lives of those around me. May I embrace the messiness of relationships, let go of the illusion of perfect people, and engage in the tough yet rewarding process of Godly community.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, Feb 12 | Chapel: Abby Stovall | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

Mon, Feb 12 | Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

Wed, Feb 14 | Chapel: Pastor Jeff Vanderstelt, Doxa Church – Why Jesus? | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Fri, Feb 16 | Chapel: Pastor Christian Dawson – Why Racism? | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Thanking God for our community today,

Phil Rasmussen

Vice President – Campus Ministry and Church Relations

425.889.5308 (office)

206.909.9488 (mobile)

Phil.Rasmussen@Northwestu.edu | northwestu.edu

Instagram @prasmussen

