



*Kyle and
Gretchen*



WE CAN'T WAIT TO BECOME
PARENTS AND EXPLORE WITH A
LITTLE ONE



Hello!

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME
TO GET TO KNOW US!**

Hello,

WE ARE KYLE AND GRETCHEN, AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME ON THIS JOURNEY. THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING US. WE ARE BEYOND EXCITED TO ADOPT AND BRING A CHILD INTO OUR FAMILY! THROUGH YEARS OF INFERTILITY AND LOSS, WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING A LOVING HOME TO A VERY MUCH-WANTED CHILD. WE HOPE OUR STORY WILL HELP YOU IN MAKING YOUR CHOICE. PLEASE KNOW THAT NO MATTER YOUR DECISION, WE WISH YOU AND YOUR CHILD HOPE, PEACE, COMFORT, AND LOVE. WE HOPE THIS BOOK GIVES YOU A GLIMPSE INTO OUR FAMILY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

Our Story

WE MET BECAUSE OF
a winter retreat!





OUR FIRST DATE: PROM

AS HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS, WE HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF GROWING ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER THROUGH MANY SEASONS OF LIFE. WE BOTH HIGHLY VALUE HONESTY, SERVICE, COMMUNICATION, AND QUALITY TIME. WE BOND OVER OUR SHARED FAITH AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST AND THE HOPE WE HAVE IN JESUS. WE BELIEVE FAMILY AND LOVING OTHERS WELL ARE ESSENTIAL, AND WE ARE EXCITED TO RAISE A FAMILY WITH THE SAME VALUES.

WE BOTH ATTENDED THE SAME YOUTH GROUP IN HIGH SCHOOL ON SUNDAY NIGHTS AND HAD MUTUAL FRIENDS, BUT WE HADN'T MET. WE FINALLY MET OVER A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE GAME OF SPOONS WHEN WE LEFT FOR THE WEEKEND FOR THE GROUP'S WINTER RETREAT IN THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS. IT COULD'VE BEEN HOW FAST KYLE RAN TO GET TO THE SPOON FIRST, JUMPING OVER PEOPLE AND UP THE STAIRS, BUT OUR FRIENDS SAY THAT WAS WHEN IT ALL STARTED. ALMOST NINE YEARS LATER, WE ARE STILL COMPETITIVE OVER CARD GAMES.



DINER ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND



Meet Kyle

by Gretchen

Kyle grew up in a close-knit community in Washington. He has three sisters; his parents have been married for 35 years. He is considered Uncle Tau-Tau to our best friend's two sons.

Kyle is extraordinarily servant-hearted and will always help someone out. He is the most even-tempered and chill person I have ever met. He is constant, steady, prepared, hardworking, and silly around his friends and family. Kyle can fix or build almost anything, and I'm constantly amazed by his ability to do things. He is a great listener and truly my best friend.

Kyle loves to golf and help friends work on cars. Football, baseball, pickleball, and tennis are some of his favorite sports to play. His favorite foods include pancakes, steak, curry, and creme brulee. He graduated high school in 2017 and studied exercise science at Eastern Washington University.

CAMANO ISLAND OVERLOOKING THE
CASCADE MOUNTAIN RANGE





CHURCH SOFTBALL GAME

Fun Facts

MY FAVORITE
FOOTBALL TEAM IS
THE PACKERS

I FIXED UP AN OLD
1980 BMW 325i

I HELPED BUILD
HOUSES IN TIJUANA,
MEXICO

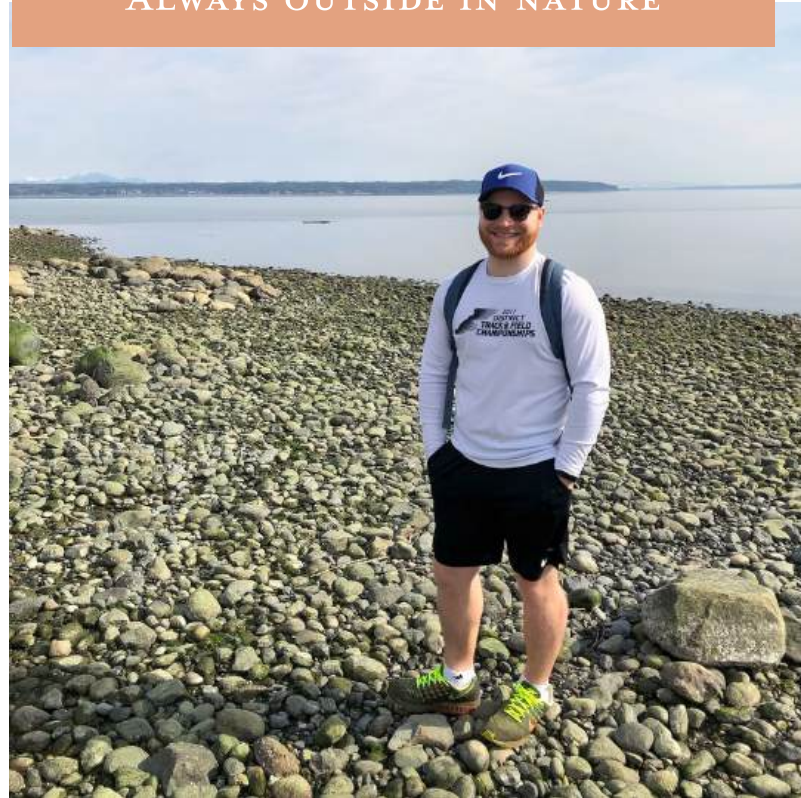
MY FAVORITE TV SHOWS
ARE THE OFFICE & SUITS

I LOVE COOKING AND
COOKING
COMPETITION SHOWS

I HAVE PLAYED ON
MULTIPLE SOFTBALL
LEAGUES FOR THE LAST
10 YEARS



ALWAYS OUTSIDE IN NATURE



Meet Gretchen

By
Kyle

Gretchen grew up in a small town in Ohio. She has two brothers and is now an aunt to one nephew and one niece. Family has always been very important to her; regardless of where she's been, her loved ones are always a top priority. She is loyal to those close to her and would do anything for them.

Her favorite time of year is Fall. She loves the outdoors and likes to stay active, but she also loves to cuddle up inside with a blanket and a cup of tea while watching a great show.

Her favorite foods include pasta, tacos, and ice cream. She graduated high school with an associate's degree in 2016 and got her bachelor's degree from Saint Martin's University.

She is the director and lead teacher at the preschool within our church. She loves pouring into the little kids, nurturing and teaching them new skills. Her heart for the next generation is evident in her fervent work ethic.



TEACHING AT PRESCHOOL



Fun Facts

I co-own a home bakery

My favorite TV show is Friends

I summited Mt. St. Helens

I cannot live without coffee!

Growing up I was a competitive ballerina and tap dancer

I make almost all of our food from scratch or from our garden



I LOVE HIKING AND EXPLORING
THE MOUNTAINS



I LOVE

Gardening!



GARDENING BOUNTY

Our Home



WE LIVE IN A VERY OUTDOOR-ORIENTED NEIGHBORHOOD. THERE ARE NEIGHBORS OF ALL GENERATIONS WHO WALK OUR BLOCK TOGETHER DAILY. MANY PARKS, BEACHES, HIKING TRAILS, AND AMUSEMENTS ARE WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE. OUR HOME IS ONE-STORY AND HAS THREE BEDROOMS WITH A BIG YARD. OUR FAVORITE PLACE IN OUR HOUSE IS OUR KITCHEN BECAUSE WE CREATE MANY MEMORIES OF COOKING TOGETHER AND HAVING FAMILY MEALS.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME AT OUR HOUSE



OUR HOME IS NESTLED IN THE
EVERGREEN TREES, AND WE HAVE A
LARGE GARDEN WHERE WE GROW
FRUIT, VEGETABLES, AND HERBS. WE
SPEND A LOT OF TIME OUTSIDE IN
OUR YARD ENJOYING NATURE.

WE HOST FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AT OUR HOME FOR VARIOUS
HOLIDAYS, BIRTHDAYS, GAME
NIGHTS, AND WEEKLY DINNERS.
WE LOVE TO SPEND TIME WITH
OUR LOVED ONES AND ARE
BLESSED TO HAVE MANY FAMILY
MEMBERS IN THE SAME CITY.
OUR FAMILY KNOWS OUR HOME
IS THE GATHERING PLACE FOR
GOOD FOOD, FUN GAMES, AND
LOTS OF LAUGHTER.



our
loved ones

THANKSGIVING WITH GRETCHEN'S FAMILY



GRETCHEN'S MOM AND YOUNGER
BROTHER



WE ARE BLESSED WITH A LARGE FAMILY AND FRIENDS WE CONSIDER FAMILY. GRETCHEN HAS FIVE SISTERS-IN-LAW BETWEEN BOTH SIDES OF THE FAMILY AND LOVES THAT SHE NOW HAS SO MANY SISTERS. OUR PARENTS ARE EXCITED BEYOND BELIEF TO HAVE A GRANDCHILD AND FIGHT OVER WHO GETS TO HOLD THEM THE MOST. OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS HAVE TWO CHILDREN EACH, AND GRETCHEN'S OLDER BROTHER ALSO HAS TWO CHILDREN, SO THERE WILL ALWAYS BE CHILDREN WITH WHOM OUR CHILD CAN GROW UP AND BOND.

Family Traditions

EACH CHRISTMAS, BOTH SIDES OF THE FAMILY GATHER FOR A POTLUCK-STYLE DINNER AND A "WHITE ELEPHANT" GAME WHERE THE DICE DETERMINE WHERE EVERYONE'S PRESENT IS GOING. IT ALWAYS GETS LOUD, AND EVERYONE HAS SO MUCH FUN!



KYLE'S SISTERS, PARENTS AND GRANDMA



HANGING OUT WITH KYLE'S EXTENDED FAMILY



FRIENDS THAT ARE

family!



adventures

TOGETHER, WE LOVE TO SEE AND EXPERIENCE NEW PLACES, PEOPLE, AND FOODS! WE APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD AROUND US AND TRY TO SOAK IN AS MUCH AS WE CAN EACH YEAR, WHETHER IT'S AROUND OUR HOME OR A FAR-OFF DESTINATION. RECENTLY, WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, IDAHO, SMITH ROCK STATE PARK, AND MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK. EACH YEAR, WE ALSO PARTICIPATE IN A PAINT WAR WITH THE HIGH SCHOOLERS AT OUR CHURCH FOR PAINT AND FUN-FILLED GAMES IN THE SUMMER.



MT. ST. HELENS NATIONAL PARK



CENTENNIAL GARDENS IN
TEXAS



MT. RAINIER NATIONAL
PARK

paint war fun!



HIKING IN A
STATE PARK



On Parenting and Values

one core value we want to teach our child is service.

WE LOVE TO SERVE AND HELP OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND PEOPLE IN NEED. TEACHING CHILDREN TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PUT OTHERS FIRST IS REWARDING AND VITAL TO LOVING OTHERS WELL. WE HOPE TO REMIND OUR CHILDREN THAT EVERYTHING WE DO FLOWS FROM GOD'S LOVE FOR US. HE HAS GIFTED US WITH UNIQUE TALENTS AND BEAUTIFUL CHARACTERISTICS THAT WE CAN USE TO SERVE SOMEONE ELSE WELL. OUR OTHER CORE VALUE IS COMMUNICATION. COMMUNICATION INCLUDES EMPHASIZING OPENNESS WITH OUR CHILDREN AND WANTING THEM TO KNOW IT'S OKAY TO MAKE MISTAKES, NO ONE IS PERFECT, AND WE ARE A SAFE PLACE THAT OFFERS LOVE AND FORGIVENESS.

We hope to raise a family that is centered around the love of Christ.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BEING A PARENT AND RAISING A CHILD IS A BLESSING AND GIFT. WE BELIEVE GOD IS A GOOD AND LOVING FATHER WITH GOOD PLANS FOR OUR LIVES. WE KNOW HE IS LOVE, AND IT'S ONLY THROUGH HIM THAT WE CAN EXTEND LOVE, GRACE, FORGIVENESS, AND KINDNESS IN THE SAME WAY HE DOES TO US. JESUS SAVES BECAUSE HE LOVES. WE WANT TO SHOW THAT SAME LOVE TO EVERYONE AROUND US. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPERIENCED HIS STEADFAST LOVE, AND WE KNOW HE WILL BE FAITHFUL TO YOU THROUGH IT ALL.

Open Adoption

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUILDING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION?: WE ARE BLESSED AND SO THANKFUL TO GROW OUR FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION. WE TALKED ABOUT ADOPTING A BABY BEFORE WE GOT MARRIED. THROUGH YEARS OF INFERTILITY AND LOSS THROUGH MISCARRIAGE. WE FEEL CALLED TO LET GO OF OUR "CONTROL" AND OPEN OUR HEARTS AND HOME TO A PRECIOUS BABY THROUGH ADOPTION.

CHILDCARE PLANS: OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE GRETCHEN BE A "STAY AT HOME" MOM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. KYLE GREW UP WITH A STAY AT HOME MOM AND SAW FIRST-HAND THE BENEFITS OF THAT LIFESTYLE. WE DESIRE FOR OUR CHILD TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH HIS/HER PARENTS AS POSSIBLE. WHEN GRETCHEN NEEDS TO WORK KYLE'S PARENTS ARE WILLING AND AVAILABLE. WE ALSO HAVE A LARGE EXTENDED FAMILY OF SIBLINGS, COUSINS, GRANDPARENTS AND FRIENDS WHO SHARE THE SAME VALUES AND ARE ABLE TO HELP AS NEEDED.

OPENNESS TO BIRTHPARENT(S): THE WONDERFULNESS OF ADOPTION IS WE NOT ONLY GAIN A CHILD, WE ALSO GAIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU AS THE BIRTHPARENT(S). WE ACKNOWLEDGE THIS IS A TOUGH DECISION, AND WE WANT YOU TO BE PART OF OUR LIVES AS MUCH AS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WITH. WE ARE NOT HERE TO JUDGE BUT TO LET YOU KNOW YOU ARE VERY MUCH SEEN, LOVED, AND CARED ABOUT. WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET OUR CHILD'S BIRTH PARENTS!





Thank you FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW US! WE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR COURAGE AND STRENGTH THROUGH THIS PROCESS. WE BELIEVE IT IS INDEED A HUGE BLESSING TO ADOPT, AND ONLY THROUGH THE GRACE OF GOD CAN WE BEGIN THIS JOURNEY. IF CHOSEN, WE PROMISE TO GIVE YOUR CHILD UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND SUPPORT. THEY WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM AND THAT YOU LOVE THEM VERY MUCH.