

## “New Member Profile”

This week’s feature : Tony Perez and Allison Peluso



Tony was born in North Bergen, NJ and grew up in Northern New Jersey. He has one older sister who lives with her husband and children in Northern New Jersey. Allison was born in Great Falls, MT, and grew up in Southwest Arizona. She has one younger brother who lives in Vancouver, Canada. They met in Boston while they were in school. Tony and Allison are raising their two children Abigail (age 5) and Aaron (age 1) in Westlake. Abby is so proud to be a big sister and was happy to introduce me to her brother.

Their careers have been focused on health care with extensive training required in each specialty. Allison completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona, her medical doctorate (MD) at Boston University School of Medicine, and her master's of public health (MPH) at Boston University School of Public Health. Her areas of study have included medicine, epidemiology, maternal and child health, and physiologic sciences. Tony completed his bachelor's degree at Harvard University, his medical doctorate (MD) at Harvard Medical School, and his master's of business administration (MBA) at Harvard Business School. His areas of study included medicine, business administration, biochemical sciences, and history.

Allison is a board-certified neonatologist and is currently a staff physician at Cleveland Clinic main campus and Fairview Hospital. She is also the Associate Medical Director for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Cleveland Clinic main campus. Tony is a board-certified cardiologist . He currently serves as Director of Medical Operations for Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. He previously was an attending advanced heart failure/transplant cardiologist at the Cleveland Clinic. During his years at the Clinic, he also served as Director of the Heart Failure Intensive Care Unit at main campus as well as a health system Medical Director for Quality and Safety.

Tony grew up attending an active ELCA congregation in Weehawken, NJ, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. They were married by the pastor and had Abby baptized there. Allison and Tony are so grateful to have found such a welcoming and active ELCA congregation here at Prince of Peace! They became members on May 7, 2023. Currently they attend the contemporary service, usually seated in the narthex to allow Aaron to rest. They are impressed with the breadth and depth of community activities at POP and plan to contribute to the congregation's service work!

In their spare time, they love exploring the outdoors in Northeast Ohio with their children and their two dogs. Abby especially loves the Lake Erie beaches. They also travel around the world when they can. At home, they

enjoy playing with Abby and Aaron and their pets. Learning to cook new dishes, DIY projects and gardening are other interests.

Some things people may not know is that Tony is Cuban American. His parents immigrated to the United States in their youth to escape the Castro dictatorship. Allison developed a love of National Parks as a kid from visiting her grandparents who lived very close to Yosemite. They are living a life filled with purpose as God has guided them. I enjoyed meeting this active family, I know you will too.

*By : Tom Robinholt / Profile Reporter*