



Keith and Karen

Hello! We're Keith and Karen and we are happy to share with you our lives, our passions, our pets, and our excitement for becoming parents.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We wish you peace in deciding what is best for you and your baby.

Our Relationship

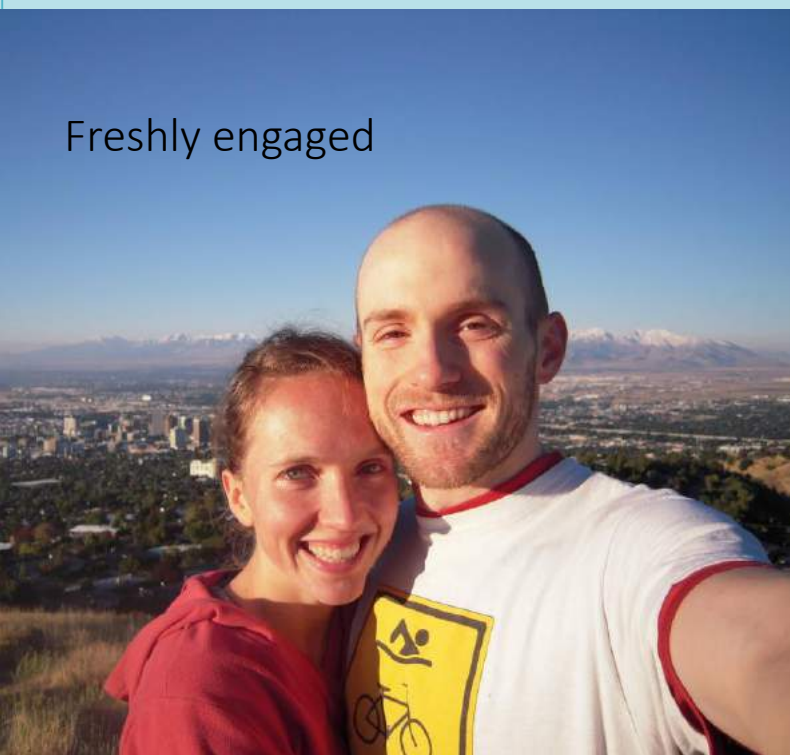
We met in college and it was clear right away that we had a special connection. We started dating soon afterwards and never stopped! We've been together for ten years (married for four) and are eager to share our lives with a little one.

Our shared love of family was one of the things that first attracted us to each other. Even before we met, Karen knew Keith was a family guy. It was Keith's profile picture on Facebook (above), proudly featuring him with his nephew, that first clued Karen in to Keith's love of family.

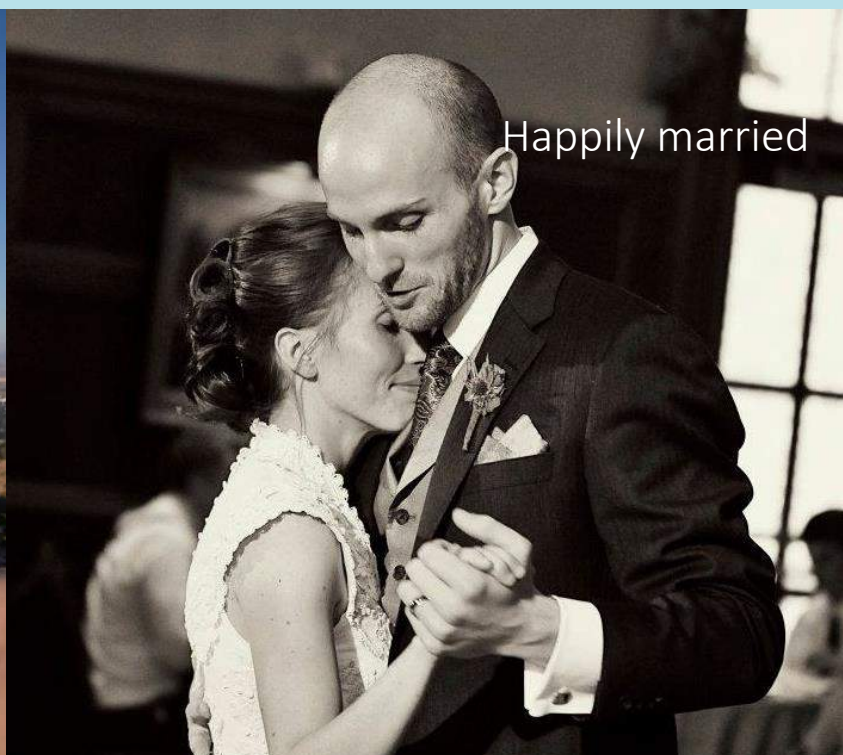
Some of our favorite things to do together are exploring new places, listening and dancing to all sorts of music, spending time with family and friends, and watching movies with our pets.



Freshly engaged



Happily married

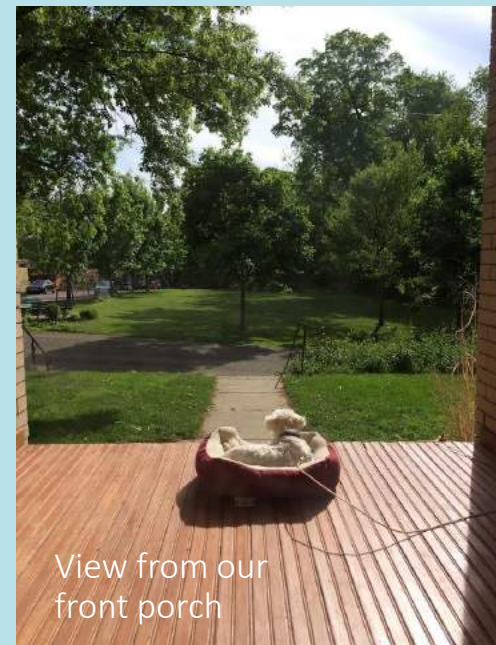


Home Sweet Home



We love where we live. Our home comes with a great front porch, friendly neighbors, and an awesome park.

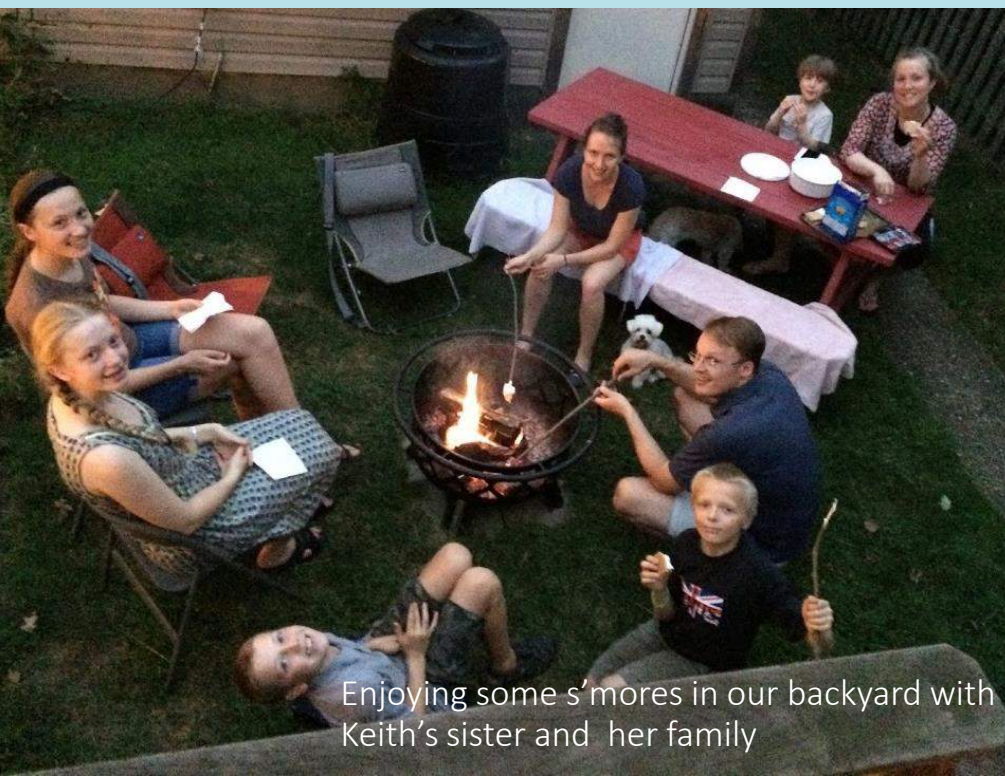
Within walking distance is our church, an independent movie theater we like to go to, and a great playground filled with kids of many different backgrounds—we are looking forward to having an excuse to use it!



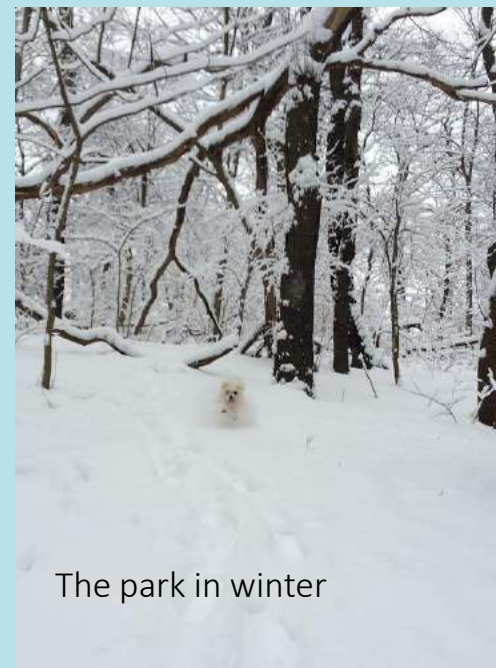
View from our front porch



Fall in the park



Enjoying some s'mores in our backyard with Keith's sister and her family



The park in winter



What makes Karen tick

I believe it's crucial that all children have access to an excellent education. Closing the academic achievement gap that exists between children from different economic and racial backgrounds is my focus. For five years I enjoyed teaching high school math and coaching girls cross country in Houston, TX.

I recently finished my master's degree in public policy and am looking forward to getting back to work in the public schools—and of course spending lots of time with a little one to help get him/her ready for school.



Celebrating a good day at school.



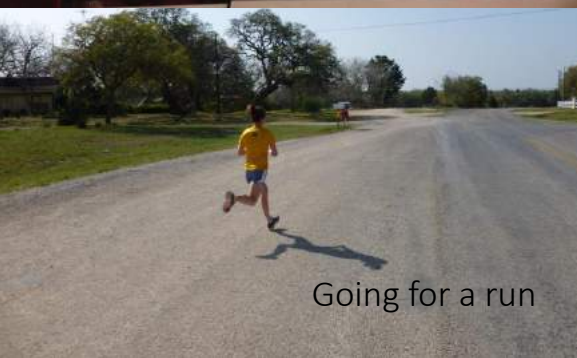
Stretching with our nephew



Cuddle time!



Presenting our master's thesis



Going for a run

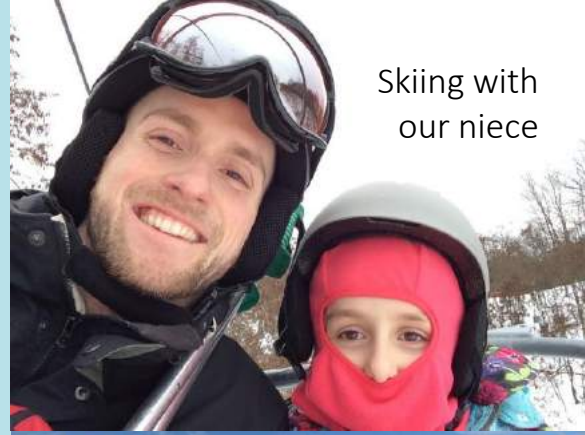
Favorites

- Color: navy
- Day of the week: Thursday—there is so much to look forward to!
- Movie: “Up”. I watched it with my students every year after the state test.
- Sport: Track and Field. I competed in high school and college and love watching it.
- Hang out: Snuggling with our pets and Keith
- Sweet: Dark chocolate milkshake

What makes Keith tick

I love making things (cooking and working with my hands are a fave!), spending time with family, and being active. I grew up in a musical household and I continue to play piano, cello, and guitar as much as I can. My free time is usually occupied with trips to see family, playing sports, walking in our lovely park, and snuggling our pets, with some household projects sprinkled in.

I enjoy science and received a B.A. and M.S. in Geology and currently work as a Geologist. Science has and continues to take me to some amazing places!



Skiing with
our niece



Geology trip
in Utah



Making pasta



Favorites

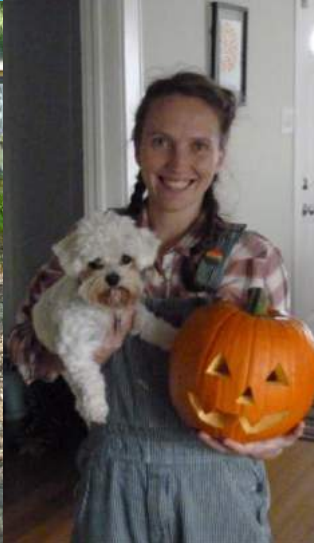
- Vacation spot: Our family cottage in Canada that 5 generations have enjoyed
- Food to make: Homemade pasta, pizza and flourless chocolate cake
- Ice cream mash-up: Dark chocolate ice cream with raspberries
- Holiday: Christmas with our family
- Pick-up sports: Ultimate Frisbee and basketball
- Baby animal: Ducklings (my nickname as a kid was “Ducky”)



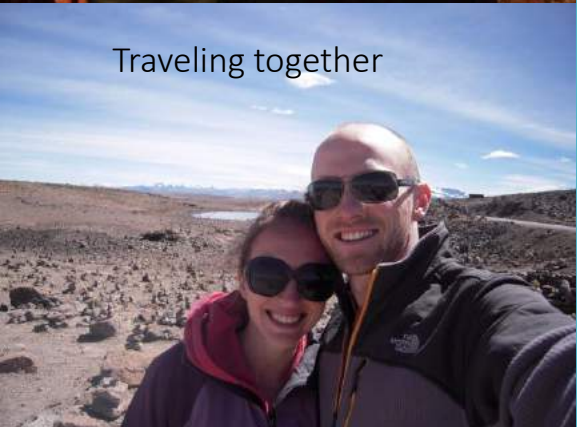
Playing frisbee



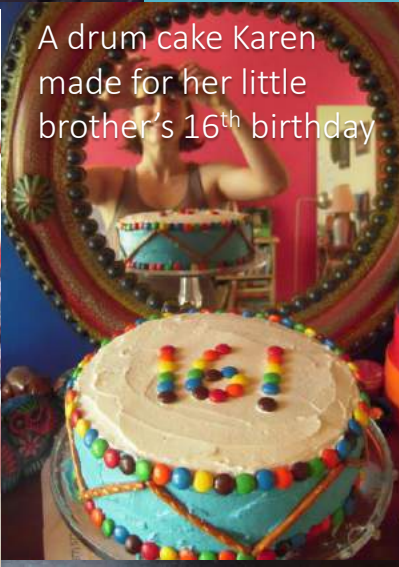
Playing a public piano



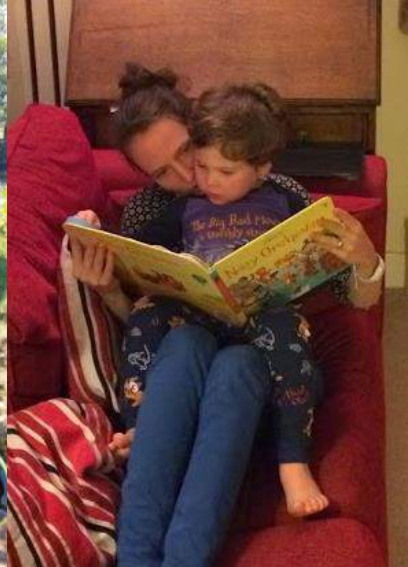
Knitted hats for the guys



Traveling together



A drum cake Karen made for her little brother's 16th birthday



Why Karen's excited to become a mom: Whenever we visit our family, I make a bee-line to play with our nieces and nephews. Whether it's playing "I Spy", judging a long-jump competition, or reading a book together, I love spending time with them. I'm really looking forward to spending this time with a little one every day.

I look forward to knitting them a sweater or baking them a birthday cake. I look forward to sharing my love of road trips and the importance of being kind. Most of all, I'm looking forward to having a little one to love.

Why Karen will be an excellent mom (by Keith): Wow, what a great mother Karen will be! She's devoted to our family and will be the biggest advocate for our future child. Karen always strives to find the best in everyone and to see situations from other's perspectives, even when it's difficult.

Karen loves to plan and look forward to big occasions, whether they be birthdays, holidays, or evening activities. Rest assured that our future child will have amazing birthday cakes!



Keith on becoming a dad: I've been blessed to have the best father a child could ask for. Loving, caring, patient, encouraging, cheerful, hard-working – he has been a wonderful example for me and I can't wait to be the same supportive influence for our little one.

Family is everything to me and as the youngest of 5 I've been surrounded by love my whole life. I want this for our little one. I can't wait to teach them to play an instrument or how to kick a soccer ball, and learning their unique interests will be a thrill!

Why Keith will be an awesome dad (by Karen): I have always known that Keith will be an excellent dad. He has always treasured family and when we first started dating, he made it clear that family comes first.

He shows his love through the little things he does every day—cooking yummy meals, keeping our car Greta running well, and snuggling with me and our pets. Keith has a playful personality and is really looking forward to having a child and teaching them all of his awesome dance moves!



We're lucky to have a big family! Karen's the oldest of 4, Keith's the youngest of 5, and we have 12 nieces and nephews. We spend as much time as we can with them.

Our Family



- 1) Karen and her parents enjoying Keith's cooking on our back porch
- 2) At the cider mill with Karen's siblings
- 3) Keith and his parents in New Orleans
- 4-8) Most of Keith's family



Furbabies and Fun



We feel very fortunate to have two wonderful pets—Bella (7) our white fluffy dog and Olive (1) our tabby cat. They play very well together and Olive cries for Bella whenever Bella leaves her for a walk. Bella is very sweet, Olive is quite playful, and they both are eager to have a human sibling.

For fun we like to....

- Watch the University of Michigan football games (Go Blue!)
- Explore new places via walks, runs, or bike rides
- Attend musicals and then play and sing the songs at home
- Participate in community events
- Make and eat tasty desserts



Our Promises to You

We promise to:

- Make sure your child knows they are loved unconditionally by you and us
- Read to them every night
- Support them in reaching their goals
- Teach them about their story and celebrate their heritage
- Share photos and letters and visit you regularly

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. As excited as we are to become parents, we cannot comprehend the difficulty of your decision. We wish you peace in your quest to decide what is best for you and your baby.

Karen + Keith

