

Meet the Member

Josh and April Eckstein

Married for 3 years, April and Josh met in 2018 at Oakland Church in Rochester, MI. They had their first date on February 28th and were married the next summer on June 1, 2019. By 2021 they had given birth to their first child, Jedidiah (Jed), had moved to the Charlotte area, started attending Eternal, baptized Jed in the worship service and become active members of the church. That's a whirlwind of change in a short period of time, but they are settled and hope to stay in the Charlotte area for a long time. How did they get to this place? Their journeys began respectively in Louisiana and Illinois as young children.

April grew up in a PCA church. Her father was a pastor in central Louisiana until she was 11 years old, when he became a Navy chaplain. She spent her middle school years living in Okinawa, Japan and her high school years in Fairfax, VA. After high school she attended and graduated from Covenant College in Chattanooga, TN and stayed in town to get her master's degree from a branch campus of the University of Tennessee. She migrated into human resources and was transferred to Michigan with Edscha Automotive where she worked for nine years until her current position with Bosch Rexroth. Bosch relocated her to Charlotte as the HR manager for their Charlotte plant, which is only a few minutes away from where they live. She recruits employees in manufacturing, sales, engineering, and logistics.

Josh grew up in Lisle, IL just outside of Chicago and attended St. Francis High School in Wheaton, IL. His parents were devout Catholics, and for Josh this was a good foundational upbringing in the church. Josh attended Bradley University in Peoria. After college he began working at Buffalo Wild Wings (BWW) and worked his way up to General Manager in the Woodridge, IL restaurant. In November of 2012, Josh was transferred to a BWW in Waterford, MI. In 2015, he left his position with BWW and started a financial services business through Primerica. After transitioning out of that opportunity, he spent some time in commercial construction and worked as a maintenance supervisor at Oakland Church. Eventually he landed a job in sales with Dynamic Media, which is the business division of SiriusXM.

Their spiritual journeys were very different, but at Oakland Church they intersected. As a child, April grew up with a personal faith, so she doesn't remember one specific moment of asking Jesus to be her Savior. In 2010, she began having a personal quiet time every morning where she was reading and studying Scripture, and this was when she really began experience growth and maturity in her Christian faith. Her parents' example of Christian faith lived out in the home had an early impact on her, but the biggest developmental influencer in her spiritual growth as an adult was a personal devotional study.

As a child, Josh didn't understand much about the personal side of faith until he moved to Michigan and was mentored by John and Carol Goodbar, business associates in Primerica. They helped him to know the gospel on a personal level and on October 2, 2016, led Josh to recite the sinner's prayer. It reinvigorated him in the faith which led to his involvement at Oakland Church. In 2018 he was part of a mission's trip to Nicaragua with 1Nation1Day Ministries. The trip was very influential in his spiritual journey. He saw the Lord work through their mission team and was impressed with the genuineness and faithfulness of the Christian community in Nicaragua.



Josh and April moved to Charlotte in June of 2021 and began visiting churches in the community. One Sunday while out eating brunch, they noticed the Eternal Church sandwich boards around Baxter Village. Despite the unusual name, they decided to give it a try and attended that very next week. The worship and teaching were exactly what they were looking for and they have been coming ever since.

Josh is a stay-at-home dad, taking care of Jed during the day while April is at work. He is involved in F3 (Faith Fitness & Fellowship), helps with the Eternal men's ministry, enjoys golf when he has time and likes craft beer. April loves hiking and reading, but most importantly having time with Jed after she gets home from work. They both enjoy cooking.

Their family verse is Romans 15:5-7. *"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."*

Josh and April have a wonderful energy about them, and we are grateful that they have made Eternal their church home.

Written by Paul Veerman