

New Beginnings

July 2020



Nick & Amy Modrzejewski

Missionaries on the campus of University of Illinois with Illini Life Christian Fellowship

i-life Summer Service Trying New Things

As we shared in our last update we have continued to hold our weekly large group service digitally this summer since the University is not offering in person instruction for summer classes.

Services over Zoom have worked quite well. Each week we have a worship leader lead us through 2 songs of worship, then we have a 15-20 minute message, and head into breakout rooms for discussion. It has been a sweet mix of being “together” while separate and engaging in a more intimate setting as we discuss and apply the teaching to our lives in our breakout rooms.

Nick and Amy have attended a few Trivia Nights over Zoom hosted by Arlington Countryside Church in the Chicago suburbs where Nick’s twin brother is a pastor. We thought it was a great idea for fun and inviting new people to engage with a church community. A few weeks ago we hosted our own Trivia Night here in Illini Life and it was a blast! Our students loved it and are excited to have more this coming semester.

In the isolating times of Covid-19 it has been encouraging to find new ways to remove the distance barrier and welcome new faces to our community. We’re thankful for the technology that allows that, and pray God will work through our efforts during this pandemic.

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Where We Live

Semester Ahead Students Returning

Across the country schools at all levels are asking the questions and seeking guidance for how to, if possible, safely return to instruction. The University of Illinois is no different. **Earlier this summer the University declared their intent to offer in-person instruction again this Fall.** They are working through protocols for social distancing, Covid-19 testing accessibility for all faculty and staff, and other health safety guidelines.

The situation continues to evolve but we are confident students will be returning in one month’s time, leading us to work through our own convictions and considering how to safely continue our mission to reach the campus for Jesus. We hope you’ll pray with us for wisdom and clarity as we work under the local authorities and the University mandates.

One thing is certain at this point: we will not be able to gather in person as an entire church body; the statewide limit of gathering sizes remains at 50 or less. In all likelihood we will be offering a live-stream Sunday Service with in-person Small Groups this fall semester, and we continue brainstorming how to do outreach in a socially distanced era as well.

Prayer Requests

- For Amy, Nick, and Nathan to be encouraged in the Lord and fruitful in ministry, especially during this difficult time.
- For wisdom as we plan for students returning to campus this fall semester.
- For health and safety of the campus community as the University resumes in-person instruction.

