

DECEMBER 2025

THE HILLTOP HOLLER

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." December is officially here! Its a busy month, wrapping up a busy year. In the midst of holiday excitement, get togethers with family, traveling, and planning for the year ahead, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. Don't forget the simple but powerful truth that Jesus is our peace! Every believer can experience peace that isn't affected by circumstances. Take time to reflect on all that God has done this year and rest knowing that He is ready to guide you every step of the way in the year to come. "And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

From our Trail Ridge family to yours, Merry Christmas! We hope you enjoy this month's Hilltop Holler, including our annual staff updates. Please keep our ministry in your prayers. Pray with us as we prepare for another year of serving and sharing Christ with everyone who comes through our gates.

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Family Film Friday: January 30

Sweetheart's Banquet: February 13

Bible Trivia Night: March 6

Estate Planning Seminar: March 21

Red Cross Blood Drive: March 23

Resolved Men's Retreat: April 10-11

Spring Work Weekend: April 16-18

Mother/Daughter Retreat: May 1-3

Junior High Camp 1: June 15-20

Teen Camp: June 22-27

Junior High Camp 2: July 6-11

Kids Kamp 1: July 13-18

Kids Kamp 2: July 20-25

Senior Saints Weekend: August 14-16

Young Adults Retreat: September 25-27

Father/Son Retreat: October 2-4

Quirky Hobbies Retreat: October 22-24

Lumberjack Weekend: October 29-31

Rooted Marriage Retreat: November 13-15



STAFF YEAR IN REVIEW



Merry Christmas!

What a year 2025 has been! As I sit down to reflect, my heart is full of gratitude for all the ways the Lord has shown His goodness and faithfulness—He truly never leaves us nor forsakes us. This year, He answered many prayers in ways big and small, reminding me again of His perfect care. I've also enjoyed serving in church, using the gifts He's given me to bless others, and growing closer to Him. My word for the year was excellence, and I've tried to live that out in all I do. I've been blessed by the hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, which beautifully reminds me of the comfort and friendship we have in our Savior.

One of the greatest joys of this year was welcoming two precious little ones into our family. My sweet niece Gabrielle arrived in March, and I made several trips down to Hartland to soak up every moment with her. Then in August, we celebrated the birth of my nephew, Jesse. It has been so much fun spoiling them, loving on them, and watching them grow in these first few months. Becoming an aunt twice in one year has been one of the sweetest blessings!

In May, I celebrated a special milestone—completing my two years of school and graduating with my Bible certificate. It was an amazing journey, marking the end of a focused season of study and the beginning of whatever the Lord has next.

This year also brought some wonderful adventures. I had the opportunity to travel to Phoenix, Boston, Mexico, Oklahoma, and, of course, plenty of visits to Hartland. Each trip held new memories, new people, and new reminders of God's kindness.

Another highlight of the year was standing beside my best friend on her wedding day. Getting to support her in such a meaningful moment was such an honor and joy.

As I look back, I'm overwhelmed by how faithful God has been through every high and in every quiet moment. My ongoing prayer is that I would be content in every season and continue to serve Him faithfully wherever He places me.

Wishing you a Christmas full of joy, peace, and the nearness of the Savior. May His goodness shine brightly in the year ahead!

~Bethany



Merry Christmas from the Aldriches!

We're wrapping up another busy year here on the ridge, but we're thankful for all the ways that God sustained us and blessed us through it all. Some family highlights this year included trips to Madison, Minneapolis, and South Dakota, extra time with extended family, and lots of memories made. Hunter (4.5) started homeschool this fall, and although it's a learning curve for both him and mom as his teacher, he loves it and is always eager to get started each day! Caroline (17 months) took her sweet time learning to walk after turning one this summer, but is now faster (and quieter) than the speed of light - it's a good thing she can't get too far in our house! Outside is a different story...



At our recent marriage retreat held at camp, we chose "balance" as our family's 2026 word of the year. Our prayer is that we would learn to better balance all the different priorities we have - our personal walks with the Lord, family time, camp projects and events, - in the way that God designed, and that we would have wisdom to know what that looks like for our family. Life is never cookie cutter, so we are asking Him for wisdom as we encounter different challenges along the way that require different priorities than the week before. We are so grateful to be able to fold camp ministry into so many aspects of life beyond "just a job", and look forward to what God has in store for this coming year, both for our family and camp.

May your Christmas season be filled with the overwhelming love of Christ in a whole new way!

~Josh, Amy, Hunter, and Caroline



What a whirlwind of a year 2025 has been! We hit some awesome milestones and have been learning to embrace each transition. During the winter and spring months I kept pretty busy with schoolwork. I loved being a college student again! In May, I completed my degree in Health and Human Services earlier than planned! It was such a relief not to have to worry about deadlines and exams during the summer camp season.

Amidst the busyness of school and camp, the Lord was also writing a beautiful new chapter in my life. One of my New Year's resolutions was to get to know Seth better, and what better way to start than with a date on January 1st? That New Year's Day date led to many back and forth trips over the next several months, meeting each other's families and deepening the connection that had been growing in our hearts over the

last several years. On one of my quick weekend visits in between weeks of summer camp Seth surprised me by proposing, and of course, I said yes! We decided to have the wedding at Trail Ridge because of how much it means to both of us and all the memories we share there. As we near the three month mark in our marriage, I am beyond blessed every day. With marriage came a move a few hours north, a new church, and a shift in my role at camp. I went from living at work, to working from home!

We enjoyed traveling over Thanksgiving week to visit different parts of our family. In December, we're especially looking forward to spending time with my uncle, who we've been praying for as he continues battling cancer. It's been a year of rejoicing when things look hopeful, and leaning on Him when they don't. As this year comes to a close, I'm thankful for all the ways God has been faithful in 2025. Around the corner is a new year of trusting God as He continues to guide, provide, and bless in ways both big and small. Philippians 4:6.

~Georgie



Merry Christmas from the Schneiders!

It's been a full year for our family-challenges, ups and downs, and moments of uncertainty; but through it all, we're grateful to rest in the Lord's sustaining grace. He truly is sufficient.

This coming April marks ten consecutive years of serving at Trail Ridge. Some days it feels like we've been here forever, and other days it feels like we're just getting started. Aaron has been on the road often, recruiting summer staff and attending conferences. Amber continues the busy rhythms of homeschooling five kids, supporting camp whenever needed, and keeping the home running smoothly. We're also grateful for deer season as well as the time to harvest our hogs that cleaned up dining hall scraps all year. It's a highlight for our family. Everyone pitches in and discovers their favorite roles. We know it sounds weird to some of you, but we love it.

The kids have grown and matured so quickly that it's hard to keep up. By the end of this month they'll be 11, 9, 7, 5, and 8 months old. The girls continue their music lessons and are working hard toward their upcoming recital. All four of the older kids adore their baby sister and love helping care for her. It's been fun to watch Hadley develop her humor, communication skills, and babysitting abilities

with Havilah. Felicity loves her baby sister too and has become Dad's "girl Friday" when it's time to process meat. Otilie is blossoming in her reading and often disappears into her imagination. Reuben holds his own as the only boy. He loves doing guy stuff with Dad, building anything he can, and entertaining the rest of us with his stories and antics. Havilah was born in April, and has brought so much joy and wonder into our home. It's been a gift to watch a little one hit those baby milestones again.

As Christmas approaches, we've found a bit more time to slow down, play games, read, laugh, and worship together. We'd appreciate your prayers in this season of transition at camp with staff changes, the building project, and ongoing growth. Pray that we stay grounded and consistent as a family while faithfully tending to the ministry the Lord has entrusted to us.

May your Christmas be filled with the peace, joy, and hope found only in Christ.

~Aaron, Amber, Hadley, Felicity, Otilie, Reuben, and Havilah



GIVING TUESDAY

December 2, 2025

Don't forget about Giving Tuesday. So much goes on around the holiday season that it can tend to get lost in the shuffle of early Christmas shopping and general end of year festivities. Each year, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving is set aside as a day that encourages people to give back, and show their thanks to organizations that have made a positive impact on them in the past year. At Trail Ridge, we are immensely grateful for the support we receive from our volunteers, donors, and supporters. We estimated that around 3,000 volunteer hours were put in over the past year! In turn, we were able to give out over \$31,000

of scholarship money to help make summer camp more affordable for our campers. Every volunteer hour, each practical item from our Amazon wish-list, and monetary donation is such a blessing to our ministry. If you are looking for a way to give back this Giving Tuesday, would you consider supporting Trail Ridge?

WAYS YOU CAN GIVE BACK THIS GIVING TUESDAY

- **Camp Scholarship Donations**

We use these donations to subsidize our tiered pricing program. Every gift—large or small—helps a camper experience a life-changing week at Trail Ridge.

- **Volunteer Your Time**

Whether you can spare a few hours in the off-season or join us for a week of summer camp, your time makes a tremendous impact. From mowing the grass to washing dishes, volunteers keep our ministry thriving.

- **Vehicle Donations**

Have a vehicle you're wanting to get rid of? Donate it to Trail Ridge! Call (855) 500-7433 to get the process started.

- **Amazon Wish List**

If you prefer giving practical gifts, we keep an updated Amazon Wish List with items that we can use around camp. Items will be shipped directly to camp and are tax deductible!

- **Most-Wanted List**

Throughout the year we go through basic items as we clean, conduct maintenance, and host activities. The cost of all these items adds up! We've got a list of specific items listed by department that we go through a lot of and can always have on hand.

- **Chapel-Lodge Project**

Partner with us in our current building project! Once construction is complete, we'll need to furnish it. Your donations will help us purchase essential items such as desks, computers, phones, furniture, and an AV system for the chapel. We're looking forward to having this space fully equipped for ministry and daily operations!

To learn more, visit our website at TrailRidge.org and click the Support Tab.

Follow us on social media to stay connected with camp and get updates on upcoming events!



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Family Film Friday: January 30

Sweetheart's Banquet: February 13

Bible Trivia Night: March 6

Estate Planning Seminar March 21