



ANDREW AND LARISSA



OUR STORY

At Larissa's grandma's
in Pennsylvania

Hi, we're **Andrew and Larissa!** We are so grateful to you for choosing to read our story and learn more about us.

Andrew likes to say that God "Amazon delivered" Larissa straight to his door. Larissa was attending a Bible study at Andrew's house in 2019, hosted by his roommate when he came out of his room to take a break from studying. After seeing Larissa, Andrew decided to stick around and never went back to studying. Much of our early relationship was during Covid, so we spent a lot of time going on walks and watching movies. About a year after we started dating, Larissa's whole family was in Texas for Christmas, which doesn't happen very often, so we decided to go ahead and get married, planning and setting up a wedding in two weeks!



At our wedding

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THAT GOD “ AMAZON
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Andrew graduated from college a few months before we got married in 2020, and got a job as a software developer. He has changed workplaces since, but still has the same job title. Larissa graduated from college in 2021, and started working at a local nonprofit as the operations specialist a few months later.



Leading worship at church

We have many extended family members and friends who are adopted, or are adoptive parents. Larissa's immediate family fostered a child for about a year when she was a child, and because of this, she has always felt called to adopt. Adoption has been a conversation for us from the beginning of our relationship and we have watched God work in our lives throughout our entire relationship to prepare us to welcome a child into our hearts and home.

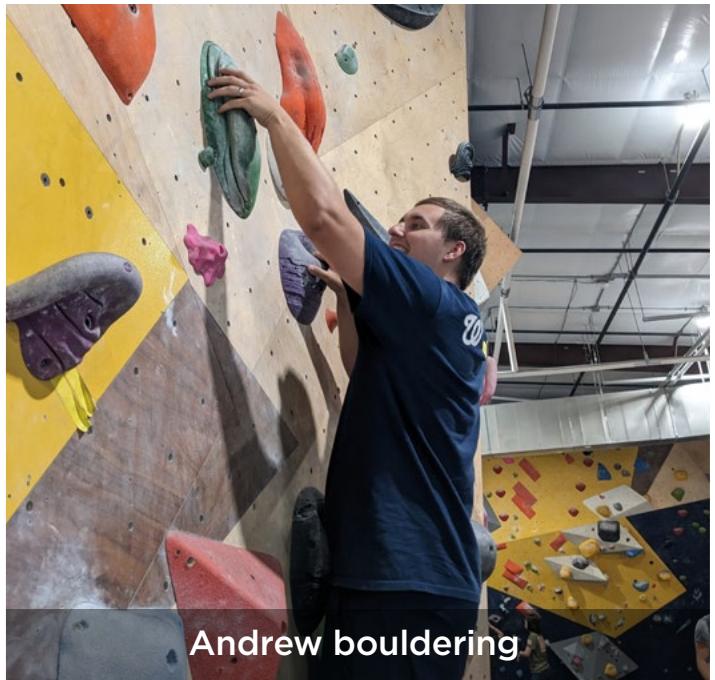
ABOUT ANDREW BY LARISSA



Andrew is my favorite person and best friend. He is always prepared to lighten the mood with a joke and knows just what to say to make everyone feel better. He feels deeply and loves his friends and family well. He makes friends everywhere he goes and will never shy away from a conversation. He encourages me to do the things that bring me joy, but is also right there with me doing hard things that he knows will help me in the long run.

He loves to spend time outside with our chickens and our cat or doing yard work. He is always down to make my homesteading dreams come true. He has built a compost bin and a chicken run and has figured out a sustainable way to feed our chickens using up food scraps, so that nothing goes to waste.

Andrew is thoughtful, respectful and genuine in all of his relationships. He is a caring, attentive husband, who I can't wait to see as a father.



Andrew bouldering



Andrew and Lola playing the piano

ABOUT LARISSA BY ANDREW



A stuffed animal
Larissa crocheted



Tomatoes from Larissa's garden

Larissa is a wonderfully sassy human being, whom I love very much. She is loving, kind, and selfless, and can often be found volunteering at church or calling friends and family to hear about their lives and pray for them. She is always on the lookout for gifts to bring to her family, mostly her nieces and nephew.

She likes to crochet gifts for people, whether purses and tote bags for friends, or stuffed animals for newborns, she always has a project going. She enjoys reading, playing video games, and tending to the garden. She loves to travel, whether that's a short day trip to go hiking, or heading over to Europe to see her family and friends.

Larissa has a heart for children and taking care of people, and I look forward to getting to see her as a mom.

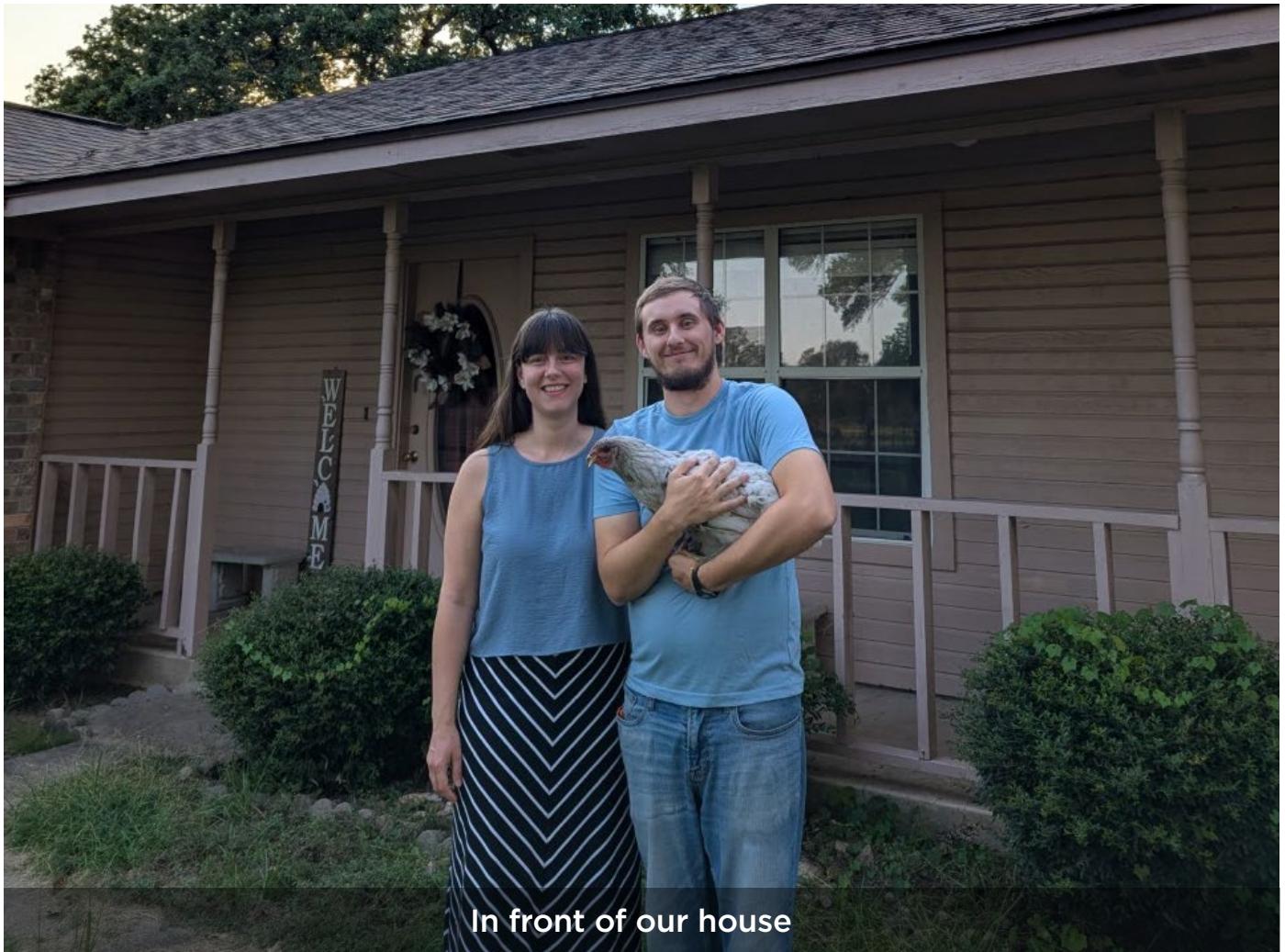


Larissa with one of our chickens



Enjoying flowers on a walk close to our house

OUR HOME

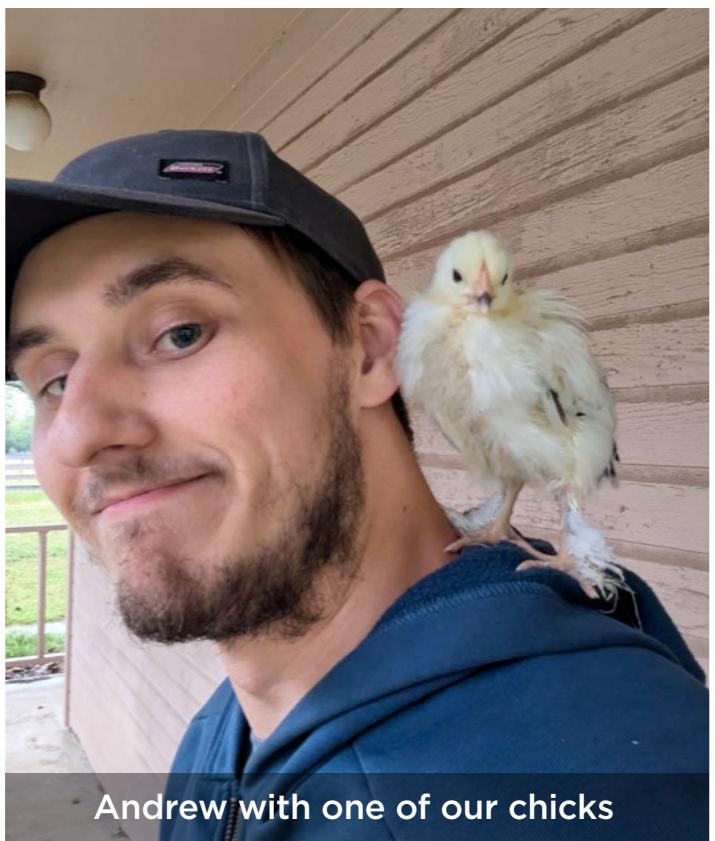
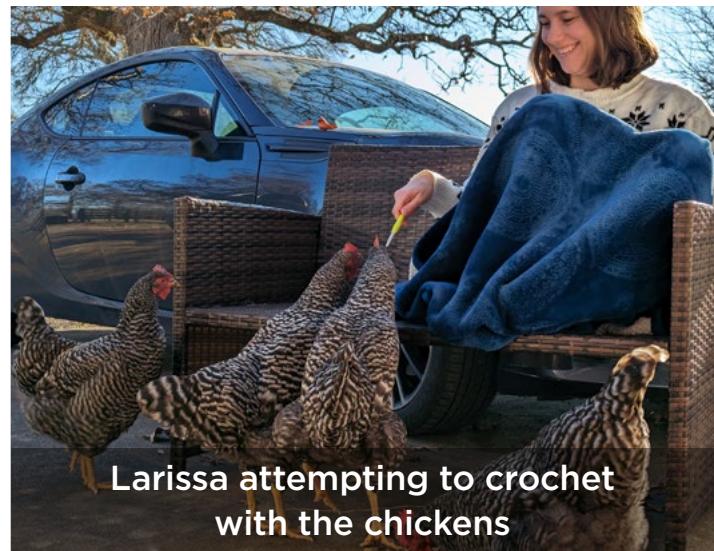


**WE SPEND A LOT OF OUR TIME OUTSIDE CARING FOR
OUR CHICKENS, GARDENING, GOING FOR WALKS ON
THE PROPERTY, AND SPENDING TIME WITH LARISSA'S
GRANDPARENTS.**

We live in a three-bedroom, two-bathroom, one-story home located on Larissa's grandparent's farm. It is the house that Larissa lived in until she was three. Our favorite part of our house is our backyard. We're so excited to play outside with a little one. We spend a lot of our time outside caring for our chickens, gardening, going for walks on the property, and spending time with Larissa's grandparents who are our closest neighbors and live about 200 yards from us.

We have a few other neighbors whom we stop and talk to when we are on walks. It is a very quiet, serene area, where you can hear cows, chickens, and the train in the distance. Mornings and evenings are our favorite times to be outside, when we can watch the sun rise or set over the trees.

We are 25 minutes from town, where there are two hospitals, our offices, and Andrew's family.



OUR FAMILY



With Larissa's family



Playing a game our nephew created

Andrew's family, including his parents, younger sister, and grandpa, lives about thirty minutes from us, and we spend time with them often enjoying dinner, games, movies, and sometimes walks with their golden retriever.



At a baseball game with Andrew's parents



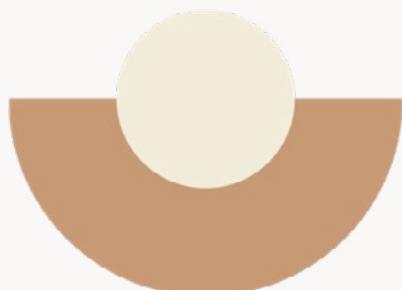
Larissa with Andrew's sister

We have extended family in Arkansas and Pennsylvania, so we get to go on road trips to visit them every year.

Larissa's parents, older brother, younger sister, and their kids all live in the Czech Republic, where Larissa spent much of her childhood. We get to see them a few times every year for a few weeks at a time. We fly there a couple times a year and they usually come to us once a year. It is always a fun adventure getting to go see them and travel around Europe with them, while we're visiting.

We also have very good friends, from college and high school, whom we consider family and spend much of our time with. There are seven of us in our core friend group; two married couples and Andrew's good friend from high school. One of the couples has a beautiful infant at home.

Our family and friends have been a great support to us in our decision to adopt. They are all looking forward to having another little one to love.



OUR TRADITIONS, HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Andrew enjoys problem-solving, whether that's finding a route while bouldering or learning how to program a video game. He also likes to play video games, watch movies, and work on cars with friends. One of his favorite weekly activities is singing in a barbershop chorus with his dad.

Larissa loves to crochet, mostly gifts for other people, but she has also made a few things for herself. In her new garden, she enjoys home grown tomatoes and peppers. She also enjoys reading in the sun and doing puzzles.



On a nice evening walk

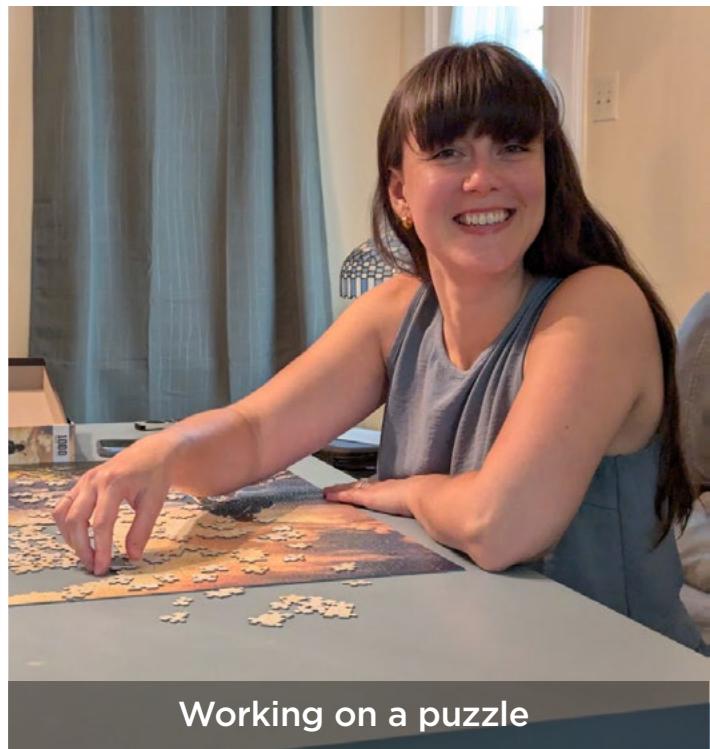
TOGETHER WE ENJOY GOING ON WALKS AND HIKING, CARING FOR OUR CHICKENS AND OUR CAT, GOING TO BASEBALL GAMES, AND SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, BUT OUR FAVORITE THING TO DO TOGETHER IS TRAVEL.

Together we enjoy going on walks and hiking, caring for our chickens and our cat, going to baseball games, and spending time with family and friends, but our favorite thing to do together is travel. We love taking road trips, and in 2024, took a trip to Pennsylvania to see family and stopped in Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio on the way — our goal is to visit all fifty states as a family. We also enjoy international travel and have been to the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, and Ireland together.

We help lead worship together on Sunday mornings at church; Larissa sings and Andrew plays the piano. We each teach Bible classes on Wednesday nights at church; Larissa teaches 4th and 5th graders and Andrew helps with the men's class.



Fancy coffee in Arkansas



Working on a puzzle



Skiing/snowboarding





THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to look at our book and learn about us. We truly admire you and know that the decision you are considering is hard, but one that is full of love.

We are so excited to bring a baby into our lives through adoption and to share our love and home with them. They will always know their story and their birth parents' huge role in it. We want to have an open, healthy relationship with the child's birth family, for the child's whole life, one that will be good for everyone involved. This would involve sending updates and pictures, and hopefully meeting in person, but we will respect the boundaries that the birth family chooses to set.

We will love the child unconditionally and provide a safe, nurturing home filled with joy, patience, and grace. We will care for them in every way, emotionally, physically, and spiritually, encouraging them to grow into the unique person God created them to be.

With Love,

Andrew & Larissa

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