

JUSTIN & TARAH

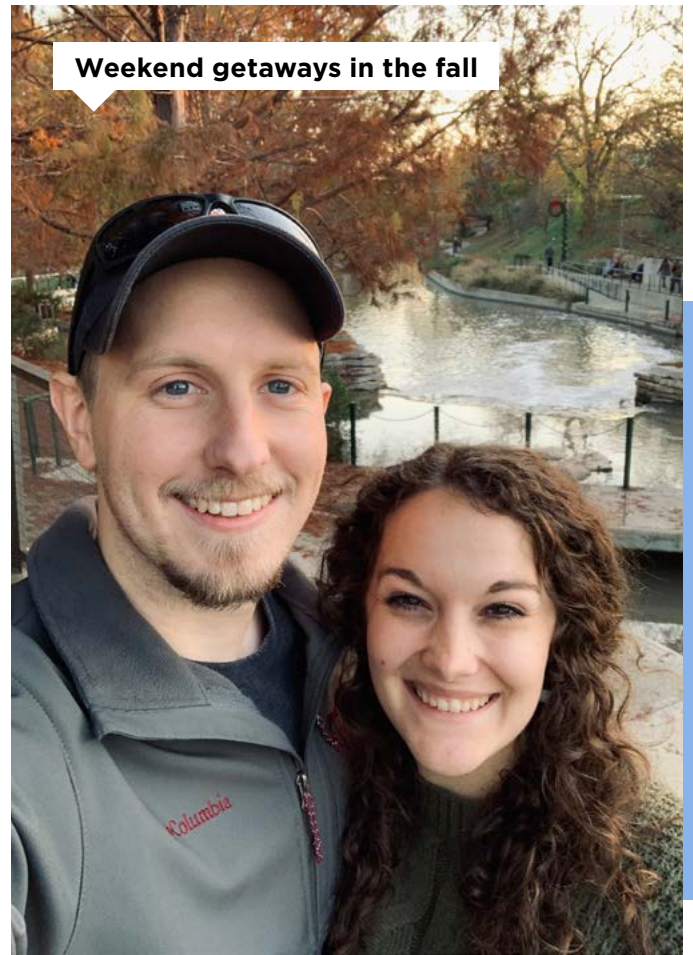




# Our Story

**Hi there! We are Justin and Tarah!** Thank you for reading our story and getting to know us. We met at college through a Christian organization. We served with a group of friends at a local assisted living home and on mission trips. We learned quickly that we enjoyed each other's smiles, laughs, and similar hobbies and decided we wanted to spend even more time together.

Weekend getaways in the fall



Our Wedding Day in May 2014!





“We learned quickly that we enjoyed each other’s smiles, laughs, and similar hobbies.”

We dated for over a year through many experiences of playing disc golf, walking around the park, attending college sports games, spending time with our families, serving at church, and working on puzzles together! We got married in the summer of 2014, and spent our honeymoon at Disney World!

Our love story didn’t stop at the honeymoon! We continue to enjoy traveling the world, going for walks around the lakes near our home, playing board games, and reading together in the evenings. In 2018, we decided we were ready to start our family, but we have not been able to have kids biologically. We know the Lord has given us a strong desire to be parents, and we are excited to welcome a child into our home through open adoption!

**Serving as leaders for a high school retreat with our church**





# About *Justin* written by *Tarah*

Justin thinks of others before he thinks about himself. He serves at church by running sound equipment behind the scenes and as a greeter each week, welcoming people to services. He always remembers to text people on their birthdays and goes out of his way to see friends in other towns when we go on road trips.

He works full-time as an engineer and, upon finishing his Master's in Business Administration, received a promotion at work to manager of his group. He was a quarterback at his 6A school in high school, and his love of sports has not waned! One of Justin's favorite pastimes is watching professional sports: F1 racing, IndyCar racing, football, baseball, and golf. Despite this love, Justin prioritizes spending time with family – he records the sports games/races he is interested in and waits to watch them at a time that is better for the family.



**Star Wars at Disney World!**



**Trip to Israel near Nazareth**



Most of all, Justin loves Jesus. He spends time reading the Bible every morning before he goes to work. He prays for me and with me every day out loud. Justin loves kids! We have 14 nieces and nephews, and Uncle Justin is everyone's favorite! He plays games with them, loves giving them gifts, and thinks of ways to surprise each of the kids for their birthdays. He is also "Uncle" Justin to all our friends' kids at church, but he is most looking forward to being called "Dad."



**Birds in Mexico on a cruise**



**Mini golf in the middle of the ocean on a cruise ship**



# About *Tarah* written by *Justin*



Tarah is the most joyful person I know. Her smile and personality immediately light up any room she walks into. It does not matter if someone is a toddler or a great-grandparent, just being around Tarah will brighten their day.

Tarah is the kindest and sweetest person I have ever met. She is incredibly compassionate, and she is constantly looking for ways to encourage and love those around her.



She will stop for hugs with every little one who wants to say "Hi" after church, and she regularly meets with girls of all ages to encourage them in their faith.

Tarah loves being around kids and bringing them joy. From her days teaching full-time to her current role leading chapel for preschoolers, she can make any kid smile and laugh.



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black and white plaid shirt over a black top and blue jeans, is smiling and holding two small white paper cups filled with deep-fried desserts. She is standing at a night fair or rodeo. In the background, a large Ferris wheel with red and blue lights is visible, along with other people and bright lights.

Rodeo time with deep fried desserts

And that's not even counting all the fun she has with our 14 nieces/nephews. Every kiddo that meets her loves "Miss Tarah."

Most importantly, Tarah loves the Lord with all her heart. She is always stepping into opportunities to serve the church and to bring glory to God. She is a very gifted musician and has found many ways to use her gifts to praise the Lord. Tarah leads worship for the main service most weeks and writes children's songs to help teach littles the truth about Jesus and His love for us. She has been preparing for her future role of mom for a long time, and she will be wonderful at it.

A woman with curly brown hair, wearing sunglasses and a blue life vest, is leaning over the side of a boat and kissing a dolphin on the nose. The dolphin is partially out of the water, and the woman is smiling. The water is a vibrant green color.

kissing the dolphin on a cruise in Mexico



# Our Home

We live in a two-story house in a family-friendly, culturally diverse neighborhood. Our house has a country home feel with lots of pictures of our family and friends. The master bedroom is downstairs, along with the kitchen, living room, and office. Upstairs is the game room and three bedrooms. We have three bathrooms and a fenced-in backyard. There are toys and games for all ages in our house so we can entertain our nieces and nephews and any other guests! From soft baby books to video games and a pool table - we are ready to play games with whoever visits us!



**Our front yard**



**Pool by our house with our niece**

Our home is at the end of a cul-de-sac, with neighbors on one side, a super kind family originally from India, and on the other side, a park and splash pad! The park has swings and slides in two sections - one for big kids and one for little ones. The splash pad has a pavilion beside it with picnic tables for snack time and birthday parties! Our community has 10+ parks within a five-minute drive of our house - including one with a tree house park and zipline!



**Playing trains in our office with our nephew**

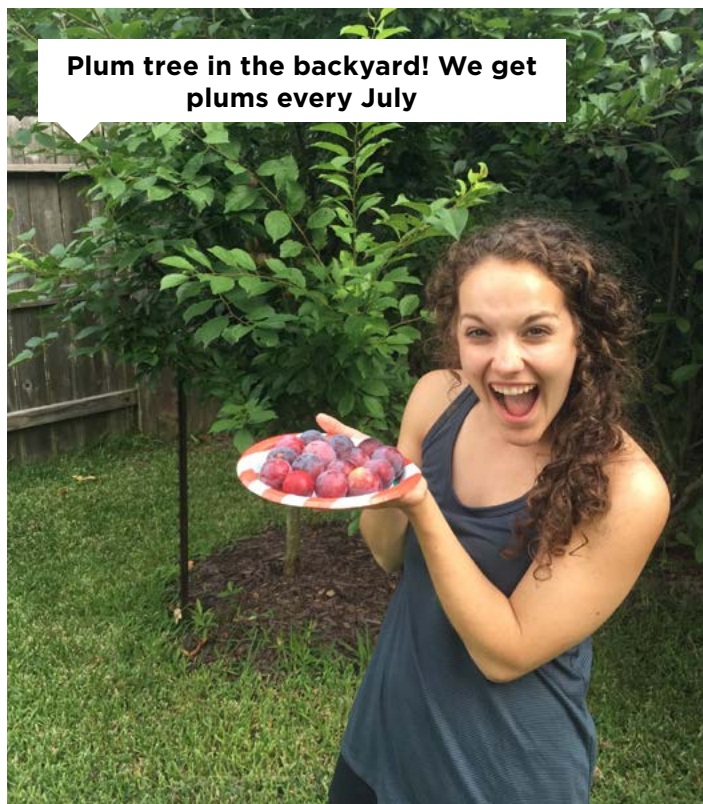


There are three pool options that are fantastic in the summertime! We live about three minutes from the elementary school in our neighborhood, and we love our school district!

We like to meet friends at the pools, parks, and splash pads. Most of them have kids five years old and under, and we love celebrating with them when they welcome babies into the world! We live about five minutes from our church, and we enjoy having friends in our home for dinner, game night, prayer, and Bible study.

“ There are toys and games for all ages in our house so we can entertain our nieces and nephews and any other guests! ”

**Plum tree in the backyard! We get plums every July**





# Our Family

“ Every other year, we go on family vacations with the family to the beach, where we laugh a lot, go for walks, and play games together! ”



Playing video games with nephews

We love our family! Tarah's family is huge. Her grandma has 13 children, 75 grandchildren, and 120 great-grandchildren! We see almost all of our extended family the Friday after Thanksgiving every year. Tarah has three sisters who are all married. Her oldest sister lives about four hours away and has seven kids, aged 2 to 14. Her next sister lives in Africa with her four kids, aged 4 to 10. Her youngest sister lives about 20 minutes away and has a two-year-old daughter, and is pregnant with a little boy! Her parents live on a farm three hours away, where they harvest hay each year and raise cattle. We love to visit the farm several times a year and enjoy the weekend with them. Tarah's dad is a Baptist pastor, and her mom subs at the school and has a flexible schedule to see grandkids and help at church. Every other year, we go on family vacations with the family to the beach, where we laugh a lot, go for walks, and play games together!



**Tarah's sisters in Colorado**



Justin has one older brother who is a lawyer and married with two children. They live four hours from us. Justin's dad passed away in 2018, and his mom has dementia and lives in an assisted living home about 15 minutes from our house. We visit her often and take her shopping and out to dinner. We take small weekend trips throughout the year with Justin's family. All of our family members are so excited about our adoption journey and are ready to welcome another family member into the tribe!



**Family time in Florida**



**Justin's family at Christmas**

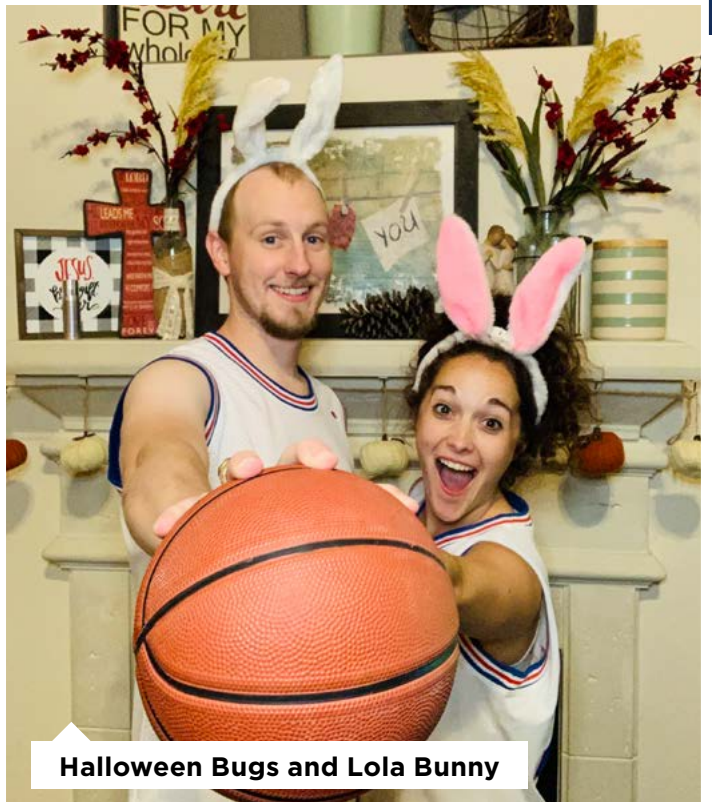


# Hobbies, Interests and Traditions



**Cruise to Mexico**

We love to have fun and plan trips. We took a long road trip through 10 states in 2022 on our way to the Indianapolis 500 race. Each year, we go to the Indy 500 with friends on Memorial Day weekend. Justin has been going to the race since he was a kid and has been to the race 17 times! We've also traveled to Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, and the Maldives when we were overseas with Justin's work in 2016. We went on a cruise to Mexico in 2022 and loved swimming with the dolphins! We plan a trip to Disney World every three years.



**Halloween Bugs and Lola Bunny**



We enjoy the rides, the shows, the characters, and the fireworks! Our favorite time to go is around Christmas when all the parks are decorated with lights!

We also enjoy playing sports and games together. We play tennis, pickleball, softball, flag football, and basketball. One of our favorite spontaneous dates is to play putt-putt golf! We try to find a mini golf course near every place we visit.



**9th Wedding Anniversary!**

One of our traditions is to collect Christmas ornaments everywhere we visit! Then, when we decorate each year, we get to remember all the places we've been to. Other traditions are to drive around town and see Christmas lights every year and go on mission trips. During the summer of 2023, we went with students from our church to Costa Rica. We served in six different schools and helped the local churches put on events for kids. We both serve in our church every week with the youth, preschool, and worship ministries.



**Disney World for our 7th Anniversary**



# Thank You!

“ We are excited for the days ahead and cannot wait until the Lord brings a child into our home.”

Thank you for reading our story and getting to know us as you consider making an adoption plan for the baby. You are so loved, treasured, and very brave! We long to be parents of many children and can't wait to share our lives with the child and family that God has planned for us.

We can't wait to share our lives with a baby and give them everything we have to offer – our hearts, home, and relationship with the Lord! We hope we will get to meet you someday and stay in contact for the rest of the child's life. We are excited to have an open adoption but will respect whatever level of connection the birth family is comfortable with. We will continually remind the child of their story and about their loving birth parents who chose to give them life.

We are excited for the days ahead and cannot wait until the Lord brings a child into our home. We pray for you every day that you know you are loved by God, and that you have peace with the choices you make as you decide what is right for you and the baby.

With Love,

*Justin and Tarah*









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