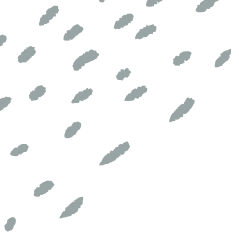


Justin AND Amanda

A GLIMPSE INTO OUR LIFE









Hello!


We are so happy to meet you!

Thank you so much for taking the time to get to know us! Our biggest hope for you is that you feel confident in your decisions and that you can experience peace in selecting an adoptive family for your child. **We hope you feel empowered in making this selection, and we want to support you in making the best choice for your future and that of your child – whether that is choosing us as adoptive parents, choosing someone else, or choosing to parent.** While we cannot put ourselves in your shoes, we can imagine it hasn't been an easy path getting to this point. We acknowledge how important this decision is and how overwhelming it may feel, and we are proud of your courage and so honored and grateful that you are considering us to parent your child.

Please know that if you choose us, we will spend the rest of our lives striving to exceed your hopes and expectations for your child. We consider ourselves to be loving, open, kind, and honest. Supporting you on this path and parenting your child is an opportunity for us to give our gift of love to the world through loving your child and loving you. This profile book may be about the two of us, but what we're building towards is so much bigger than that – it is about our shared experience with you, your child, and the two of us.

Your courage and sacrifice will never be lost on us. We honor the heaviness of deciding to place your child and care deeply for your heart in this journey. We can't fathom the range of emotions you are feeling, but please know that you are an important person to us, now and always. With us, you are seen, heard, and loved. **Above all else, we wish you peace.**

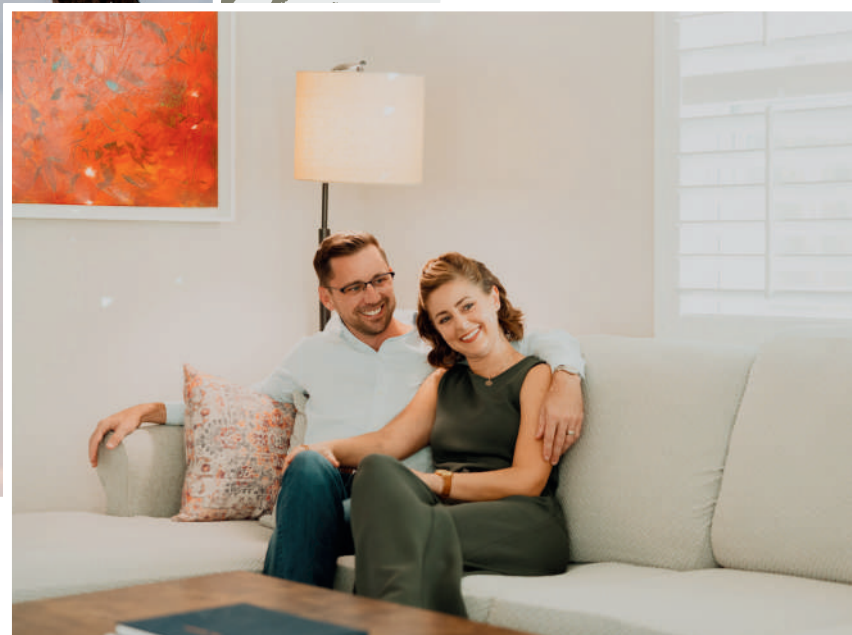
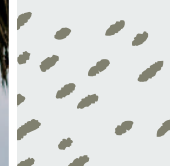
Justin + Amanda



Our Hearts for Adoption

When the time came to start our family, we spent nearly two years trying to conceive before undergoing fertility testing and learning we would not be able to have biological children. This news was shocking and heartbreaking, but we immediately knew that adoption was the path for us. Our lives have been full of ups and downs. We lean into the teachable moments, and those have shaped us into the heart-led, empathetic people we are. **If we succeed at nothing else in life but raising a kind, joyful child who gets to experience the world with an open heart, we'll know that our lives have been a success.**





In Amanda's Words

Adoption is already a part of our story! My dad was adopted – twice, actually! He was adopted as a newborn by my grandma and her first husband. When my dad was ten, his adoptive father passed away in a car accident. My grandmother remarried a few years later, and her second husband legally adopted my dad. Both men had such an incredible, positive influence on my dad. My grandma loved my dad as much as the human heart can possibly love. My dad carries wonderful memories from both of his adoptive dads, and he often shares stories about them. Pops, as he is known to all the grandkids, stands ready to share his story and experience with our child when the time comes and lend an extra layer of support and understanding. Based on my dad's experience in a closed adoption and the questions and emotions he faced, we very much desire an open adoption, to the extent you are willing. We view open adoption as one more facet to our already-blended families.

**Deciding to adopt was the simplest decision we've ever made.
Parenting has always been in our hearts, in whatever shape it took.**





Our Story

"I was attracted to Amanda because she was cute, smart, and independent. As I got to know her, I appreciated her emotional intelligence and desire for spiritual growth." - Justin

"I was attracted to Justin's smile and his heart, and I knew from the first date that he was the one I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. The fact that I also fell in love with his pug, Lucy, just sealed the deal!" - Amanda

We met online on a dating app during COVID, when it was challenging to meet in person. From the time we connected online until we met in person, we Facetimed every single evening! Our dates revolved around going to the beach or pool, going out to eat, going for walks, and hanging out with our dogs. We lived an hour apart, so we had to be intentional about our time together. We had been dating for just over a year when Justin popped the question on the beach, complete with a beautiful sunset. Our wedding was in November at a 1920s-era waterfront estate on the west coast of Florida. The setting was stunningly beautiful. It was an intimate ceremony with only twenty-five guests, made up of family and our closest friends.

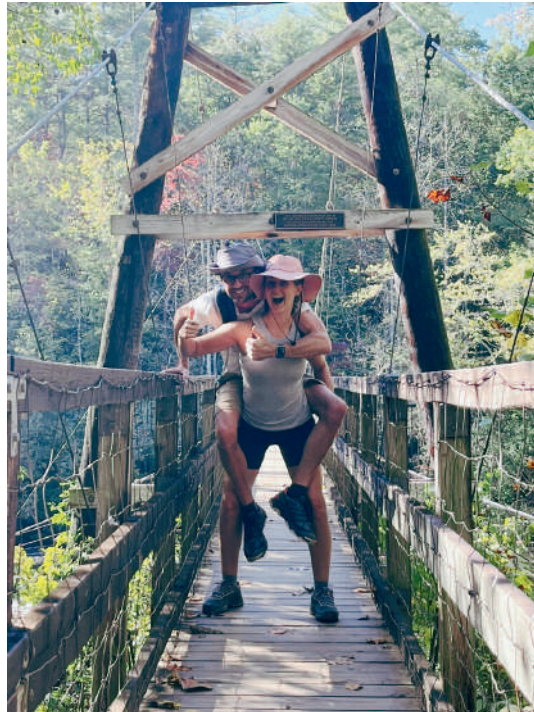


OUR FAVORITES

- Watching TV or movies together with our dogs
- Spending time at the beach or by the pool
- Reading + listening to music
- Going for long walks
- Date Nights every Friday night
- Going to sporting events + concerts
- Attending + volunteering at church
- Road trips to get a break from the Florida heat
- Hosting cookouts for our friends + neighbors
- Going to the farmers market + stocking up on local produce
- Spending time with our nieces + nephews



TIME
TOGETHER
IS TIME
WELL SPENT



We have been married for two years

Our marriage is strong because we intentionally prioritize each other. We enjoy spending time together and truly are best friends. We have a nightly practice of talking about how we're feeling, how our day was, and ways we can support each other. While we are each whole in and of ourselves, we make each other better versions of ourselves and support each other's goals and dreams. When resolving conflict, we let each other speak and share their thoughts and feelings. We both take responsibility for how we move forward. We also both lean into our amazing sounding boards and support system, including our family and friends.

IN AMANDA'S WORDS



Meet Justin

INTELLIGENT, CARING, EASY-GOING, GENEROUS

There are so many things that make Justin special, but if I could only name a few, it would be his intelligence, kindness, sense of humor, and generosity. He is so smart, but he is completely humble about it. I think it's this intelligence that makes him so darn funny because his mind works so fast and connects the most clever things! He is extremely witty and the king of puns - it's like he's been practicing "dad jokes" long before becoming a dad! He is also so generous, always willing to help in any way that he can. He is the sweetest man I've ever met - not only to me but also to our dogs, our extended family, his staff and coworkers, our friends, and community members. He has been through his share of difficulties, but he always looks on the bright side and turns every challenge into an opportunity for personal growth and development. He is the best human I've ever met, and I feel so lucky to go through life with him.

As the oldest of five, Justin had plenty of first-hand experience with younger siblings while growing up. He is an absolute natural with his five nieces and nephews, the oldest of whom is twelve. He is patient, playful, and silly. He gets down on their level to play with them, engaging in what interests them. While he's the super fun uncle, he is also firm in a way that I've seen the kids find grounding. He sets boundaries about what behavior is appropriate or not, and he's quick to jump in if he sees his nieces or nephews acting in an unkind way. Justin is genuinely a nurturer, and he loves taking care of people and making sure they feel loved and supported. He is so excited to become a father! He has always wanted to be a dad, and I love witnessing his excitement and tone of voice when he tells others that we're adopting. I've always thought I have the best dad ever, but I have to say, Justin will give my dad a run for his money!

HOBBIES

- I love spending time with my family and friends.
- I am an aspiring sailor! I used to sail boats and would like to return to it one day.
- I enjoy reading books about history, personal development, spirituality, and current affairs.
- I love listening to music, especially Dave Mathews band and Texas Country music.
- I enjoy watching sports and grilling and hanging out with the dogs on our patio by the pool.
- I start my day with a self-care routine that involves exercise, meditation, prayer, journaling, and reading.



OCCUPATION

I am an executive leader for a finance and technology company working in the renewable energy industry. I lead people and oversee sales, operations and processes, and business growth initiatives. The company provides paid time off for new parent leave, including adoption. I work from home and travel sometimes, which allows me to mostly manage my own schedule and travel calendar in a way that keeps family first.



Becoming a Father

I am so excited to become a father and be a part of a child's experience of the world as they grow. The world is an inspiring and beautiful place, and I look forward to seeing it through the eyes of a child as I help them navigate and experience the joys of living. I hope that the significant time and energy I have put towards my personal development will allow me to put that experience and knowledge to new and more impactful use as I raise a child. Wisdom, patience, and kindness are just a few things I want to model as a father. My greatest wish for my child is that they grow up to see the world as a good place, where all things are possible, and there is always hope and a reason for joy. I pray that my child will grow up feeling confident to chase their dreams and live the life they want.

IN JUSTIN'S WORDS



Meet Amanda

SWEET, LOVING, STEADY, CHEERFUL

Amanda is a very gentle soul. She holds space in her heart for other people, even strangers. Amanda always does the right thing, even when that is the hard thing. She knows my flaws and is patient when I am not at my best. She supports me in my dreams and the pursuit of achievement. Amanda has sympathy and empathy for others, particularly me. She allows me to be myself fully, and I know she is always by my side. We make decisions together. When I was thinking about a job change, she not only supported my goals but helped me to get there. There is no part of my life where she has not had an impact, and I am grateful that she is my wife and life partner. She never waivers or shies away; she is steadfast in her love and presence, giving me the confidence to go out into the world and do the things I was meant to do. I can't think of a better woman to be my wife or to parent with me.

Amanda has been around my nieces and nephews a lot since we have been together. She is very interactive with them, whether it's playing with Legos with my nephew or playing dress-up and dolls with the girls. She makes them food when they are visiting and always aims to help my sister. It is endearing how natural it is for her to care for others' children as she does. I believe the role of a mother will come naturally to her, and she is already preparing. She reads all of the books, does all the research, and easily puts things into practice. She will be the type of mother who is welcoming and safe but will challenge and help a child grow and reach their potential. I imagine her holding our child in the morning before making oatmeal and tucking them in at night, giving them the structure for a happy and healthy family environment.

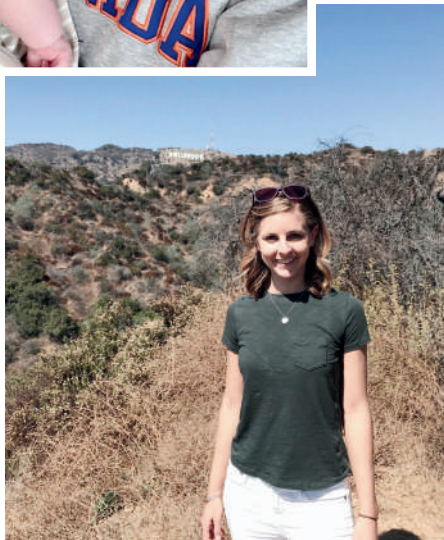
HOBBIES

- I love snuggling with my husband and dogs.
- I enjoy reading good books (my go-to's are self-development, spiritual books, and mysteries).
- You can often find me walking on the beach collecting seashells or taking in a beautiful sunset.
- I like being a homemaker, making homemade meals, decorating the house, and hosting our friends and family.
- I enjoy watching sports, especially college football.
- One of my absolute favorite things is spending time with my family, especially my nieces and nephews.
- I love creating a photo book of memories we made each year.



OCCUPATION

I work part-time as a Licensed Massage Therapist. I love that this career allows me to work with people one-on-one and bring them relaxation and relief. I plan to get certified in Infant Massage, and I am so excited that I'll be able to do infant massage on our baby! This will be a great way to bond with and soothe them. Once we add to our family, I plan to stop working for a few years and be devoted to raising our baby. I plan to return to work part-time after they are in school.



Becoming a Mother

I cannot wait to pour unconditional love into our child! I am excited to snuggle and comfort them, make them feel safe and loved, and offer them everything that I possibly can to ensure they feel seen, supported, and adored. I am so excited to witness all the magical milestones as they start to roll over, crawl, take their first steps, and when the baby babble turns into their first words. I'm equally excited for the long-term milestones like their first prom and high school graduation. But perhaps more than anything, I'm looking forward to all the tiny moments in between, the things that make up day-to-day life in a household full of love and laughter. I also look forward to the joy, excitement, and love my extended family will show our baby. This is not just about me and Justin becoming parents; it's about our entire extended family embracing our child and welcoming them into their lives and hearts.

Our Values



Love and Support

To us, this is the foundation for all other values. **We love unconditionally and support each other no matter what, and this has been the cornerstone of our relationship** and has enabled us to navigate life's challenges successfully. We will model this not only to our child but also to their birth family.

Kindness

We seek to understand and empathize so that we always approach one another with kindness. **Kindness provides for a judgment-free environment and ensures we show patience to one another.**

Communication

Our communication centers around active listening and asking questions. We intentionally hold space to hear what the other person has to say, without jumping to conclusions or making assumptions.

Health

We prioritize healthy habits for both physical and mental health. **We try to eat healthy, exercise, and promote our mental health by working with a great support system.** We also listen to health-related podcasts, read self-development books, and surround ourselves with like-minded people.



Our Pups

We have two amazing dogs who are best friends! When we met, Justin already had a pug named Lucy. She is super special, and she knows it! She is eight years old and has grown up around Justin's nieces and nephews from a young age. She loves children, as most pugs do. She is friendly, snuggly, and characteristically sassy! We also rescued a Labrador Retriever in the spring of 2023 and named her Sabal. Sabal is now eighteen months old. She is the happiest dog that ever lived and also loves children! As a puppy, she was timid when she first met Amanda's toddler-aged nephew, but within a couple of minutes, she had a new best friend! Like all labs, she is sweet, loyal, gentle, and loving.





Welcome In

We have a 75-year-old historic home that was fully renovated in 2021 with three bedrooms and two bathrooms. It has a lot of charm and character and is surrounded by beautiful established oak trees, bamboo, and, of course, palm trees. It has a nice open floor plan and a sunroom that's full of light. Our home is our sanctuary. We've purposely designed it to feel comforting, warm, and safe. **We love creating memories here by celebrating big and small milestones, making home-cooked meals on a regular basis, opening it up to our family and friends, and hosting our siblings, nieces and nephews when they come to town.**

Our backyard features a fenced-in pool area that is the center of our summer pool parties and cookouts. We have a built-in grill and an outdoor dining area with an outdoor TV for watching football in the fall. At the end of our block is a huge park with a pond, a big-kid playground, a toddler playground, and two little league baseball fields. **It's incredibly safe and family-friendly, and we walk our dogs to the park every day and love seeing the children playing there.**

We are so excited to watch our family grow in this home!

We live in a small beach town community inside of a larger city on the west coast of Florida. Our town is known for being diverse and community-focused. There are constantly street fairs, festivals, parades, and more. We feel very fortunate to live here. The town is a vacation destination for many tourists, yet it still feels like a tight-knit local community. Our town is full of parks, playgrounds, and walking and biking trails. There is a public Montessori elementary school within walking distance of our house and several high-quality private schools nearby. We are within walking distance from the library and community center, which is always bustling with free classes and events. Within a fifteen-minute drive, we have access to the beaches and the downtown area, which offers lots of dining options, family-friendly entertainment, farmers markets, sporting events, museums, and more.





Meet Our Family

JUSTIN'S FAMILY

My dad and stepmom are David and Trish (Papa and Gigi to the grandkids). They live in Georgia and love being grandparents! They bought a retirement home with a huge bunk room to host all the grandkids, and they frequently travel to see their grandkids in Arkansas and Texas. They are super excited for us to adopt! My mom, Lynda (Lala to the grandkids), lives in Arkansas and is a retired school teacher who loves children. She is very crafty and loves making quilts and gifts for her grandkids. Now that she is retired, she helps my sister with her three children. My mom cannot wait to have another grandbaby.

I am the oldest of five siblings. My brother, Jim, and his wife, Whitney, live on a farm in Texas and have two children. Kayla is twelve, and Cole is nine. My sister, Jordan, lives in Arkansas and has three children. Enrique is ten, Mila is eight, and Emma is four. Besides Amanda, Jordan is my other best friend and will be the godmother of our child. My youngest brother, Tyler, lives in Texas. He is an awesome uncle and dog-dad. My youngest sister, Elizabeth, lives in New York City. She also loves children and hopes to be a mom herself one day. She loves spoiling her nieces and nephews.

AMANDA'S FAMILY

My dad and stepmom are Rob and Krista, also known as Pops and Lolli to the grandkids. They live thirty minutes away from us in Florida. They spend tons of time with their grandkids, often hosting them for one to two weeks at a time! My mom, Lisa, or "LisaMom," lives an hour away and is eager to welcome her very first grandchild! She's very involved with us and visits often.

My half-brother, Bryant, lives in California and visits at least once a year for Christmas and sometimes more often. Bryant is super smart, and his wit and humor are unmatched! My step-sister, Jordan, lives in Maine with her husband, Jeremy, and their two children: Hiram is five, and Rowan is three. They come down to escape the Maine winters and spend about three weeks in Florida every spring. Jordan and I went to high school together, and it was so special that my high school friend became my sister! My step-brother, Derek, lives in Florida with his wife, Jenna, and their two children. Noah is four, and Luke is three. We see them often and get to spend a lot of time with their kids. My youngest step-sister, Rachel, lives in Colorado and loves the outdoors. She's a super fun aunt who loves visiting her niece and nephews, and she visits Florida a few times a year.

We are both children of blended families, meaning there are six grandparents to love and be loved by! Both of our extended families are absolutely thrilled to have another child coming into the family. We are constantly being asked for updates on our adoption journey because they are so excited! We see our experience with blended families as similar to open adoption. We both have experience broadening and expanding our families, and we welcome the opportunity to grow our extended family to include you and your family.



We love making holiday memories!



Every year for Christmas, we watch the movie “Christmas Vacation,” and we get decked out in themed sweaters. Amanda’s dad rents an outdoor movie projector and screen, and the extended family gathers to eat popcorn and watch the movie outside by the outdoor fire pit. We do stockings on Christmas Eve and a gift exchange on Christmas Day with any members of the extended family who are in town. We also do a White Elephant gift exchange on Christmas Eve with our family, and it’s usually themed. The gifts range from funny to thoughtful, and it’s always a blast. In addition, we make special Christmas cookies every year with Amanda’s mom, and we always work on a puzzle with Amanda’s mom and brother. Then, we go to Justin’s dad’s house between Christmas and New Year’s to spend the holidays with his parents, siblings, and nieces and nephews.

We spend Thanksgiving in Florida and always have a classic turkey dinner and watch football! Some years, we go to a movie after our Thanksgiving meal. Some of Amanda’s siblings and nieces and nephews come into town for the holiday and we love spending time with them. We also have a Friendsgiving celebration with our friend group.

On the Fourth of July, Memorial Day, and Labor Day, we are the go-to house amongst our group of friends, and we host pool parties and cookouts. Justin is the grillmaster, and Amanda is the party planner. Our friends’ kids love spending the day in the pool!



We also love celebrating birthdays! We take our friends and family to dinner for their birthdays, and they join us for ours. For Justin's 40th, his parents, siblings, nieces, and nephew all flew in to spend the weekend at the beach with us. It also happened to be his niece's second birthday, so we did a joint celebration. Amanda designed a custom cake, and we decorated the house for the dual celebration.

We always celebrate achievements like work promotions and completion of certifications or schooling. When Amanda graduated from Massage Therapy school, Justin organized a surprise party. Amanda's parents and friends all gathered at one of our favorite restaurants, and he decorated the table with balloons, a mini trophy, Amanda's favorite study snacks, and more. We make an effort to celebrate both the big things and the small things because savoring milestones is really important to us.

We capture our holidays, celebrations, and milestones in a Photo Book each year, and we love sitting on the couch together and flipping back through the wonderful memories we've created.



Looking Ahead

■ We plan on taking summer vacations to new places, weekend trips throughout Florida, and holiday visits with family, whether that means traveling to them or hosting them here.

■ We see our nieces and nephews thriving from having siblings, and we are both really close to our siblings, so we are open to considering adopting again in the future.

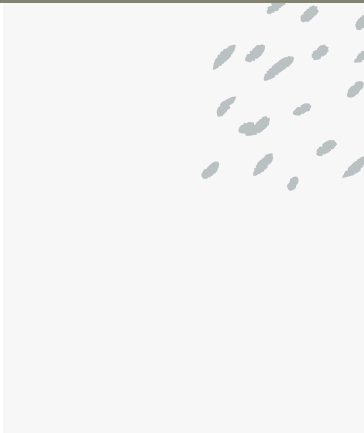
We will put our spiritual values of love, kindness, and generosity into practice and raise our child to develop their own loving relationship with God. Our connection to the divine is rooted in love and is continuously deepening and evolving. Our church community is made up of deeply loving and spiritual people who are so excited to support us in adopting. We have many friends and mentors in this community who are eager to lend a helping hand to our growing family.

We plan to send our child to private school and want to ensure they have the best learning opportunities and small class sizes. We want to select a private school where we can be very involved in our child's extracurriculars and interests. We place value on education, and we plan to send our child to college. However, we are open to other educational opportunities that support our child's interests and life goals, such as technical or vocational school. To support our child's endeavors, we will always stay open, help them explore their interests, and encourage them to pursue their dreams.





Our goal is to provide the best possible environment for your child to develop, learn, and thrive. We want to help him or her grow into a happy and productive adult. If you desire, we would love for you to be a part of creating this environment. We welcome that with open arms.





Before You Go

WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU

We are honored that you would take the time to get to know us. Our love for your child will know no bounds, and that love and care extends to you and your family. **Every child has a story, and we want to encourage your child to live their story fully.** This requires being open, kind, and honest with them about their story. We want your child to express love for all those who had a part in their life journey. We will speak of you with nothing less than positivity and care. A child should grow up being proud of their family, their circumstances, and themselves, and we promise you, your child will grow up in a home where they hear about the love you have for them often.

Again, we are grateful that you took the time to consider us, and we trust that the perfect path will unfold for you and your child.

love,
Justin + Amanda

