

Jay, Susannah + Olivia



"In the fear of the Lord one has
strong confidence, and His
children will have a refuge."

Proverbs 14:26



Hello Friend!

We are so very humbled and grateful for your willingness to flip through the pages of this book to get to know us. Adoption has been a part of both of our life stories since long before we met, and we've known since getting married that we wanted to adopt children of our own. It is amazing to us that God takes our lives and circumstances and says "YES" to us, choosing us over and over again every day to be His adopted children. Because of this gift He gives us, we gladly grew our family through adoption and He blessed us abundantly in Olivia. Now all three of us feel ready and excited to grow our family again! The fact that you are flipping through these pages to perhaps play a role in that happening is such a gift to us. We are amazed at your selflessness and bravery in making this decision. No matter the circumstances, as parents we will say "YES" and choose your baby every day. We sincerely thank you for taking time to consider us, and we hope to talk to you soon.

with love,
Jay + Susannah



a little bit about *our story*

We met through a mutual friend in 2015 and immediately bonded over our mutual love for socializing and all things fun. We like to tell our love story differently-- Jay's version is funnier, and he's a better storyteller-- but the important parts remain the same.

Through time spent together and many deep conversations, we quickly realized we shared the same foundational values: faith, relationships, education, leadership, loyalty, work ethic, and commitments. We met and quickly loved each other's families just like our own. **We enjoyed doing just about every single thing more with each other instead of apart, have learned abundantly from each other since day one, and balanced each other in the way each of us needed.** Almost exactly two years later, we were married in Fall 2017.

One week after our wedding, we moved across the country. Adventure is certainly a part of our story and this adventure in particular allowed us to grow tremendously in our relationship and our support of one another. We meet people everywhere we go and build new relationships easily. We are both hard workers and have engaged fully in our careers for many years- Jay in business and leadership, Susannah in service and helping people. In 2019, the Lord began to prepare our hearts for a change in perspective and in priority, and we knew it was time to start our family; we adopted Olivia in 2021 who has absolutely amplified the joy, silliness, and affection in our home. God has made it abundantly clear that we are to once again grow our family through adoption. We have walked through the process and blessing of adopting and truly feel honored to do it again. Olivia is ready for her new role as big sister!

about
Susannah

by Jay



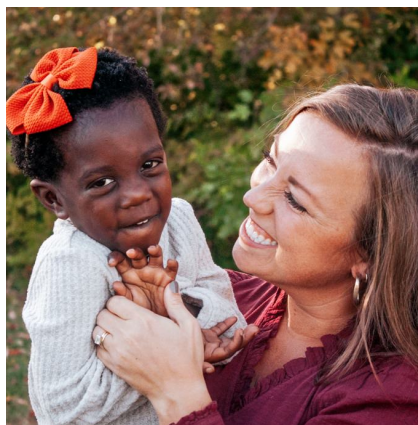
Susannah is the kindest and most well-liked person I know.

She genuinely cares about people, is empathetic, gracious, gentle, and sweet. I have yet to meet a person that doesn't echo those feelings about her. I immediately knew I wanted her to be my wife. In fact, I told a friend the day after we met that I would marry her. Her strengths complement my weaknesses, and she is my best friend.

Two of my favorite things about Susannah are her smile and her quiet strength. Her smile is perfect and warms my heart.

She has brought so much joy and laughter to me and also brings that each day to our family and friends. She is a very ambitious and determined person who sticks with her goals and sees things through. I love Susannah dearly and have so much respect for her.

When I think about Susannah as a mother, I smile knowing how phenomenal she is with Olivia. She cherishes her role as a mom, and I know she will wholly and emphatically love and care for another child. Her genuineness, empathy, and grace shine through in parenting and as we raise a family. I pray that our children pick up on these characteristics as well.



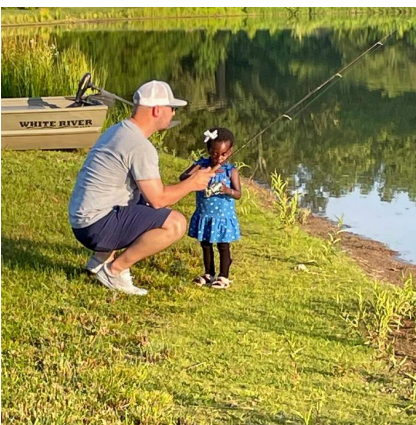
about *Jay* by Susannah



Jay is one of the most charismatic and truly fun people I have ever met. We met through mutual friends, and I immediately knew I wanted to spend more time with him. Jay has a personality that just pulls people in and the kind of humor that makes everyone in any room laugh. He's such a social person and brings passion to anything he does and life to anyone who gets to spend time with him.

Jay is one of the most driven people I know. He is intelligent, talented, loves business and agriculture, and is a committed and very hard worker. **He is a natural leader and leads people well.** I really respect and appreciate this about him, and how strongly he leads our family.

Even more so, I appreciate Jay's loyalty; he feels deeply, and his love for those that matter to him is no exception. I have seen him love his friends and family whole-heartedly. His playfulness, patience with kids, and natural role as a protector are already a gift to our family. As a dad, Jay is hands-on, involved, and supportive. He plays, teaches, provides, brushes hair, makes forts, plays music, and everything in between. He loves Olivia fiercely and will undoubtedly do the same as he gets to be "daddy" to another little one.



about **Olivia**

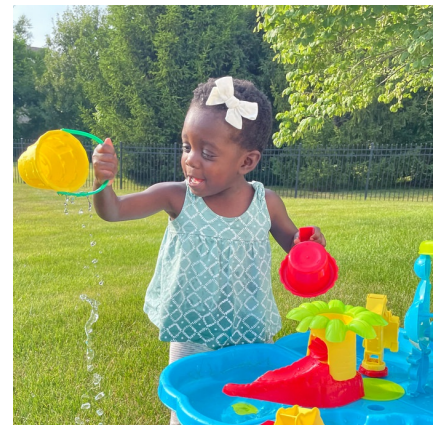
by Mom + Dad



Olivia is 3.5 years old and has been loved in our family since she was born. She captured our hearts from the very beginning and continues to draw people in and leave a special imprint on basically everyone she meets.

Olivia enjoys music, swimming, bubbles, snacks, the car wash, church, swinging, bathtime... she's easily excitable and joyful! She loves going on adventures (errands or trips) and equally loves being at home and playing in the playroom or riding her tricycle. She loves to help, like asking to help with cooking or baking- especially if chocolate chips are involved! Olivia is sweet, gentle, and kind, giving hugs and empathy when someone is sad or hurt. She is warm and affectionate, loves snuggling and being "cozy." **Olivia is pretty flexible and will easily engage with new people and in new places.** She will err on the side of trust and love, which translates so sweetly with other children.

We love Olivia's demeanor, joy, and how much she is growing and learning. She can't decide if she wants a little brother or sister, but always affirms she is ready for a sibling. We are already praying for our next child and can't wait to see how she receives and grows a relationship with them!



our home and community



We've lived in our home since December 2022 and spend most of our time in the kitchen cooking delicious meals with each other, dancing to music, or hosting friends and family. We like to play in the playroom, watch movies curled up on the couch, and eat breakfast around our island. We do our best to fill our home with fun, laughter, responsibility, and full tummies and hearts. **It is important to us that everyone who enters into our home feels welcome, safe, and comfortable.**



We live in a residential neighborhood that is well cared-for, family friendly, and racially diverse. There are walking paths throughout the neighborhood, many cul-de-sacs where kids are riding their bikes or playing basketball, and friendly waves from kind neighbors. There are nearby parks, friends to play with, shopping centers, and our church is a short drive away. On sunny days you can find us tending to the yard, chasing Olivia as she has mastered her tricycle, playing catch or bubbles, or eating on our back porch.



our Family...



We have family ranging from 1 year old to 97 years old and living in four different states. Our parents live just a few hours from us and we take every opportunity we can to visit with them, and our sisters and their families. **We both have older sisters who along with their husbands have biological children, foster children, and adopted children that form our family from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.**



This is a beautiful thing that all generations in our family celebrate wholeheartedly. We gather around the table anytime we're with them, play outside often with our nieces and nephews, write letters and talk on the phone, and celebrate holidays and birthdays. **Family is of utmost importance to us, and we can't wait to grow our family, continue traditions, and make more of our own.**



Many of our traditions are based on time with family and friends, whether it's celebrating holidays, seeing new parts of the country, or yearly trips to the beach. With our family being social people, our friendships are also a big part of our lives. We have friends and family all over the country and greatly enjoy traveling to see them and hosting them in our home.

All of our traditions include quality time, good food, and lots of love. We can't wait to continue making memories as our family grows!



...and Traditions



Fun FACTS



Susannah

- Enjoy baking and spending time with family
- Love being in the sunshine and frequently go for runs, bike rides, and walks outside
- Studied art off and on throughout life and enjoy painting and photography
- Am really terrible at directions- I'd be lost without GPS!
- Can run on very little sleep
- Am very sentimental
- Was on a Stomp Team in college
- Am a note-taker: work, to do lists, menu planning, all of it!
- Could eat peanut butter m&m's every single day



- Enjoy golf, fishing, cooking, business, and college football
 - Have lived in 7 different states
 - Was adopted
- Knew I wanted to marry Susannah the day I met her
- Could drive around for hours looking for wild animals
- Am possibly the least handy person you've ever met
 - Travel internationally for work
 - Love to nap on our couch
- Would play the same five songs on repeat ALL day if someone let me



Jay



US

- We had mutual friends long before we knew each other
- We are both the youngest of our siblings
- We love being in the kitchen and cooking together
- Our family includes international and domestic adoption, adoption through foster care, and adoption by step-parents
- We are active together, going to the gym but also having workout equipment at our house
 - We both love sweet treats
- We are very social people and like to spend time with our friends
- We enjoy travel and seeing new places, but also build traditions quickly and return to familiar places to make more memories
- We've both played sports most of our lives, and met through playing softball with friends
- We love to dance and act silly
- We like to play board and card games and can get pretty competitive!



our promise to you...

We hope this book gives you a good glimpse into who we are, where we come from, and how we value and hope to grow our family. We are grateful you have taken the time to view our life in this book and consider us for such a tremendous honor as becoming mom and dad to your baby. We are committed to each other and committed to any child God brings into our family. **We promise to love, cherish, hold, teach, challenge, celebrate, and care for each child in our home unconditionally, providing them safety and security above all else.** We have been praying for you and for your baby since starting this adoption process. We would be so honored if you chose us to be parents to your precious child.

With Love,

Jay + Susannah

