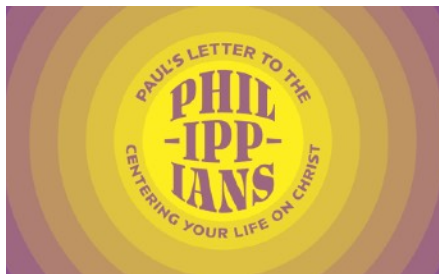


New Beginnings

January 2021



Nick & Amy Modrzejewski
 Missionaries on the campus of University of Illinois with Illini Life Christian Fellowship



Semester Start Sunday Service

Campus Life Small Groups

Hello! As we write to you; students are beginning classes for the Spring Semester after a longer than usual winter break. The university chose to extend winter break and eliminate spring break this year to reduce the risk of Covid exposure due to travel.

Some students are excited about attending their first in-person class since last March! The University continues to hold to frequent Covid testing, social distancing, and mask wearing requirements to keep the campus community safe. We are more than happy to continue abiding by those requirements to continue ministry in-person as much as is safe and possible.

A few weeks ago we kicked-off the semester with a Sunday service casting vision for the Spring. This past Sunday, Nick began our 4 week sermon series covering the book of Philippians - an excellent example of believers building each other up from afar.

On Sunday mornings we continue to offer 2 outdoor locations for small groups to gather and watch our livestream service. As well, this semester we began offering a Zoom room for individuals to remotely "attend" service together. Like so many, we are making the most of what we have available as we continue to "not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing." Hebrews 10:24

With the start of the semester several of our small group bible studies have been eager to meet in person after the long winter break. To facilitate their meeting in a safe way, some of our staff and volunteers have made their garages available for semi-outdoor meeting places. With propane heaters warming the space, students bundle up and gather in masks in an open garage for a Bible study. The desire to be together and to study the word together has been so encouraging for us to see.

Other small groups continue to meet online over Zoom for Bible study, accommodating those at greater risk and those doing full remote learning this semester. Reports from the first small groups were encouraging, as most groups were overjoyed to be gathering again after a break for the holidays.

Despite cold weather and geographic distance we continue to strive to be the church and build each other up. We're excited to see the continued spiritual growth of our church despite the challenges of these days. We hope you'll join us in praying for that as well.

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.
- For the spiritual growth and maturity of all who call Illini Life their church home.

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