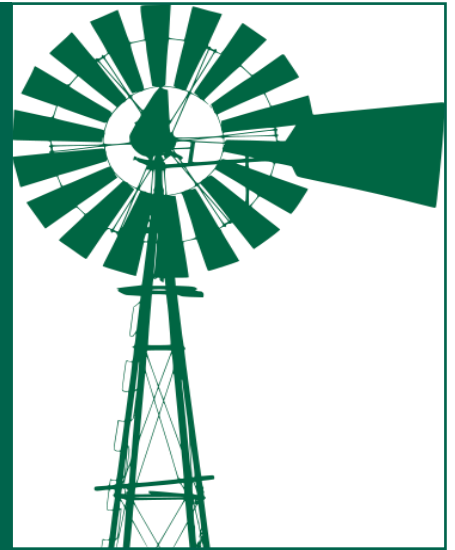


WINDMILL JULY 2023 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—KERRVILLE

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES GROWING TOWARD
GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP • CHRIST-CENTERED SERVICE
SPIRIT-LED LIVES



Getting to Know our New Pastor

By Tim Summerlin

July 2nd will be a day full of meaning for the members of First Presbyterian Church Kerrville. We will at last be welcoming the Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia and Jessie Traweek Garcia to our midst. Of course, many of us had the opportunity to speak with them on the day of their call in May and some since then during the move-in process. But now they are officially a part of us. *The Windmill* thought that it would be helpful to supplement the biographical material shared with the congregation earlier, and so we offer the result of an interview conducted over coffee and an iced chai with espresso (in Jasiel's case) at Pint & Plow.

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia grew up in Orizaba, a city on the highway from Vera Cruz to Mexico City. His was an extended family with beloved grandparents at its head. His grandfather was a respected Presbyterian pastor in the city and a teacher at a church-related school. His grandmother had been a missionary on the border, where the two met, and she was a leader in the Orizaba church community.

Jasiel's mother became a pre-school teacher after her divorce. She and her two sons shared the grandparents' homestead with her sister Miriam and family. Jasiel was familiar with Presbyterian Pan American School from his youth, as two uncles had studied there. It was natural for him to make that move when he reached high school age. However,



it was a major step, because it put him as a young teen on his own hundreds of miles from home and with still sketchy English skills. But Pan American proved to be formative for him, with its welcoming atmosphere, its diversity of teaching models, and the friends he developed. One student, Juan, two years older, in particular befriended him. Juan led the Bible-study group, and he mentored Jasiel to lead it in time. Jasiel provided similar mentoring

when he was a senior for a younger colleague.

With a grandfather and uncles in the ministry, one might imagine that Jasiel would be naturally drawn in that direction. He confirms that a grandfather who “loved” his work as preacher and teacher offered a powerful model. But, as he laughingly says, it was almost as if this was the “family business,” and he felt some resistance to its pull. It was only in his senior year at Schreiner University that he felt a strong interest in the ministry. Armed with his degree in marketing, he matriculated to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to explore that call.

Two great influences at APTS were theology professor Dr. Cindy Rigby and Eric Wall, professor of sacred music. Rigby offered a teaching model that helped shape Garcia’s thinking. He participated with Wall in a summer program at Montreat that nurtured his sense of ministry. Ultimately, the APTS experience convinced him he was following the right path, and he developed his interest in further study leading to possible seminary teaching.

Following graduation in 2018, Jasiel served as resident pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis under Rev. Chris Henry. Second Pres was the initiator of what has become a program, and Henry proved another valuable mentor. Jasiel’s work involved him in both urban, large church programs and in service at smaller churches beyond Indianapolis. The newly ordained pastor concluded that parish ministry, not further study, was his call for the present.

Back in Austin, he had met a young woman completing her master’s degree in German at the University of Texas, then accepting a teaching position in Round Rock. Jasiel was teaching a confirmation

class in a Methodist church, and there he and Jessie met on Easter in 2016. In 2018, they agreed to follow their professions while maintaining a long-distance relationship as an engaged couple. In 2019, on Pentecost weekend, Jasiel Garcia was ordained and Jessie and he were married. The young couple then accepted a call to Central Presbyterian in Atlanta, GA, where the new pastor focused on his duties in mission and congregational life. After the departure of the senior pastor, he took on addition-

al responsibilities. And now, after chaperoning nine of Jessie’s students on a June trip to Germany and Austria, Jasiel and Jessie bring their talents to the Hill Country.

Our Pastor Nominating Committee was excited to bring this call to the congregation and the congregation just as eager to accept it unanimously. What does our new pastor see himself as bringing to First Presbyterian

Kerrville? First, an energy dedicated to “making sure there is enough room for everyone,” he says. His conviction that our mission grows directly from the love of God means we can be a “home for all.” Pastor Jasiel believes that his experience “doing a little of everything in parish ministry” offers sound preparation for his new pastorate.

How do Jasiel and Jessie relax and spend their time off? He is a lover of both biking and walking. That latter activity is often in the company of Dudley, their chow mix. Jessie is a voracious reader. She loves sewing and quilting and has found Crossfit an excellent way to stay in shape. Those of you who share some of those interests take note! Meanwhile, Jasiel affirms that both are excited to step into a new setting where they can develop as a family, open to mutual investment in new friendships. The people of First Presbyterian Church Kerrville welcome that same prospect of mutual growth as a faith community.





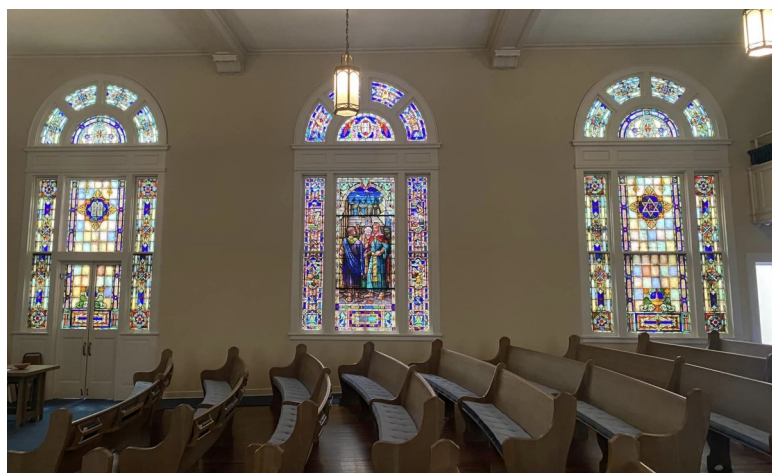
Schreiner Chapel Centennial Year 1923-2023

Schreiner Chapel, the lovely Classical Revival style structure is celebrating 100 years in the community! The roots of this congregation date to the earliest days of Kerrville. Did you know that it is the oldest original sanctuary being used in Kerrville? Its importance was recognized and designated in 1987 as a Registered Texas Historical Landmark.

On the church website home page, we have created a focus link for the Chapel Centennial that will grow as the year progresses. Go to www.fpckerrville.org, and check it out. We have started with the original history—going WAY back to the Union Church that started it all. We want to continue with this history and so we want to hear from you. Did you get married here? Get baptized? Attend VBS and Sunday School? Do you have a memorable moment as you walked up the broad steps through the stately columns and massive doors?

Please tell us about your chapel story in 500 words or less. Send them to mstone@fpckerrville.org or put them in the office mailbox. Yes, these short stories will be published on the website, and we encourage you to leave your name but is not required. We want to post the stories in a way that adds to the richness of the chapel history through its congregation that kept it growing in the community that it serves.

There is no deadline for this assignment as this centennial celebration goes on all year! Old photos are a plus!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Ashley Johnson	1
Kim Keller	1
Kathryn McDougall	3
Angela Greene	3
Martha Sanders	4
Jane Porter	6
Mike Garcia	6
Sarah Mejia	7
Carole Swart	7
Audrey Mitchell	8
Deanna Bodine	9
Kathleen Foster	9
Beth Lutz	10
Steve Peters	11
Ethan Bodine	12
Elizabeth Behrens	13
Marilyn McDonald	13
Bob Schmerbeck	14
Linda Phillips	14
Darcy Presley	14
Gail Gross	15
Betsy Rhoden	16
Kenneth Gross	16
Susan Reinbach	16
Raleigh Priour	17
Donna Tait	18
Dick Harben	19
Sam Begeman	19
John Sniffen	20
Jeff Harris	21
Don Steele	23
Warren Schlechte	23
Jeanine Merkel	23
Asa Jewell	25
Julia Blanks	26
Verna Benham	27
Betty Clyburn	27
Amy Jones	29
Madea Lenard	29
Anais Umfress	29
Harvey Brinkman	30
Lucy Cunningham	31
Pat Collie	31
Dianna Hale	31

Star Spangled Church Dinner

We enjoyed wonderful food followed by enthusiastic singing during the patriotic themed All Church Dinner. An unexpected bonus was the welcoming of Pastor Jasiel and Jessie.



Neal Courtyard

Make sure to check out the newly renovated water fountain in the Neal Courtyard. This courtyard is a beautiful gem located off Ryan Hall. The doors are kept unlocked so members can enjoy the serene atmosphere.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4

CCP & Church Offices
Closed

July 9-13

Jr. High Jubilee
Mo-Ranch

July 10-14

Mission Kerrville
9:00 am-2:00 pm

July 16

Youth Pool Party
The Rye's

July 19

Schlitterbahn (Youth)
Men's Luncheon
11:30 am,
Bayou Restaurant

July 22

River Clean Up
Mission Day (Youth)
8:00 am- 5:00 pm

July 26

All Church Dinner
5:30 pm, FLC

Pastor:

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia,
Sr. Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Susan Montoya, Parish Associate
Eldon Sheffer,
Commissioned Ruling Elder

Ministry Staff:

Dr. Sabrina Adrian, Organist
Seth Lafler, Choir Director
Shannon Tuschak, Care Coordinator
Audrey Mitchell,
Director of Children's Ministry
Emily McAllister,
Director of Youth Ministries
Alysse O'Brien,
Director of Children's Music
Scott Russell,
Director of Children's Corner
Ann Reynolds, YES Center Director

Support Staff:

Mary Stone, Business Administrator
Alicia Martin, Asst. Administrator
Alfred Valero, Facilities Manager

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