

Meet Josh Harstine

Forestgate's

(Soon to be)

Assistant Pastor of Youth and Families



May 1 is quickly approaching, and I hope you're excited to welcome the Harstine [rhymes with twine] family to Forestgate. Last month, the Session Josh Harstine as our new Assistant Pastor of Youth and Families. The Harstines are currently house hunting and preparing for ordination exams and moving. Starting this Sunday, you'll hear about ways that you can welcome them to town, courtesy of Lisa Brandt, one of my fellow search committee members. (Those plans will include a series of small dinners to help them meet the congregation and vice versa, as well as a "pounding" – a pound of sugar, a pound of other pantry staples.) On April 27, Josh will be taking his ordination exams at the Rocky Mountain Presbytery Meeting, which will providentially be hosted by Forestgate. As those dates approach, here are **a few facts about Josh and his family:**

- Josh is a graduate of Grove City College (Biblical and Religious Studies, '15) and Reformed Theological Seminary-DC ('20).
- Served as a Youth or Pastoral Intern ('14-'21).

- Served as a Christian high school teacher ('16-'22) in Virginia and Colorado.
- In the process of selling their house in the Denver area and relocating to the Springs.
- Married to Courtney; their daughter Evie (Ev-EE, short for Evelyn) will be celebrating her first birthday soon.
- Key Experience in ministry (from one of his early application documents): "Discipling a group of nine young men for three years."
- Currently teaching Bible and theology classes at Colorado Christian University (CCU) in Denver.
- Co-hosts a podcast called Catechized. While I'm sure that many of you are eagerly awaiting the chance to meet the Harstines, I would encourage you to pray for their move, as well. The search committee is now the welcoming committee, and we're helping as much as we can with their transition process. (The deacons have already offered substantial help as well.) Here are some ways you can pray for them:
 - Pray for the Harstines as they sell a house in Denver. (ALREADY ANSWERED!)
 - Pray for the Harstines to find the right house in the Springs.
 - Pray for them as they prepare to meet all of us.
 - Pray for God to prepare them and us for Josh's ministry among us.

Thank you, as well, for the ways you have already been praying. On behalf of the other search committee members, we have felt your prayers for the duration of our search, and we are very grateful for you and your prayers. Thank you, and we'll do our best to keep you updated on Josh's arrival.

Pastor Matt,

on behalf of The Assistant Pastor Search Committee (Lisa Brandt, Matt Giesman, Daniel Klute [chairman], Craig Odell, Mike Patterson, David Wilson)

March 22, 2023