



## Meet Josh Fitterling

Born into a dairy farming family in Mohrsville, PA, the farm was an integral part of my upbringing. Growing up, living, and working on the farm with my parents, my older brother (by 14 months) and my paternal grandmother taught me many life lessons which are with me still today. The family farm remains in operation with my dad, mom and brother now growing grains as the primary product of the farm.

At a young age, I knew that my calling in life was not to the farm (and I do believe farming is indeed a calling!) I was always fond of school and had a particular affinity for math. Therefore, it made sense that, after graduating from Schuylkill Valley High School, I went on to attend Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA where I earned my Bachelor degree in Mathematics in 2012, with the intention of becoming a high school math teacher.

And yet, even in the midst of a math program, I had already begun to feel a calling elsewhere. With church also being a big part of my life, especially my teenage years, I was often encouraged by my home congregation, Salem Belleman's Church, to consider ministry. Clearly they saw something within me that I was not yet able to see.

In 2012, as I was graduating from college, I had come to recognize the calling within me to become a pastor. In the fall of 2012, I began attending Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA. While there, I had the unique opportunity of serving a congregation in Lenhartsville, PA, as a part-time, licensed minister. In those two years of serving this wonderful community, the call to ministry was strengthened and continually confirmed within me. I graduated in the spring of 2015, with my Master of Divinity degree and was ordained into Christian Ministry on May 24, 2015.

In the fall of 2015, eager for new experiences, I began to serve as a Pastoral Resident at the Wellesley Village Church in Wellesley, MA. In this program, I had the benefit of serving with a dedicated pastoral staff in a mentoring and educational environment. This move to Massachusetts also brought about the unexpected surprise of meeting my partner, Chris Kent!

In the summer of 2016, I began to explore where ministry would take me after my time in Wellesley. That is where Wiscasset comes in! As soon as I drove up here for the very first time to meet the Search Committee of the First Congregational Church in October 2016, I knew that I wanted to come and serve here. In December 2016, the congregation affirmed their desire for that too! With my heart being called to Wiscasset, I was ready to make the move and began serving here in March 2017. Chris, supportive of my calling, now spends his weekends here in Maine and mid-week down near Boston, where he works and will soon be going back to school!

I look forward to the continuation of this new chapter of life that Chris and I share here. Living now just over the bridge in Edgecomb, I cherish my commute every morning as I cross over the bridge into downtown Wiscasset and witness a beautiful view of the town that I love to serve!

