



Rev. Josh Hamra is originally from sunny Southern California. He admits to being a poor speller and blames it on spending more time at the beach than in the classroom. He joined the Marine Corps after he graduated high school and met his wife, Amanda, while stationed in Quantico, Virginia. He was moonlighting as a bouncer in a bar, and she was a cocktail waitress—it was love at first sight.

Josh was adopted at the age of 14 and did not grow up going to church. In fact, he didn't really start attending church until he was 26 and has always felt "out of place" in church. In his own words, he says,

"to most people who didn't grow up in church, the whole thing can be really weird. I remember my first Sunday in a little non-denominational church in Portland, Oregon. All I wanted to do was slip in the back, sit as far away from everyone as possible (mainly for a fast escape), and listen. I didn't want to wear a suit and tie or stand up and sit down a million times, singing a bunch of hymns I didn't know. I just wanted to sit and listen. So, I totally get how people feel when they're new to church. Plus, every church is different, and some are *really* strange. I still feel that way even as a pastor."

Josh leads the 9:45 A.M. Contemporary worship service and oversees all aspects of congregational care, Discipleship, and Small Group ministry. He has a deep passion for connecting with people who do not attend church and enjoys researching and talking about all religions, especially how human beings have explained their encounters with The Divine across time, space, and culture. He is a practitioner of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Yoga, and Transcendental Meditation. He is an avid audio-booker, fitness enthusiast, and aspiring herbalist.

When not in church, Josh enjoys spending time with his family. Together, the Hamras love to camp, kayak, hike, explore nature, laugh, and, of course, chill out at the beach. If you see Josh around campus, say hello and introduce yourself – especially if you are new to church.