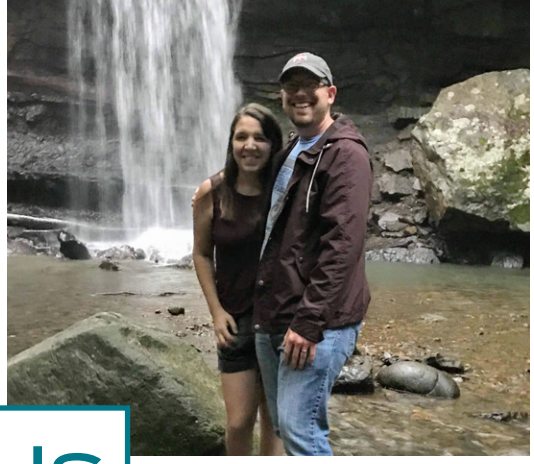
ISAAC + ERIKA



About Us

We have been married for nearly eleven years. We met the first week of college and have grown more in love ever since. We are best friends and a great team. Together, we aim for a life filled with creativity, kindness toward our neighbors, and new experiences - mainly through travel and time outdoors. Our relationship is strong because we are on the same page about the important things - our Christian faith, working in the helping professions, and our sense of humor. We complement each other well. Erika enjoys quiet time; she is steady, patient, and grounded in the present. She is an intervention specialist (special education teacher). Her current vocation is as a stay-at-home mom. Isaac is charged up by being with others; he is future-oriented and has the personality of an entrepreneur. He is a psychologist, and provides therapy for children/ adolescents, families, and adults at a business he owns.

Our Home

We live in the country. We live in a home on the same property as Erika's parents and grandfather. Our home is filled with art, musical instruments, and toys! Lots of light lets in from the outside. We have a large front yard and a large back yard, with space for gardening, bike-riding, and playing sports. There is a pond out back for fishing. We make campfires out back from time to time, and we usually set up a pool in the summer! Living in the country, our home allows us to have lots of fun outside and also provides a sense of peace and privacy. Being surrounded by nature allows for things that kids love - skipping rocks across the creek, fishing, swimming, riding bikes, playing sports, and sledding. Living near extended family allows for natural and strong bonds across generations and makes it possible to share all kinds of important and special moments together that may be missed when grandparents live far away. Our home is a place filled with warmth and peace.

Pond in our backyard

Apple & Pear trees in our backyard

About Erika written by Isaac

Erika is patient, peaceful, and artistic. She is calm, and thoughtful, even under stress. She is a joyful person, and her friends say that she always makes them laugh and feel at-ease. As a teacher, Erika has a passion for teaching struggling readers. She loves finding what works for each individual student and seeing them light up when they succeed at something that they previously struggled with. She has over six years of teaching experience and five years of experience as a reading tutor. Erika is well-loved by her friends and family, and is active with volunteering in our church. Erika is a talented artist. In college, she studied making art with fibers, including weaving, crocheting, and knitting. Erika's designs can be found throughout the house, and she especially loves crafts and art projects with the kids. She has an ability to bring beauty into nearly any space through art and design.

Erika's Facts & Favorites

Profession: Intervention specialist (special education teacher)

Hobbies: Knitting, crocheting, weaving, cooking, music

Food: Grapefruit

Place: Our house

Musical Artist: Alabama Shakes

Book: Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

Childhood memory: Growing a "donut tree" in our backyard (AKA planting a Cheerio, and my parents convincing me that I grew donuts!)

About Isaac

written by Erika

Isaac is friendly, fun, and musical. He has a warm personality and likes to laugh. He can find something to talk about with literally every person he meets. He is the kind of person who makes you feel comfortable, confident, and cared-for through his ability to listen and understand. He is one of the most talented musicians that I know. Although he doesn't like to show off, I love to tell people that he can play nearly any instrument you can think of. He loves to play music with friends and with our kids, and has even taught guitar in the past. Through his work as a psychologist, he is honored to work with clients to help develop strategies and skills to heal and grow. He is close with his family, and enjoys many activities together with them, especially Ohio State Football! He is active in our church and plays the guitar in the praise band.

Isaac's Facts & Favorites

Profession Psychologist

Hobbies playing music, basketball, reading, gardening, bike-riding, Ohio State football

Food breakfast foods! (eggs, toast, bacon, cinnamon rolls)

Place: Grand Teton National Park

Musical Artist: Bob Dylan

Book: Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

Childhood memory: Trips out west to Yellowstone National Park, Badlands National Park, Jackson Hole, and Grand Teton National Park

Our Family

Together during a family birthday party

Erika's family - the kids love getting together with grandparents, aunts, and uncles

Isaac's brothers and grandma

Everyone from our families of origin - brothers, sisters, and parents - live nearby. Erika's parents and grandfather live close by which allows us to share life together and to support each other. Isaac's parents and grandmother live about two hours away which allows us to spend time together regularly and to share important moments together. Being closely connected with our family allows us to share many kinds of moments together, and it is not uncommon for us to simply enjoy laughing and talking with each other at length at family gatherings. We have a close-knit group of friends who we spend time with. We enjoy getting together for bonfires, cookouts, and birthday parties. We have two children, a boy Kash (age 5) and a girl Simone (age 3). They are loving, energetic kids who are very eager to have a new sibling! Family traditions we enjoy include cookouts, big birthday parties with extended family, cutting down our Christmas tree every year at a tree farm near our home, and celebrating holidays including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. We love outdoor activities, like gardening, bike-riding, and hiking. We love to travel, and especially enjoy time at the beach.

Erika's big extended family at Christmas

Our daughter and Erika's grandpa taking a walk down our driveway

Celebrating Thanksgiving with our friends

Erika's brother and our new niece!

We visit Isaac's family often

Our Letter to You

We're so thankful for the time you have taken to learn about us. Growing up with family members who joined our families through adoption (Erika's brother and Isaac's cousins) we have talked about our desire to grow our family through adoption since the time we began dating. We hope that through our profile, you are able to catch a glimpse of the love, creativity, and comfort that our home provides. We pray for your well-being throughout this entire process, and we look forward to learning more about you.

Sincerely,

Isaac & Erika

Why Adoption?

We believe that a mother's choice to offer her child for adoption is the most selfless decision that can be made. We would like to honor a mother's selflessness by providing what we know we are able to offer to help that child grow and flourish. We have talked about adopting since the time we were dating. After challenges with pregnancy (a miscarriage and two C-sections), we are currently concerned that another pregnancy may cause harm to Erika's health. We feel that our family is not yet complete, and we believe that it will be made complete through adoption. We are especially committed to the process of adoption because we have seen the power of adoption in the life of family members who were adopted — Erika's brother and Isaac's cousins. As Christians, we believe that we are called to live in right relationship to all those around us and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We believe that adoption is one way we can love our neighbor and honor a mother's selflessness.

We welcome a child of any race into our home. We are committed to helping our child grow in self-understanding of their racial identity through ongoing participation in religious spaces that are multiracial and by participating in learning experiences related to our child's racial identity.