

Profile Story

This week's feature : Tessa Connick



I grew up in North Ridgeville. I attended school in North Ridgeville... preschool through high school.

I have 2 brothers and 1 sister who died shortly after birth. My older brother, Ian, currently lives in Little Rock, AR. He is finishing a postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology and will return to the Cleveland area and begin working at the Cleveland VA in August. My younger siblings are twins... Isaiah and Elyse. Elyse was born with a chromosome abnormality called Edward's Syndrome, and died shortly after birth. Isaiah is now 23 and just completed his first year of medical school at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens campus.

I went to Baldwin Wallace University planning to focus on the environment and major in Sustainability, but I ended up majoring in English (literature). I love to read and have a huge book collection. After graduating from BW, I took a trip to Scotland with my mom and some friends and fell in love with the people, landscape, and culture. I returned the next year to Study at the University of Edinburgh, majoring in Global Environmental Politics. I loved living in Scotland and plan to return one day to visit for sure and perhaps work... who knows? The company I work for has offices internationally, including Edinburgh 😊

While attending BW, I worked at Charming Charlie (fashion store) and Headquarters Salon, both in Crocker Park. After returning from Edinburgh, I was chosen for an ELCA fellowship for Hunger Advocacy and moved to Washington DC.

Currently I work in property management for Cushman and Wakefield, a commercial real estate company. I am assistant manager of a high-end office building in Vienna, VA. We have several government agencies in the building as well as other tenants. I love my job and have learned a lot about budgets, management, and rental agreements. I don't want to do this forever, but for now I am very happy here.

Through my job I met Nate, who is an engineer in another building... we've been together 2 years. I also recently adopted a black cat named Edgar Allen Poe, Poe for short. He is the best kitty in the world! When not working I love to cook, read, and play Dungeons and Dragons with my DD friends.

I've been a member of Prince of Peace since birth... My parents joined 2 months before I was born. While growing up at PoP, I attended Sunday School and was very active in the Senior High Youth Group. In high school I served as prayer leader and reader for the contemporary service, and occasionally played clarinet or piano. I went to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering and attended many LYO gatherings in Independence... I was even asked to speak at one of them about my time in Zambia with OMNI in 2013.

While many people may know I am an avid reader, they may not know that in 3rd grade I was a poor reader and reading below my grade level. While in Ms. Hesse's class (yes, Sue Hesse was my 3rd grade teacher! ❤️) our new principal came in to read to the class before we went to lunch. He chose Harry Potter. After 3 days I was HOOKED! I couldn't wait to find out how the story unfolded so my mom bought me the book and I zipped through it, and every volume after that. I never looked back... I was officially a bookworm now! Thank you Ms. Hesse for allowing Mr. Millar to come into your classroom 😊

Thank You Tessa for telling us your story!

Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter