

REV. JOSHUA BROWN

First, the basics: I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, husband, father, and pastor (in that order), who likes to backpack, read, ski, write, golf, mountain bike, and help coach my boys' Little League teams (not necessarily in that order). Now, some details.

I have long heard the Lord's call to serve him and have been blessed to follow that call in various ways. I have a deep love for foreign missions and have had opportunities to serve, preach, and teach in a number of different international settings. I have also worked with youth and college ministry programs in Pittsburgh, State College Presbyterian Church, and Boston. My primary sense of the Lord's calling, however, is to congregational pulpit ministry, which has joyfully led to Bellefield.



I was born and raised in the greater Pittsburgh area before leaving to do my undergraduate work at Penn State. There, I earned a degree in Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, participated in varsity athletics, and—most importantly—met my wife Bethany through several international missions trips led by CCO staff. After graduation, Bethany worked with a church in State College while I spent a summer teaching English in the Sichuan province of China. We were married the next summer and immediately moved north of Boston to study at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where I earned my M.Div. and she pursued an M.A. in counseling.

During our time in New England I worked as a teaching assistant in the philosophy department at Gordon College, served at the First Presbyterian Church of Ipswich and the First Presbyterian Church (Old South) of Newburyport, and was a chaplain at Beverly Hospital, where our oldest son, Malcolm, was born. In January 2008 we moved from Massachusetts back to southwestern Pennsylvania after hearing clearly the Lord's call to serve the congregation at Bethel Presbyterian Church. A year later, our younger son, Jameson, was born right down the road from Bellefield at Magee Women's Hospital, where Bethany frequently works as a birth doula.

I served as the senior pastor/head of staff at Bethel for six years, during which time I also served as the chairman of the Missional Outreach committee for Washington Presbytery, helping to co-ordinate and equip the mission and outreach ministry of the 62 churches within its bounds. The Lord blessed our time and the ministry there, and it was a joy to see the growth that took place through the work of the Spirit in the life of that congregation.



In 2013, the Lord called us to be part of the ministry at Bellefield, and it was evident from the onset that this was the place for which the Lord had long been preparing us to serve. I began serving here in November of that year. The vision and mission of Bellefield is one that I find deeply captivating and vitally strategic because of the ways in which I believe the Lord can work through Bellefield to impact Oakland, Pittsburgh, and beyond as we magnify Jesus Christ together. It is an immense privilege to work with the many families, students, young adults, members of the medical and university communities, and internationals whom we encounter on a daily basis.

My greatest desire in ministry is to proclaim Jesus Christ as crucified and raised again, to see him exalted in and through the lives of his people to the glory of God the Father, and see the Spirit work to transform lives through the good news of the gospel. I enjoy investing in others, partnering with them in the ministry of the gospel, teaching and preaching the precious truths of Scripture, encouraging the cultivation of lives of faithful discipleship, and laboring to hold forth the good news of Christ's reconciling work to a fallen world.

I'm always up for conversation over a good cup of coffee or lunch, so please feel free to email or call. If we haven't met yet, then I look forward to meeting, serving, and worshipping with you soon!

Grace & Peace,
Josh, Bethany, Malcolm & Jameson

