

New Beginnings

November 2020



Nick & Amy Modrzejewski

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



Sunday Service Livestream

Campus Life Special Events

As we near Thanksgiving, we are reflecting on just how different life is these days than it was a year ago. The U of I takes a week off for Fall Break the week of Thanksgiving. This year however, it marks the end of in-person instruction for the semester. Like much of the country we are resuming remote learning for the remainder of the year. Although this was the University's plan since August, it is sad to think we won't have opportunities to see students in person again until late January.

Like many churches, we continue to gather digitally on Sundays via our YouTube livestream. Student small groups had been meeting outdoors, with masks on. On Sundays a few small groups had gathered socially distanced and masked at 2 outdoor "watch party" locations to view the livestream. The limited social interaction available to us these days seems to have increased the desire for community in our church. Small groups have reported new visitors most weeks this fall, and our watch parties were well attended each week, even as the temperature dropped.

With the University going back to full remote learning, we will be as well, offering our small groups on Zoom once again and continuing our service livestream. You can find our service recordings at youtube.com/illinilife if you're interested.

Much of the ways we have traditionally done outreach have not been available to us this Fall Semester. Our free coffee ministry is on hold until the pandemic subsides. Large group fun events like volleyball tournaments or scavenger hunts are not possible either. Instead we've relied on some creative ways of adapting activities to the digital space.

In the past we've shared about Trivia Night over Zoom. We've been able to do that a few times and our students have enjoyed it and been able to invite roommates and friends to join them. We also hosted an outdoor scavenger hunt in small teams, using Zoom as the central gathering and reporting place for the hunt. We've also had small groups organize online game nights and Netflix watch parties. All these events have been digital and Covid safe.

The adaptability of our church has been a great encouragement to us. As we seek to still be the church and represent Christ to those around us, it has been a joy to have a committed core of our leaders and students with us, even if only through a screen each week.

Prayer Requests

- For Amy, Nick, and Nathan to be encouraged in the Lord and fruitful in ministry, despite the pandemic-induced barriers we face.
- For health and safety of students and the campus community as everyone returns to fully remote learning.
- For a restful fall break and good end to the semester.

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Where We Live

