

New Beginnings

September 2020



Nick & Amy Modrzejewski

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



Sunday Service On YouTube

Campus Life Small Groups

We are a few weeks into the school year here at Illinois. Students were welcomed too campus with a strict Covid policy, Illini branded face masks, a contact tracing app, and a requirement to have a negative Covid test every 4 days to enter campus buildings. The University has made national news as a saliva-based test was developed here and yields rapid results (same day). We hope all these procedures and frequent testing keeps our community, students, and campus safe.

Like many parts of the world we remain under public health restrictions prohibiting large group gatherings in an effort to minimize the spread of the virus. A gathering size limit of 50 people is in place, and is only allowed provided those individuals can remain 6 feet apart. When considering the spaces available for us to meet in, we concluded we would not be able to gather in person for our Sunday Service this fall semester. Nick and a few individuals have set up a space in our office on campus to live-stream our service each week. We're encouraging small groups (generally around 10-15 people right now) to gather together to attend the service each week. So while Nick preaches to a camera in our office, the church watches as small groups through screens around town.

You can find our service recordings at [youtube.com/illinilife](https://www.youtube.com/illinilife) if you're interested.

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Where We Live

With some students being present on campus and some remaining home for online classes we have adopted a hybrid model of small groups this semester. On Thursday nights Amy gathers with a group of students in Ikenberry Commons (formerly the 6-Pack for you alumni). They sit outside in a big circle wearing masks as they catch-up on life, study the Bible together, and share prayer requests.

That same night, Nick logs onto Zoom from home to attend an online small group while Nathan sleeps. Some of the members of that group are higher risk for Covid, while others are continuing their coursework from home rather than campus this semester. They work through the same Bible study material and share prayer requests in smaller breakout Zoom groups.

This has all been working rather well. We appreciate having both options as it allows students to switch between groups if they contract the virus and have to go into quarantine, as well as allows our students who remained at home this semester to still be engaged. As of this past week, we've had a couple dozen new students attend small groups. We're excited to continue to faithfully reach out to campus even if that looks pretty different right now.

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.
- For small groups to thrive and outreach to be fruitful.



Mornings with Illini Life

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