CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

UNC-CHAPEL HILL

SEPT 2020

One week



Pray for the Smiths

-Pray for creative ideas to reach **freshmen**. Most are back home, tired of things on zoom and we need wisdom in connecting with them.

-Pray for our **staff team** of 9. Pray this would be a rich season for our own walks with the Lord. Pray that we would trust Him even though things look so different than we had hoped for UNC.

-Pray for our **kids** (Harrison, 9 and Allie, 4). Their school years have also been upended. Pray they would have good attitudes and that we would all love each other well during all this togetherness. (See picture above of our new puppy addition- Hobbes!)

-Pray for the **Bible study** I help lead for upperclassmen women on Sunday nights. Pray for our time studying I Peter to be transformational.

The Fall 2020 semester, as we had pictured it, lasted 7 days. Students were sent home for online learning due to Covid after one week at UNC. It has been bizarre to be around Chapel Hill without students here. And it has caused ministry to look quite different. Nevertheless, we have had plenty of things to celebrate! Here are a few:

-During the week students were on campus we were able to conduct surveys to gauge spiritual interest. 600 new students filled these out! We have been following up with these students over text and Facetime.

-most Juniors and Seniors don't live in dorms and were able to stay in Chapel Hill. So we are still able to meet with many of them in person.

-we are still able to do our Weekly Meeting on zoom and have had around 75 students joining for that each Thursday.

-Bible studies are still happening over zoom as well.



We were surprised things changed so abruptly, but God wasn't. He's still at work at UNC and we are thankful for glimpses of that!

Still Connecting

We are in the throes of trying to navigate virtual ministry. Thankfully we have amazing student leaders who have had some fun ideas to help students still connect. We have done a prayer series where we pray for a different topic each month (racial justice, essential workers, our partnership with East Asia). Our community team has planned a trivia night on zoom. And another group of students planned "Zoom Pals." Here's the description- "Small groups of students meeting virtually each week to chat and collectively fight the boredom of online school." Pray these events will help students not feel so isolated. (And check out our instagram account to see what we have going on- cruature)