Greetings, North Park Students, Faculty, and Staff:

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas break approaching, and new safety protocols starting Monday it’s crucial that we fight off Pandemic Fatigue. Let’s prevent ourselves from falling into bad habits by maintaining our good ones; specifically, using the Campus Clear App! While we may not be coming to campus every day during break, the app should remain a vital part of our daily routine, a way to “check in” with ourselves regarding symptoms and general health. Plus, continuing to use the app will ease our transition back to campus in the spring, making it smoother and safer.

Virtual Festival of Lessons and Carols
Just like everything else in 2020, North Park’s beloved Festival of Lessons and Carols will look a little different this year. The school of Music, Art, and Theatre pulled together to make sure the annual Christmas tradition will take place, virtually, with the involvement of seven ensembles: Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band, University Choir, Chamber Singers, Gospel Choir, and Women’s Chorale.

The performance will also include eight speakers, including President Mary K. Surridge and Campus Co-Pastors Terence Gadsden and Laura Kraybill. Each part of the festival is being recorded in the evening at Anderson Chapel (to maintain consistent lighting), with some performances being recorded by students from their homes.

The event, which is being produced by Atlas Production Company, will air Sunday, December 6 at 4 p.m. on YouTube and Facebook. Mark your calendars!

Dr. Rebecca Ryan, interim Dean of SMAT, says the performers followed stringent safety protocols.

“Recordings were being done with masks, distance, and in short intervals with time in between so the room is vacated for additional ventilation. These measures have been pillars of our risk mitigation strategy all semester!”

Contact Tracing Class to be Offered Spring Semester
Are you interested in learning what it takes to be a contact tracer? North Park is offering a class on the subject for Spring Quad A. In this class, you will learn about how Covid spreads, the different methods of contact tracing, and strategies for managing infectious disease epidemics. The course will also discuss the ethics of contact tracing and how to talk to people who might be skeptical about it. For more information, contact Jose-Jose Palma at 877-772-0462 or jpalma@northpark.edu.

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

You're about to head home for the holidays, which means you'll be having lively dinner conversations with your family about politics, pandemics, and more. Take some time to consider different points of view. Read articles from a newspaper with a different media slant than your own; watch a newscast you normally would shy away from. The world could use a little more empathy these days, especially around the holidays!

**Keeping you in the loop**

The University is reporting all cases that involve campus community members beginning August 1, 2020. As of today, 17 cases have been confirmed in the past 7 days; 34 in the past 14 days; and 135 cases since August 1.

Until next week: mask up, keep your distance, and stay healthy!

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