

*Jeanne and Scott*









# *Hello from the Rocky Mountains,*

The very first thing we want to say is Thank You for the time and care that you are investing in this process of reviewing family profiles. We recognize that you have a lot on your plate as you navigate options for yourself and your child. While we don't pretend to understand the weight of it, we root for you. We cheer you on, no matter what decision you make, because it will be your decision, made with the very best of intentions.

Something we do understand is that life doesn't always turn out the way we had hoped or dreamed. This book is in your hands because of our desire to be parents. We were told that we wouldn't have children naturally, but we knew that wasn't the end of that dream- it was just the birth of a new dream. The thought of bringing a child into our home through adoption thrills us to the core.

As you look at these pictures, know that our life and home aren't always so polished. Life is messy. What we have to offer are two full hearts that are willing to journey alongside a child and their birth parent(s) through this messy life with a generous dose of love, humor, and surely some mistakes along the way. Thank you for so carefully considering your child's future. We are praying for you.



# The easiest decision of our lives.

We met when we were both invited to work with our church's youth group in 2013. While we noticed each other right away, we didn't express any interest in each other. We were both older and had never been married. We had waited a long time to find someone that we wanted to spend the rest of our lives with. We had both decided we would rather be single if it meant settling for a "good marriage" rather than a "great marriage."



We each watched the other over a period of a few years, getting to see real-life interactions in both fun and stressful settings. We saw how the other communicated, treated others, and reacted in stressful situations. We enjoyed working together. Eventually, we expressed an interest in each other, but it still took a few more years to settle on the fact that we had found the one we didn't want to let go. Once we knew it, marriage was the easiest decision of our lives.



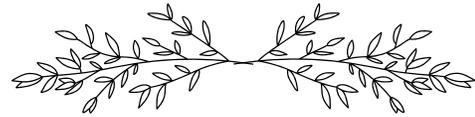


We married in 2017 and have had a lot of good times and a few hard times since then. While we make our fair share of mistakes, we also laugh a lot. We didn't know that getting to know each other better every day would make us love each other even more. It's pretty great to be known so well and be so loved despite the flaws. We recognize that we can't have a great marriage on our own. We often ask God to teach us to love the other one in meaningful ways.

We are in this marriage for the long haul and wouldn't want to do it with anyone else.



# Jeanne Marie



I am a Colorado girl with southern roots. My family moved to the mountains from Louisiana just before I was born. This gave me the best of both worlds; I grew up playing in the mountains and snow, while eating Cajun food. I'm a middle child in a family of 6 kids. We didn't have much, but we had parents that loved us and instilled a sense of creativity and wonder through the outdoors.



My favorite things to do still revolve around the outdoors or hanging out with Scott and my siblings. In the summers I love to hike, camp, paddleboard, bike, work in the yard, or play in the river. In the winters, I enjoy skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, and our family Christmas sledding parties. Nature has always been a place where the noise of life can be silenced, and I am reminded of how small I am, and yet how much God loves me.

I spend a lot of my time indoors in the winter, so this is when I pursue another love, which is art. Whether it's drawing, painting, sewing, crafting, or even refinishing furniture, I find great satisfaction in creating. I also love a good audiobook and a cup of tea or coffee, which pair well with my hands-on projects.



I love my free time, but I also love my job! For the past 12 years, I have worked as a teacher. I started out as a middle school English teacher, and while I loved it, I found that I was especially drawn to the kids that didn't have someone "in their corner," rooting for them. I got my endorsement as a special education teacher, moving to the elementary level, where I taught children with social and emotional disabilities. I recently switched to teaching at an alternative high school, where I teach both English and special education. My role for the last six years has been some of the most fulfilling years of my life, knowing that I was made for this.



### My favorite things

- ♥ Quiet time with Jesus
- ♥ Hanging out with Scott
- ♥ Mountains, rivers, and flowers
- ♥ Tea and coffee
- ♥ Coffee ice cream with Oreos
- ♥ The Chronicles of Narnia
- ♥ Pride and Prejudice
- ♥ A blank canvas

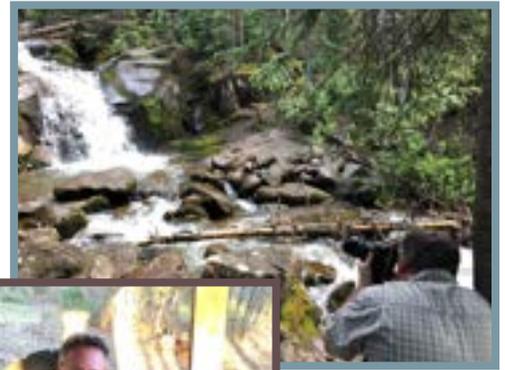


# Scott



I grew up in Texas with my two wonderful parents and one brother who is 2 years older than I am. I have always had a real love for the outdoor and ended up going to college to get a degree in Wildlife Biology. Once I finished college I moved from Texas to Colorado. Growing up we had visited for family vacations, and I always dreamed of one day living in the mountains.

God has always held an important place in my life since I was little, and I have relied on Him to guide me in my life decisions. My church family has had a great impact on my life, especially the youth group, as both a student and a leader. Growing up, my youth group leaders walked me through some hard times, which really shaped me. I started working in youth ministry myself, first with middle school kids then branched out to work with high school kids. I loved being able to connect with these kids. Supporting them through their own trials by listening to whatever they were going through and sharing lessons from my own experience. Jeanne Marie and I still stay in touch with a few of the youth group kids that we previously worked with. Attending graduations, weddings, and watching them have kids has been pretty cool.



I really enjoy the quiet of the woods. Being in nature really lets me recharge my batteries. Anytime we have free time, hiking is one of our first options. We have been blessed with our own property to hike around on and many other hiking trails in the area. I also enjoy photography and setting up wildlife cameras to see what is moving around on our property. I will take my camera with me when we hike to capture the flowers, wildlife, and scenery around me. It is a wonderful way to document my experiences. I began several years ago and have enjoyed learning about my camera and how to take great pictures.



## My favorite things

- ♥ Jesus
- ♥ Jeanne Marie
- ♥ The outdoors
- ♥ Choc. peanut butter ice cream
- ♥ Photography
- ♥ Anything WWII related
- ♥ A Christmas Story
- ♥ Christmas time

Jeanne Marie is someone who has an extraordinary amount of Compassion, Care & Love for others.



She is especially in the corner of the one who is hurt or alone, and whom no one else wants or roots for. She has devoted her life to teaching special education and behavior kids who have suffered great trauma. She does this because she has so much love and compassion for them. She wants to show them that they are loved greatly. A love that looks different than what they have experienced through their life.

These qualities have been born out of personal trauma that she experienced growing up. She was forced to make a choice, to hate and allow the trauma to overwhelm her or to love and forgive. She chose to follow her Savior's lead, and that has shaped everything about her. It doesn't mean that she does everything perfectly; on the contrary, she has learned that out of mistakes and trials, beauty shows up.

Jeanne Marie has most definitely been given a gift of loving children. Since she was little, watching over her baby sisters and brother to educating children of all ages, her love has shown. Although she was hurt deeply with our infertility, it didn't define her. Regardless of what road we are called to walk; whether that includes children of our own or not, she will continue to use her gift to help the children of the world. I am so very proud to be her husband.

Scott is incredibly caring and fun. He first caught my attention when I listened to him teach at the youth group and watched him interact with the students. He was honest and vulnerable, and available anytime someone needed to talk. He also joked with them, played “murder in the dark” with them, and drove the get-away car when they played pranks on the youth pastor. He is the same as a husband. He will sit and cry with me or play pranks on my brother with me.

Scott values close relationships. During the years that Scott was single, he always found a family to adopt as his own, taking on a role as “2nd dad” to the kids. His groomsmen were either fathers or sons from those families he morphed into. Our flower girl, who lived next door to Scott since she was a baby, sobbed when she realized that he was moving two miles away. He continues to maintain all of those relationships he has built over the years, being the guy, they’ve asked to take care of their kids if something ever happens to them.

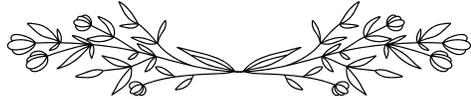
Scott has a huge heart and is drawn to help others. He is always available to help either of our aging parents, our siblings, our friends, his employees, and even my students. Whether it’s fixing a car, plowing snow, or giving a kid a pair of shoes, Scott wants to help people around him in very practical ways.



Scott has a huge heart and is drawn to help others.

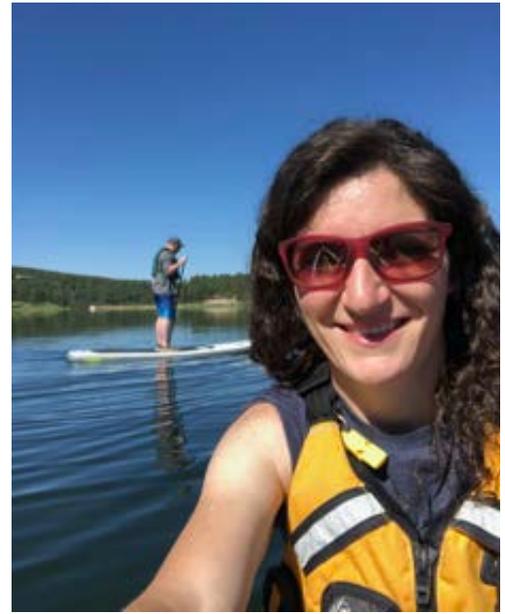


# Mocha



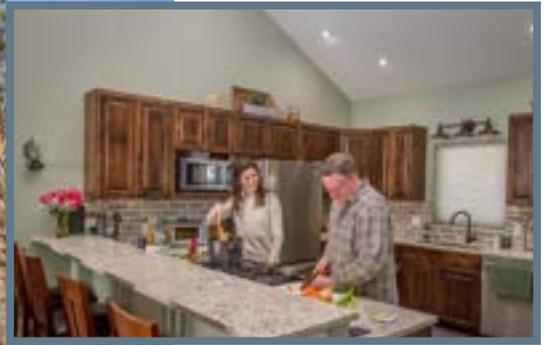
We have a cat named Mocha. She has a pretty great life. She sleeps all winter, and chases chipmunks all summer. We believe she got a head injury after falling from a deck railing as a kitten, and as a result is the most uncoordinated cat you will ever see, but possibly the most loyal. Mocha wants to be wherever we are, whether we are working on a project, taking a walk, or sitting on the couch.

While they don't technically belong to us, Jeanne Marie's family have horses, dogs, and cats that consider our yard their own. Buddy and Rowdy are 3-year-old male German Shepherds who are brothers. Rowdy belongs to Jeanne Marie's parents, and Buddy belongs to her brother. Bowdrie is her brother's horse and Buckshot is her dad's horse. Mocha is even willing to share her napping spot on the tractor seat with the barn cat.



Snapshots  
of our life



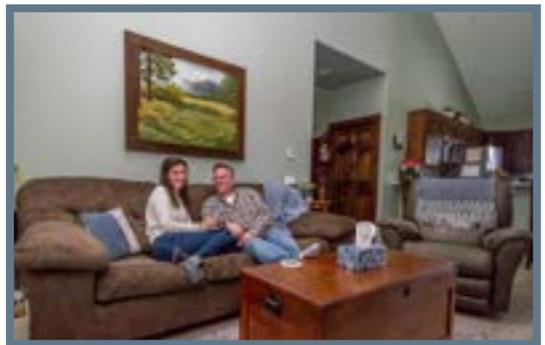


Every feature we love or mistake we see reminds us of time spent together.

We are especially fond of our house because we built much of it ourselves. Our home is a 3 bedroom ranch-style situated on 80 acres of land shared with Jeanne Marie's parents, brother and his family, and her sister. It is so peaceful, and yet we are just 2 miles from town.

When you share property, you share the pets. Aside from the family dogs, horses, and cats that frequent our yard, we also have a lot of deer, elk, coyotes, turkeys and rabbits that enjoy the property also.

We live in a small, rural, ranching community in the mountains. Our neighbors run cattle in the summer months. Our community events revolve around rodeo's, chili cook off's, mountain man rendezvous and music festivals. The town has grown a lot over the years, but at it's roots, it is still a close-knit community that reaches out to support one another. You can't go to the grocery store without bumping into someone you know.





## Our day-to-day changes with the season

We both work full-time for most of the year. On our shared workdays, we get up early, get out the door to work, and get home near dinner time. After taking care of some chores or lingering work requirements we settle down for a quiet evening. We usually spend them listening to an audiobook or watching a show on tv. We also like to pull out a game or puzzle sometimes, or we just sit out on the deck, watch wildlife, and enjoy the peace and quiet.

On our days off, we usually enjoy a slower start to the day, staying in our pajamas while we enjoy a quiet morning on the couch, sometimes with a special breakfast or hot drink. We both like to keep busy, so after our slow start, we work on house projects, walk down to see family, or do something outside. Lately we've only had one shared day off - Sundays, so we go to church or take a hike together.

In the summer, when Scott's job requires more of him and Jeanne Marie isn't teaching, she spends much of her time working in the yard or hanging out with family or friends. Summer is also the season for cutting firewood, working on forestry management projects on our property, and occasional get-away for a camping trip.



## Jeanne Marie's Family

I come from a big family. I'm the third of six kids; two boys and four girls. We grew up very close and have stayed that way even as we moved apart. Five of us still live in Colorado, and three of us still live within a couple hundred yards of each other. My younger brother lives down the hill from us with his wife and their seven-year-old daughter, and my younger sister and parents live down the hill from them. I have seven nephews and two nieces. They range from new-born to 15-years-old. We all love to be outside, so in the summer we camp, hike, play in the river or on the lakes, and even take some time to split firewood for Grammy and Grandpa.

My parents love being "Grammy and Grandpa." They try to keep up with everyone, but don't quite have the energy, so we take time to hang out with them too. My dad loves to take the grandkids four-wheeling, on the tractor, or horseback riding, while my mom is always ready to feed an army or teach the grandkids to knit. I also have an extended family that lives in town, with an uncle, aunt, and a couple of cousins and their families.

When we all get together at Christmas, we play a lot of board games, go sledding, and gather to sing. (Some of the singing shows genuine talent with guitar accompaniment from my brother or nephews, but there is also karaoke, which brings a lot of laughter.) We often try to meet up in the summer as well. My sisters and I love to get together for girls' weekend or camping trips anytime we can, and we see the local family weekly to "borrow a cup of flour" or to work on a vehicle together.



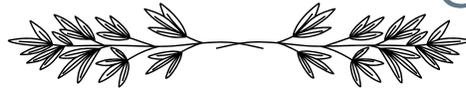
Scott's Family

My parents still live in Texas. They have a motor home and have come to visit every summer for the past 29 years. Since retiring, they would come up for six weeks of the summer, but this past summer, decided that they could no longer do that trip with the RV, but they drove up and stayed with us for a few days instead. We usually fly down to see them around Christmas and will go more often when they can't travel to Colorado. We speak on the phone every couple of weeks just to check in and to keep each other current on what is going on in everyone's lives. My brother is an airline pilot and lives in Washington with his wife. We don't see them as much. They have three grown daughters who we have seen a few times since they got married.

I also have a few families that I call my own, even though there is no blood relation. When I was in my mid-twenties, I developed a close friendship with a boss and his family, getting to be like an uncle to the kids. I've watched these kids grow up and start families of their own and continue to see them on a regular basis. I rented a cabin from my best friend for years, so I grew to be a part of his family also. He has three children, two of which are adopted, I now get to watch and support them as they navigate their teen years.



# The Holidays



Thanksgiving and Christmas are the two big holidays that we always spend with family. We try to travel down to Texas to see Scott's parents at Thanksgiving or Christmas, where we enjoy visiting, making old recipes or going through old pictures, and helping them around the house and property. We also enjoy a bit of city life while there and do some shopping and get donuts or Braum's ice cream. It's just the four of us, so it's always quiet and relaxing.

When we celebrate Thanksgiving or Christmas in Colorado, there are a lot of people and activities going on. We gather for a big meal at one of the four homes on the property, and usually play some board games or just hang out and visit. If we have enough snow, we end up sledding or having snowball fights.

Easter, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and the 4th of July are usually smaller gatherings of just the family that lives in town. We may gather for lunch or to watch the fireworks, which we can see from our front porch. These holidays are often our favorite, just because they start and end with just us, at home, together, at a slow pace.



# Why Adoption?

Both of us had childhood dreams of being married and having children. Those dreams took longer to materialize than expected, as we married later in life, and years of infertility followed. As we grieved that we might never get to be parents, we sensed that God might have a better plan for us than what we had imagined up for ourselves...He always does.

Deep down, we both felt like we were made to be parents. When the stress of teaching gets to Jeanne Marie, all Scott has to say is, "You know you won't be happy doing anything where you aren't with kids." It's true. She finds her own purpose in cultivating a child's curiosity, creativity, and hope. At Scott's core, he wants to provide emotional and physical security to a child, so that they can thrive. He initiates conversations about hard topics and wants to know a kid's heart.

We have already been given precious opportunities to love, grow, and care for a number of children who didn't call us "Mom and Dad." Scott fostered a close relationship with the kids of two different families from the time the kids were very small. They now range from 13-33 years old, and still look to Scott as a confidant and friend. They seek him out to tell him about what is important in their lives. Jeanne Marie has nurtured a number of close bonds with students who didn't have stability in their home life. They sought out her classroom, knowing that her love was unconditional, and her boundaries were safe. These relationships have been priceless to us, and yet we still long to care for children on a different level. Adoption is a beautiful avenue to that end.

“All I have seen teaches me to trust  
the creator for all I have not seen.”  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson





Our core values are rooted in the love that we have experienced from God. There are two specific truths we cling to: God values us, and He will never leave us.

He has proved that He will be with us and love us through the good, the bad and the ugly. We mess up and act unlovable at times, and yet we've experienced a love that not only forgives, but also walks alongside us as we make a come-back. We try to live that kind of love out in our marriage and in our other relationships- showing others that they are valuable and being present through this life's journey.

# Thank you

Thank you for taking time to get to know us a little bit through these pages. There are a lot of unknowns in life, and surely some of what you've read or seen here will change over time; however, there are some things that we can commit to for the long haul.

We will

- ♥ Love your child through thick and thin.
- ♥ Be parents who are committed to loving, forgiving, and communicating with each other.
- ♥ Provide your child with a safe and loving home, surrounded by family and friends that will love and support them.
- ♥ Cultivate your child's natural strengths, interests, and gifts, and support them through their areas of need.
- ♥ Communicate and value your child's story; teaching them where they came from, who they are, and supporting them as they discover their niche in the world.

Just as circumstances will change in our lives, they will change in yours. We will do our best to accommodate your desires and needs over time.

What we want to leave you with is hope. There is always hope ahead. It comes in little whispers, and glimpses of light. It doesn't take away the pain of life, but it keeps you looking for the next sunrise. Breathe, Dear One. There is hope, and we pray that you can find and cling to it through your journey and decisions. Our hearts are with you as you walk this road.

Rooting for you,  
Jeanne Marie & Scott

