



*Jeremy
& Ashley*

HELLO!

We grew up in the same small town and have known each other so long that we honestly have no idea how or when we first met. But as luck would have it, when Jeremy was a sophomore and Ashley was a freshman, we ended up in the same high school biology class and were paired together to study a chapter on human genetics. Jeremy's earlobes are attached, Ashley can curl her tongue into a W, we're both left handed, and the rest, as they say, was history.

Having started out as starry-eyed high school sweethearts, we've been together for over 23 years and are celebrating 17 years of marriage this year. We've experienced so much of our lives together and through the years of making each other laugh and going on adventures we've learned how to solve problems as a team and best support the person we wake up every day choosing to love.

We've always known we want to have children and while we tried for many years, adoption is not the backup plan for our infertility. We talked about plans to adopt even before we married. We thought that adoption would happen second, but God had a different plan and we're overjoyed to have the chance of becoming first time parents through adoption. And that's how God saw for our paths to cross today.



OUR HOME

We bought our little piece of the world about six years ago and recently built our home with the hopes of filling it with love for many, many years. We live on a 20-acre farm with our spoiled but dearly loved pets in the small town where we grew up and are only minutes away from our parents and most of our siblings. We have 12 nieces and nephews nearby! Instant best friends! There's plenty of room right outside our door to explore nature, plant a garden, splash around in the creek, catch lightning bugs, and find the perfect spot for a tire swing or a tree house.



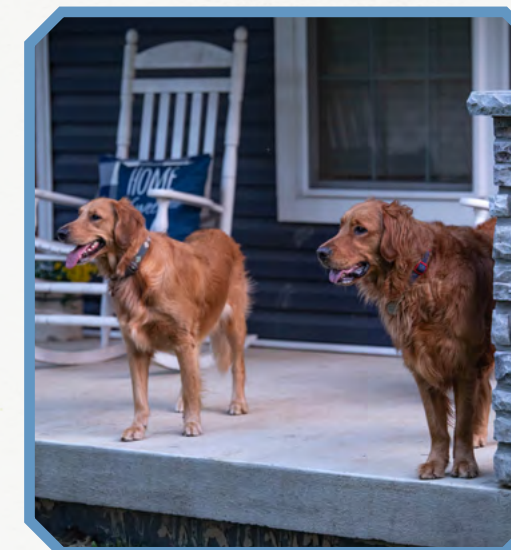
**The most important
thing in the world is
family and love.**

-John Wooden



**And whoever welcomes
one such child in my
name welcomes me.**

Matthew 18:5



**We love because He
first loved us.**

1 John 4:19



A pretty little waterfall that we are lucky enough to have on our land.



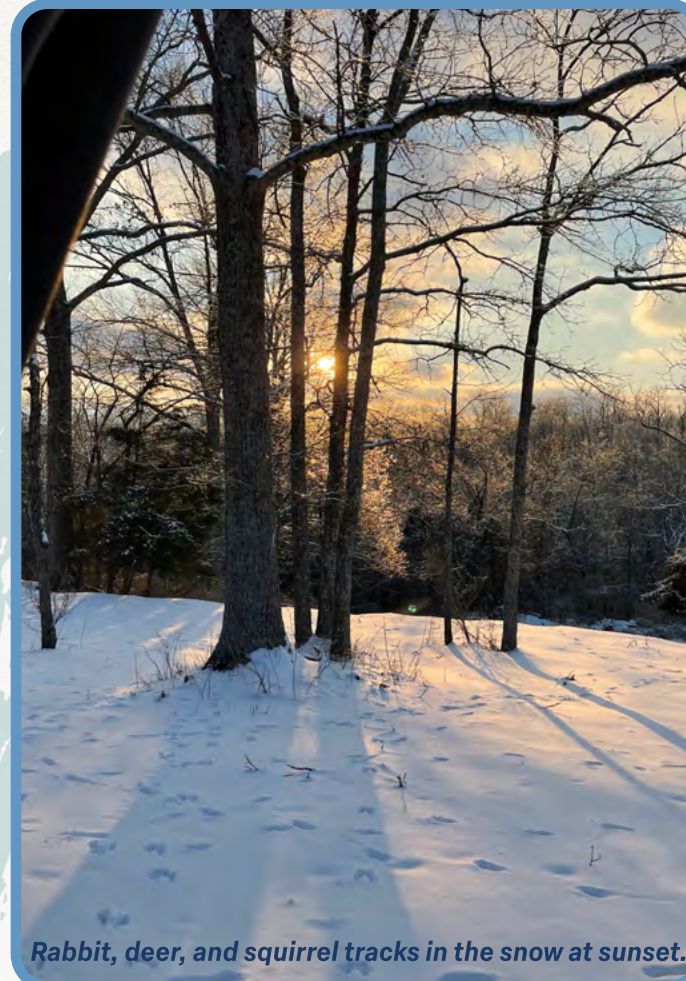
A&J carved into a tree when we first bought the farm.



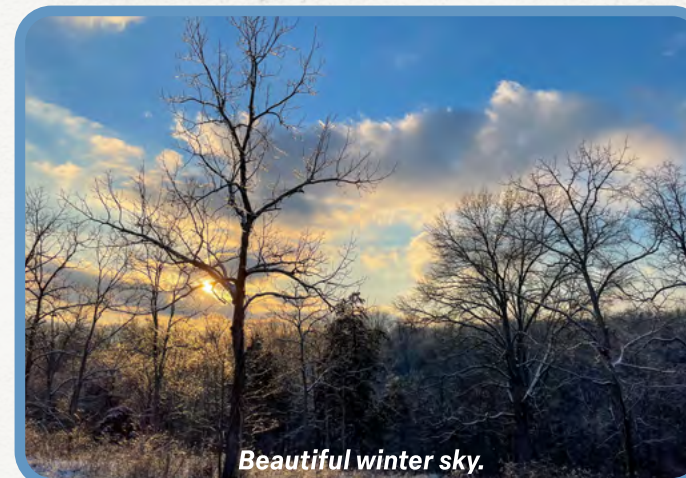
Jack & Harlow sitting perfectly for their picture in the snow.



Jack playing in his first snow!



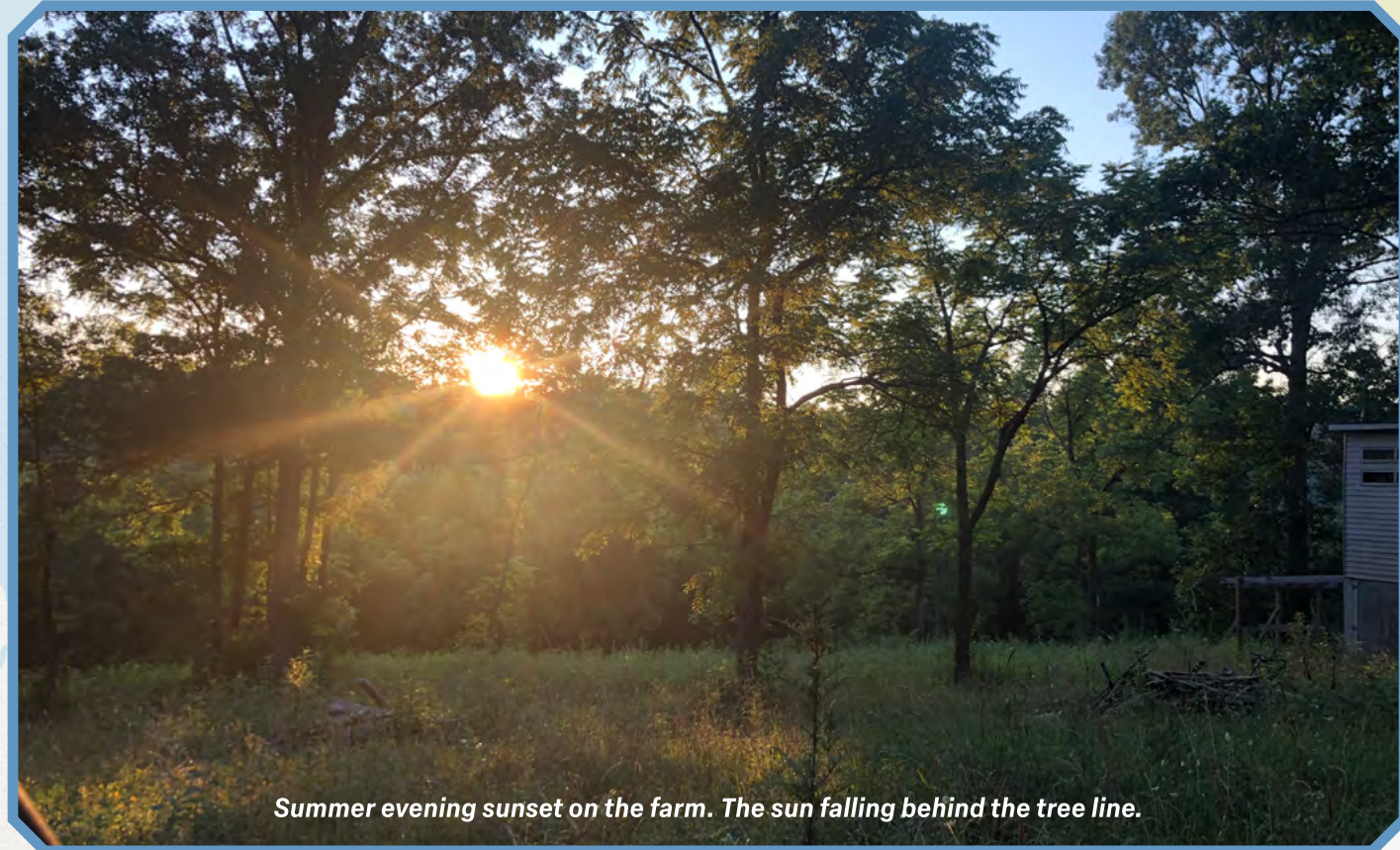
Rabbit, deer, and squirrel tracks in the snow at sunset.



Beautiful winter sky.



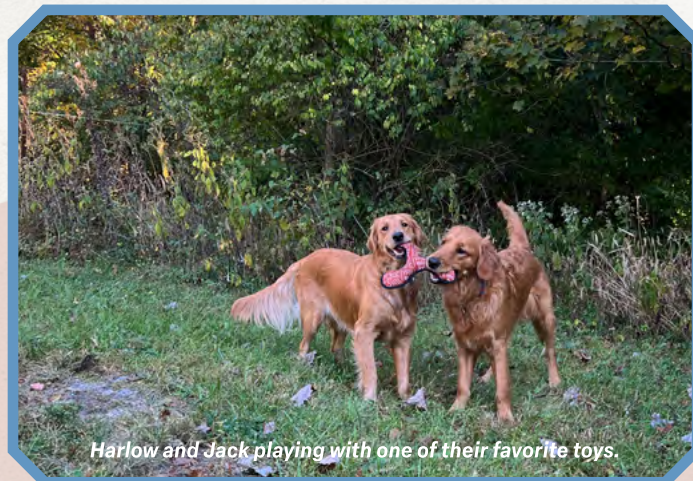
Cold ride around the farm in the snow.



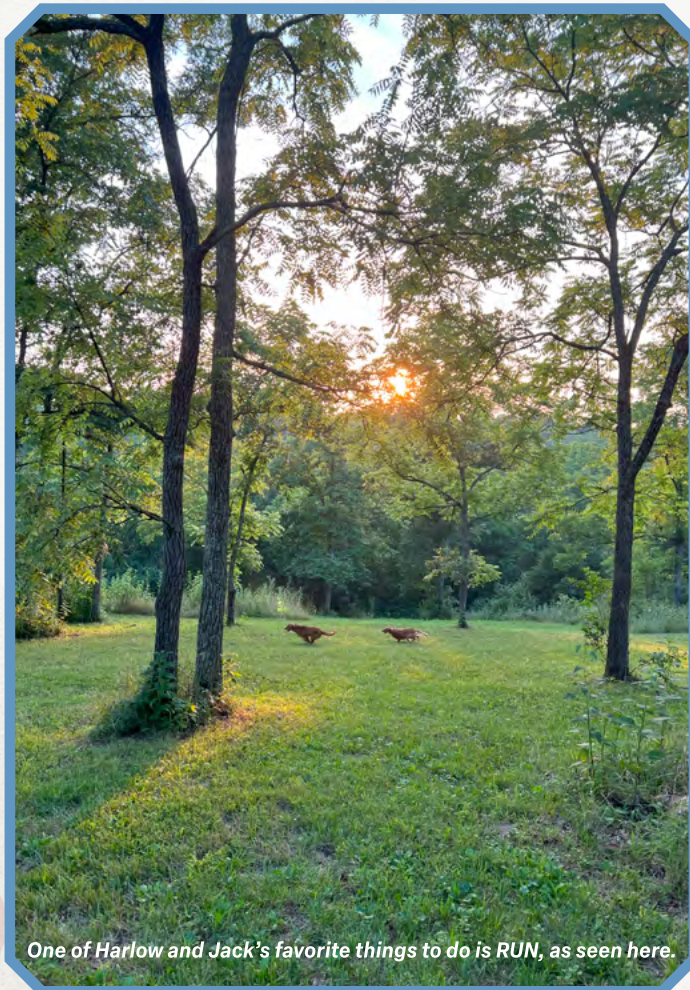
Summer evening sunset on the farm. The sun falling behind the tree line.



Old rock fence along the creek on the farm.



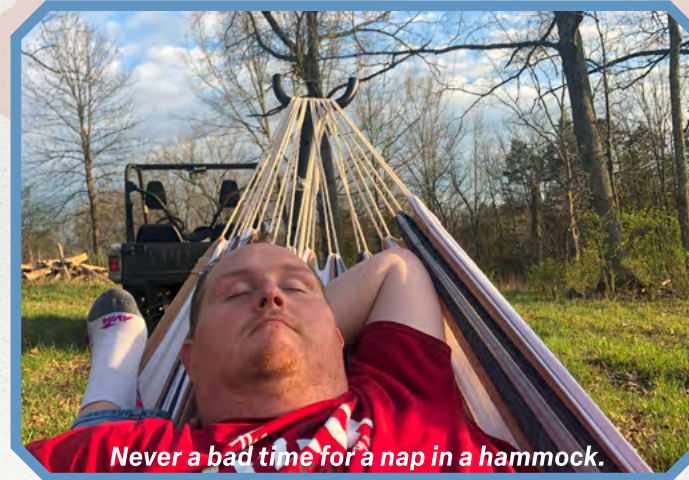
Harlow and Jack playing with one of their favorite toys.



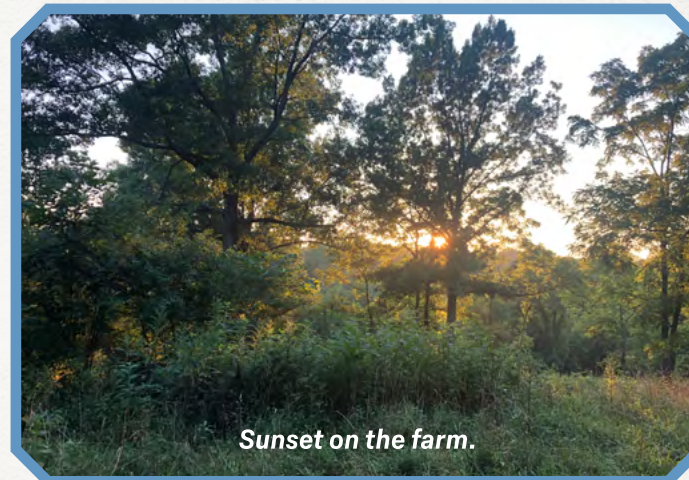
One of Harlow and Jack's favorite things to do is RUN, as seen here.



A hike up the creek has some beautiful scenery.



Never a bad time for a nap in a hammock.



Sunset on the farm.



The farm offers up some great places to explore like this huge log fallen across the creek.



THE PAWSOME SQUAD

We have two of the sweetest dogs on the planet, our beloved golden retrievers named Harlow and Jack. Harlow Rose is two years old and so, so smart. She has a gentle spirit and gives lots of kisses. Her favorite things to do are run and play outside and chase tennis balls. She's such a good, sweet girl.

Jackie Blue will be two years old soon. He's a loveable goofball and incredibly snuggly. He thinks he's a lap dog and we don't have the heart to tell him otherwise. Jack loves to take naps next to his people and the second we get home he brings us one of his toys. He's always so happy to see us! He likes to play outside but his favorite place to be is wherever Harlow is. They are the best of friends.

We also have 3 cats. Otis is the newest member of our crew. He's almost one year old and is a very playful little guy. His doggies fell in love with him immediately!

Molly and Dora are our sweet old ladies. Molly was rescued 16 years ago, and Dora was a teeny tiny, curious kitten found in a boat in our driveway. She's still plenty curious at 8 years old, but far from tiny these days. They love to find sunny spots on the floor and take naps all day long.





GET TO KNOW ASHLEY

I'm a bit of a nerd and totally ok with that. My favorite subjects in school were math and band and I love Tetris and all kinds of puzzles. I laugh at corny jokes and puns, the sillier the better, and the minute I hear a good one I call my dad to tell it to him. And he does the same. I absolutely loved school growing up and could not wait for Walmart to set up their back to school displays each summer. I still text a picture to my mom when I walk in the store and see that the school supplies have returned. I'm a perpetual student and always learning, but I have degrees in Computer Science, Software Engineering and Security, and Trombone Performance. I'm a software engineer for a small medical education company and work from home with at least one dog under my desk at all times and a nosy little kitten that makes an on-camera appearance in most meetings. I love working from home and am grateful for a company that so highly values its employees maintaining a healthy work/life balance. My passion though, is music. I have played the trombone for almost 30 years now and am blessed with opportunities to play in different ensembles all over the state.

Some hobbies I have are stained glass, painting, and needlework. I also enjoy cooking and gardening and being outside with Jeremy and the dogs. And reading. I LOVE reading. Especially in a hammock in the shade or in a chair on the beach.

Fun Facts: Growing up I had pet cats and dogs, but also a pet goat named Nubbins Petunia Goat and a Silkie chicken named Bobo the Puffball Chicken.

My favorite sandwich on the planet is bologna on white bread with Miracle Whip and Cheetos, but BLTs made of fresh-from-the-garden tomatoes come in at a close second.

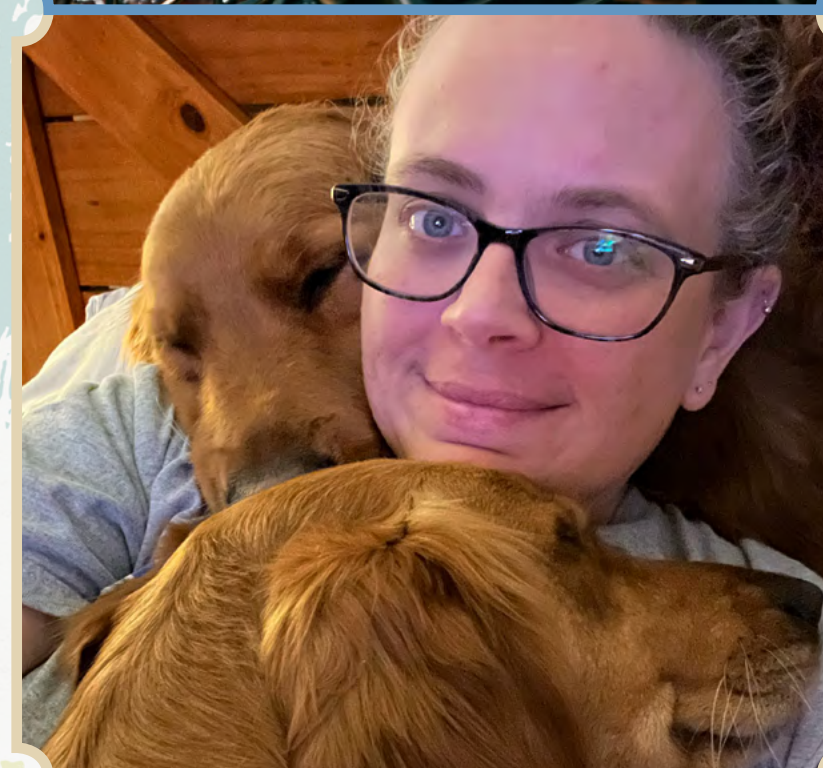
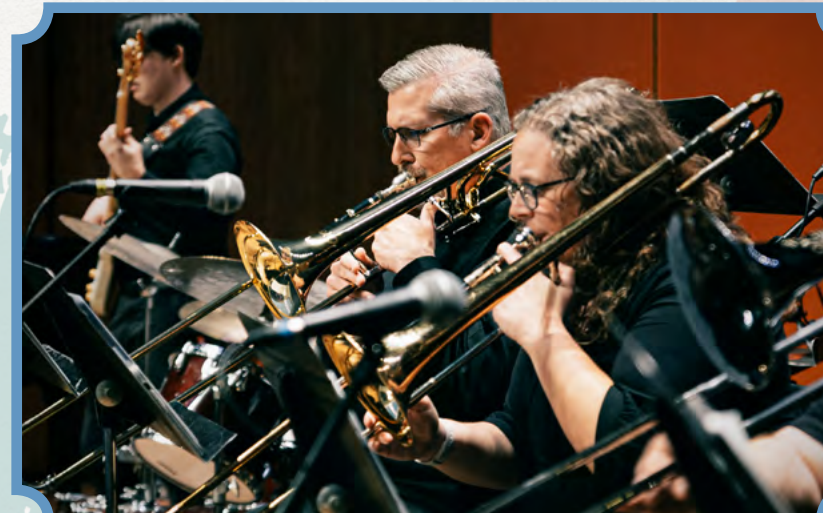
As a kid I had big plans to be a pet collector named Debbie when I grew up. Nobody knows where the Debbie part came from but we do have a handful of pets, so I must've been onto something there!

I request yellow cake with chocolate icing and vanilla ice cream as my birthday cake every year.

My favorite candy is Starburst jellybeans.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM JEREMY

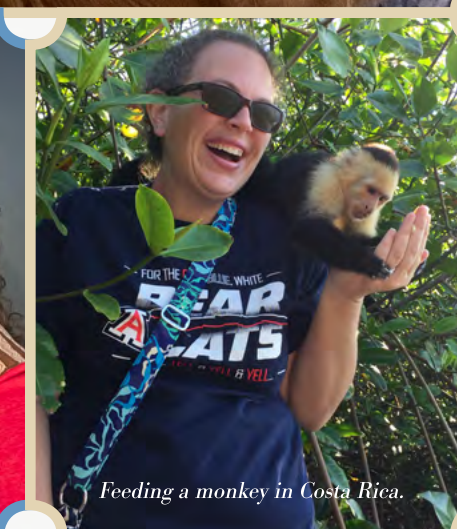
Ashley is my favorite person. She is my best friend. She is the one I will always do life with. She loves HARD. She cares for the little people in our lives like they are her own. She is truly selfless. She will put others before herself, I know this will be the way she cares for our children. I can't wait to see her share her love for a child like the mother she has always wanted to be. **She. Is. Love.**



Ugly Christmas sweater fun!



Made a matching sweater for Otis.



Feeding a monkey in Costa Rica.



Set of stained glass suncatchers I made.

ASHLEY'S FAMILY



Gram and Poppa with their favorite tiny humans.
Front-Charlotte, Harper, Maggie, Steele
Back-Savannah, Gram, Hattie, Poppa



Granny and Grandy

In my immediate family I am the oldest of four kids with one sister, one stepsister, and one stepbrother. We grew up together and have been a blended family for over 25 years. We spend a lot of summer Saturday afternoons floating in the pool at my dad and stepmom's house with my stepsister and her family and have Sunday lunch with them after church most weeks. She and her husband have one boy and two girls. My stepbrother and his family also join us often. He and his wife have three girls. My nieces and nephew bring me so much joy and getting to be their aunt is one of my proudest achievements. My sister is our world traveler. She lives in South America right now, while her partner is finishing up his residency program at a hospital in Colombia. She is far away but we send each other adorable pictures of our pets almost daily and she comes home to visit a few times a year.

My mom and stepdad live close too. My mom and I share a love of doing "crafty stuff" together and she immediately started working on a baby quilt for her future grandbaby when we told her we were hoping to adopt. I have fond memories of summer break at home with my mom when I was a kid. She is great at making even the smallest of things fun and I'm so excited at the idea that our children will get to share that side of her too.



Maggie and Ashley



Maggie, Ashley, and Steele



Ashley and her Mom, Carolyn



Ashley and her Dad, Dudley



Ashley and her Mom



Jeremy, Steele, and Savannah



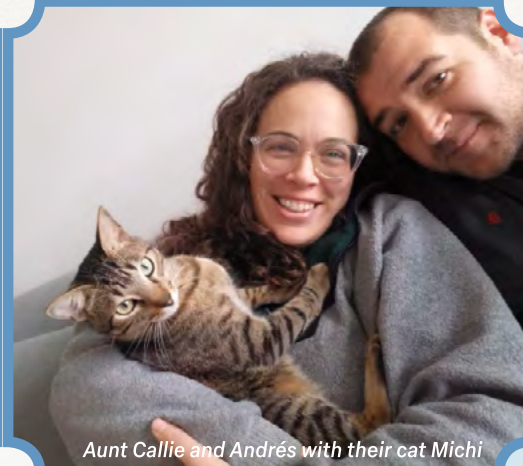
Charlotte and Jeremy



Uncle Chad, Aunt Brittany, Savannah
Harper, and Charlotte



Aunt Leeann, Uncle Jay, Hattie, Steele, and Maggie



Aunt Callie and Andrés with their cat Michi



Aunt Callie



Maggie, Aunt Callie, Hattie



Hattie, Uncle Jay, Steele, Aunt Leeann, and Maggie



GET TO KNOW JEREMY

Do you want to hear two short jokes and a long joke?

Joke! Joke! Joooooooooooooooooooooke! Ha ha!

Well, that's me. I'm a jokester. Very rarely is there a day that I don't make Ashley roll her eyes, at least once.

I never liked math in school. I thought I'd never use it and wouldn't need it. Well, guess what? Joke's on me. I was a bank teller for several years in my first job out of school and used more math than I ever imagined all day long. I worked at banks and credit unions but what I really wanted to do was graphic design. I can't draw a stick figure, but I am creative and have a good eye for design, so I took a few classes in college and found a way to get my foot in the door at a screen-printing company where I learned the ins and outs of the business. I started at the bottom but stuck with it, and as fate would have it, I've been in the screen-printing industry now for going on 15 years. I am the chief operations officer and lead designer at a print shop in our hometown. I'm enjoying my career path and happy to play a valuable role in our small community.

Outdoors. If you know me, you know that I love to be outdoors. Whether I'm playing golf, softball, hunting, fishing, working in the garden, walking with Ashley and the dogs at the park, or just sitting in a rocking chair on the porch sipping some sweet tea. I LOVE to be outdoors.

Music is a huge part of my life. My dad was involved in southern gospel music all his life and I was raised in it through watching him from a very young age. He recently passed away but I've shared that love of music with him my whole life. I've been singing across the country in organized quartets, trios, and ensembles for going on 25 years now. Music ministry is very important to me. God has called me to do it and I plan to continue for as long as I am able.

Fun Facts:

I used to be afraid of dogs. DEATHLY afraid of dogs. Now I won't live without at least one!

As a kid, I hated pizza. Yes, a kid hating pizza. I know, right?

Chocolate. Need I say more?!

My favorite color is blue. Basically, if you see any blue color it's my favorite.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM ASHLEY

To know Jeremy is to love him. He's silly and sweet with a kind heart and never meets a stranger. He sees the best in every person and situation and is most definitely the calm to my crazy. He loves to share the things he loves most with other people and gets such pure joy out of seeing those around him happy and having a good time doing something together. His nieces and nephews all think he hung the moon, and I absolutely cannot wait to see him be a dad.



JEREMY'S FAMILY



Front L to R-Mammaws, Rylan, Jesse, Cash, and Eli
Back L to R-Dee, Nana, Taryn, Rachel, Brad, Kaelyn, Jeremy, and Ashley



Ashley, Nana K, Poppy T, and Jeremy

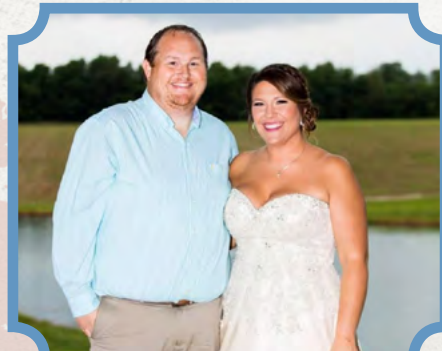
Family. Let's see. My parents divorced when I was three and I was an only child to my mom and stepdad, but I have a half-sister on my dad's side. She has six kids, four biological and two step, ranging between the 8 and 18 years old. Eli, Rylan, Cash, Jesse, Kaelyn, and Taryn are all great kids. We spend a lot of time together as a family, whether it's just a Saturday afternoon cookout or a full-blown vacation. We spend the usual Thanksgiving and Christmas and such together, but lots of other "just because" occasions throughout the year.

Growing up, my sister called me Bubba. When Eli, our oldest nephew, started talking he picked up on it and has always called me Uncle Bubba. I'm not sure he even knew my real name until he was maybe eight years old! He had a hard time saying Ashley when he was little and would say Sashey instead and it stuck. We've been Bubba and Sashey for almost 17 years now! Funny tidbit, when Cash was around four years old he was talking to Ashley and asked "Uncle Sashey?" And now, several years later, it's become a cute inside joke for him to call Aunt Sashey, Uncle Sashey.

My mom and stepdad didn't have any other children, but I have several cousins on that side that were around the same age as me and we were together a lot growing up. After Ashley and I got married, my parents started fostering. I've had many younger foster brothers and sisters come through their home through the years. They are no longer fostering, but there is one child that is so much like family he stays with them every other weekend and spends many holidays and school breaks with them. So now, I have a younger brother as well.



Uncle Bubba with the photobomb.



Jeremy and Rachel



Dee (Jeremy's Dad) and Jeremy



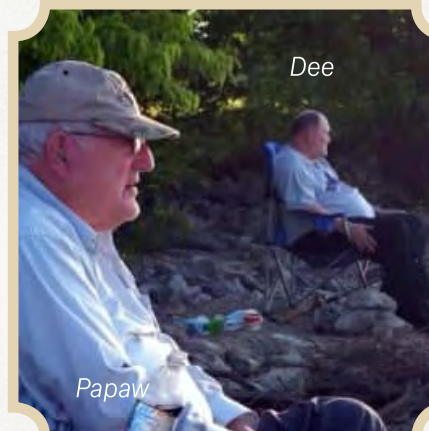
Jeremy, Rylan, Jesse, Nana, Cash, Ashley, Eli, and Aunt Rachel



Poppy T and Nana K



Jeremy, Ashley, Nana, Aunt Rachel, and Uncle Brad



Dee

Papaw



Dee



Robbie, Nana K, and Poppy T



Jeremy, Ashley, and Aunt Rachel



Jeremy and Robbie

A QUAIN COMMUNITY



Photo courtesy of Myles Young

We live in a relatively small, rural town but are within 45 minutes of the two largest cities in the state and only 15 minutes from the state capital. We're close to large cities and all the amenities and activities that come along with them, but at the end of the day we get to slow down and retreat to our cozy little house in the woods.

Within our little town we have a new public library, two large parks, a downtown thriving with little shops and restaurants, and a brand-new splash pad at the city park. The city hosts a handful of annual festivals, but our personal favorite is the Food Truck Friday summer concert series. The dogs tag along with us to visit our favorite taco truck and take in a free concert.

We attend a well-established, large church just a few minutes from our home and much of our family and extended family go there too. There are great children and youth programs, opportunities for mission work, and community outreach programs with lots of chances for all ages to get involved. Ashley's family has attended our church since it was first organized over 200 years ago and it holds a dear place in our hearts. She grew up and was baptized there and it's where we were married in 2006.



Our church



Lawrenceburg Christmas Parade



Downtown decked out for the high school prom.

Photo courtesy of Myles Young



Food Truck Friday. Fun times!



One of the murals downtown.



Lawrenceburg Splash Park

FUTURE PLANS

There are so many things we look forward to sharing as a family. High on the list are reading bedtime stories, Saturday morning pancakes and cartoons, trips to the playground at the park, summer vacations at the beach building sandcastles and collecting seashells, and movie nights at home on the couch with homemade popcorn. And I can't forget to mention our kids getting to be properly and completely spoiled rotten at every chance by Granny, Grandy, Nana K, Poppy T, Nana, Gram, and Poppa! Most importantly, though, we are excited about creating family traditions and making memories together.

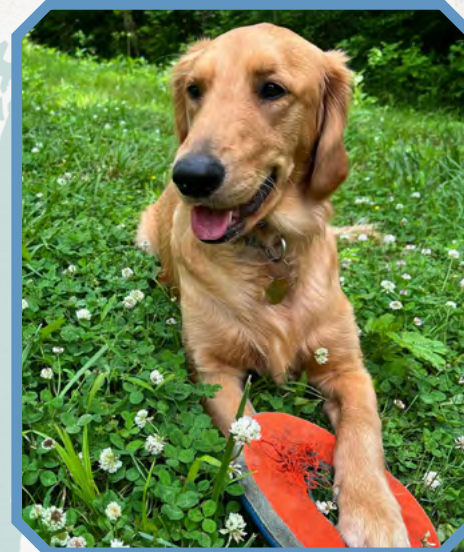
We spent days trying to figure out what to include in this letter. We'd write something and throw it away to start again over and over. We've never been anywhere close to the position that you're in. How could we guess what the person reading this letter wants to know? How do we make a good first impression without sounding like we're only trying to say what you want to hear? We concluded that we need to be genuine and talk straight from the heart. We do not want to start a potential life-long relationship with you based on a misrepresentation. We don't want to make a match. We want to make the right match. And we can't do that with fluffy words.

So. No fluff.

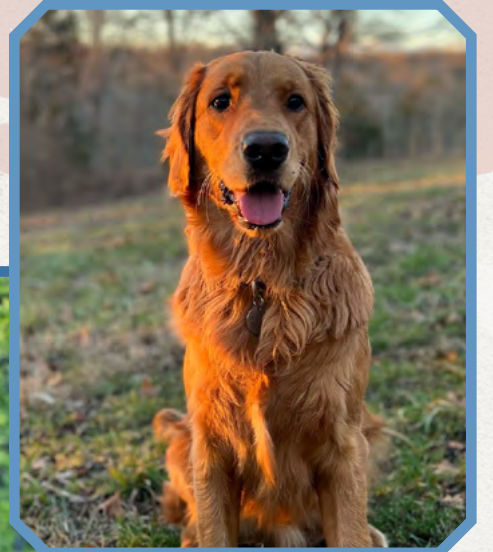
We cannot promise to always make the right choices on the first try. We are going to mess up. A lot. We are well-intentioned people with oodles of nieces and nephews that we've loved on for years, but we will be experiencing parenthood for the first time and learning together all the hard lessons first time parents must learn. What we can whole-heartedly promise is that your precious and perfect child will be loved fully and unconditionally. They will have the opportunity to learn and explore and grow in a safe and stable home with full support, both emotionally and financially, from us and with a big extended family to cheer them on every step of the way. I also promise that from day one they will know how much ALL their parents love them. We'll talk about their adoption often and openly and always answer their questions to the best of our abilities.

Thank you letting us share our hearts with you. We can't and won't pretend to understand the complex emotions you are faced with right now but we're praying for you. Every single day we're praying for you. Praying for your peace. Praying for your well-being. Praying for the precious life that you've created and committed to bringing into the world. You are important and you are respected. You are doing your best and whatever choice you make, it's the right one.

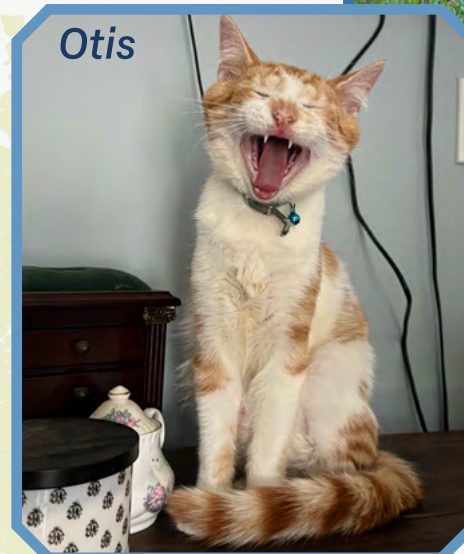
Jeremy & Ashley



Harlow



Jack



Otis



Dora



Molly