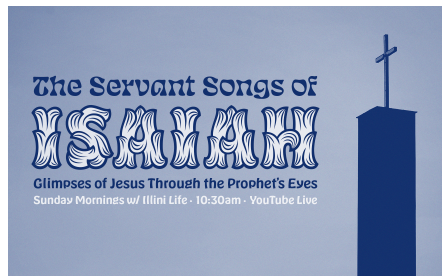


New Beginnings

March 2021



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



Mid-Semester No Spring Break

Campus Life Outdoor Gatherings

Hello, and Happy Spring! This past week marked what would have typically been Spring Break here at U of I, indicating we are halfway through the semester. Nothing about this school year has been typical though. Back in December the University decided to delay the start of the semester by a week and eliminate Spring Break. All in an effort to minimize mass travel to and from campus and the resulting increased Covid exposure to the community.

Students have largely been accepting of all the changes this school year has brought, but there was a noticeable sadness and weariness this past week. As the weather began to get nicer and classes continued plodding forward toward their May 5th end, students shared their longing for a break.

We in Illini Life were sad to miss out on a Spring Break this year as well, a traditional time for service projects and missions trips.

It worked nicely then that Wednesday was a day off from classes, the weather was warm, and the sun made an appearance a few times. Some of our small groups got together to chalk the main quad inviting campus to our Easter service and small groups. Others gathered outside at Jarlings, a local favorite frozen custard shop.

With the weather turning warmer we have begun to plan for more outdoor gatherings as a church. We have an All Church Meeting scheduled for a few weeks from now. We'll meet just off campus in the backyard of one of our Elders. This will be the first time we have gathered the future church IN PERSON in over a year.

Our plan for this time is to begin reconnecting and re-envisioning for the coming school year. We'll be sharing our hopes and goals for outreach, evangelism, small group growth and church direction for the coming year. Like many churches, we are eager to regather and move forward, but are working to be wise and careful in how we do that. For now, masked, distanced, outdoor gatherings seem to be the best option for us.

Similarly, we are working on plans for our final service of this semester, one we traditionally call Celebration Sunday as we celebrate what God has done this past school year and offer baptisms. Currently we have 2 young believers who are interested in being baptized. We're excited to work out the details of how to go about that in a safe and celebratory way that final Sunday.

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 perseverance as our students continue their coursework and many serve in the church.
- For the health and safety of all in Illini Life as we regather a few times, outdoor, in person.

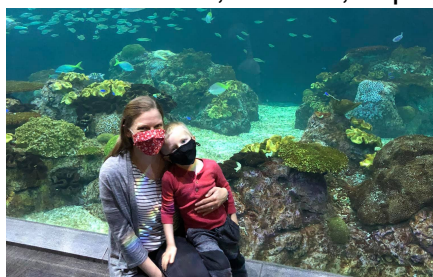
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