

New Beginnings

June 2026



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



Summer Church Outreach & Fall Prep

We hope this finds you well as intense heat grips much of the country. Summer has certainly arrived here in Illinois. The air conditioned Illini Union is busy with activity while much of campus is quiet and empty. World Cup followers gather to watch matches on the big screen, while new students begin orientation and their campus visits, exiting the air condition and streaming across campus.

Each week we spend Thursday mornings walking campus and praying for the new students and the coming school year. Then we chalk campus sidewalks inviting students to Illini Life. These Thursday mornings have been an encouraging and fruitful time to be on campus engaging with incoming students as much as possible. The first week we were chalking, a new graduate student stopped and read "Looking for a church?" that we were writing and said "Yes, I am, can you tell me about your church?" How cool that God crossed our paths that morning to meet this student's need and desire!

On Tuesday afternoons Nick gathers the staff of Illini Life to disciple and encourage them. This summer

we are reading through Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis and discussing it together. Our young staff team had never read this classic work that remains an excellent and profitable read for any believer. On Tuesday evenings one of our lay elders and his family host a cookout each week. They invite neighbors and friends, in addition to our church and it has become a core event to invite new students we are meeting on campus.

While campus is quieter over the summer months, we are still busy finding ways to engage with the students present and the incoming students preparing for the coming school year. As a staff team we spend time regularly planning fun events for the fall semester, reviewing the campus calendar and planning around it, and preparing for the return of the over 60,000 students enrolled here at Illinois.

We invite you to pray for our summer outreach initiatives and for our planning and preparing for the fall semester.

Prayer Requests

- For summer outreach opportunities and initiatives like chalking and New Student Orientation.
- For the staff of Illini Life to be encouraged and built up as we study together.
- For fall semester planning and preparation to be fruitful.

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Where We Live

