

## Member Profile

*This week's feature : Brad and Bethany Pearce*



Brad was born in Mount Gilead, Ohio. His father was a rural mail carrier and his mother was a teacher and school secretary. He graduated from Mount Gilead High School in 2000 and received his Masters in Education from Ohio State in 2005. Brad has an older brother, Joe, who lives with his wife and two children in Mason, Ohio.

Brad currently teaches algebra at Elyria High School, and is about to complete his 17th year of teaching. In addition to teaching, he also coached the EHS girls basketball team from 2007-2014.

Bethany was born in Columbus, Ohio. Her family moved several times throughout her childhood when Pastor Charlie was called to serve different congregations in Canal Fulton, Delaware, and Westerville, Ohio. Bethany has a younger brother named Andrew, who lives in Seven Hills with his wife and twin sons. Bethany graduated from Westerville North High School in 2004, and received her Bachelor of Music Education from Valparaiso University in 2008.

Bethany teaches 6-12 grade choir at Keystone Local Schools in Lagrange. In addition to single-handedly running a choir department of over 200 students, she is also a mentor for new teachers and collegiate clinical practice students. Bethany's choirs have performed all over northeast Ohio, and have also traveled to Chicago, Cincinnati, New York City, Pennsylvania, and Myrtle Beach.

Bethany and Brad met online in 2009, and began a long distance relationship. Brad was living in Elyria at the time, and Bethany was teaching near Columbus. When they got married in 2012, Bethany made the move up north. Pastor Charlie and Lisa finally followed them to the Cleveland area 9 years later!

They have two children, whom you have likely seen around the church! Natalie is 8 years old and is in the 3rd grade. She is involved in Girl Scouts, piano lessons, and has studied dance for 5 years. Will is 6 years old and is about to graduate from kindergarten! He is also taking piano lessons, and loves Nintendo and spending time outside with his friends! Both kids are involved with theater at the MAD\* Factory in Oberlin. The Pearce family lives in Avon, meaning they have three different school districts to keep track of in their household.

The Pearce family joined Prince of Peace in 2021 when Pastor Charlie began his ministry here. They were previously members of Christ Lutheran in Avon Lake. Their reasons for joining are probably obvious! The kids enjoy having "Pastor Grandpa" deliver their children's sermon every Sunday.

At POP, Bethany has helped with the music ministry, filling in as cantor and choir director when needed. Brad serves as an usher, and they have both filled in teaching Sunday School from time to time. They are very excited about the new Peace Pavilion and all of the opportunities and activities it will provide for their family!

Brad enjoys reading and is an avid golfer. He is a big history buff and will gladly challenge you to a game of Trivial Pursuit. He also enjoys the arts and would someday love to have season tickets to the Cleveland Orchestra.

Bethany is very involved in community theater. She and Natalie have both participated in Mighty Goliath Productions' shows for the past two years, and they will be appearing in a production of "Matilda: The Musical" this summer! Bethany also enjoys cooking, reading, yoga, and cross-stitching. She completed a half marathon in 2022 and would be game for another one someday. (Maybe.) She also loves riding roller coasters with Will at Cedar Point!

The Pearce family loves to travel! They are big Disney fans and have traveled to Walt Disney World several times. They will be traveling to Bermuda this summer on a cruise, and hope to get to Europe when the kids are a little older. You can meet the Pearce family at the traditional service most Sundays. They have a deep commitment to Prince of Peace and have provided much energy to the important missions here!

(A big Thank You is given to Bethany and Brad as authors of this story!)

Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter