



Pastor Juan Garcia Prepares for Sabbatical

In the winter of 2021, the Reverend Juan Garcia, Pastor of the Hispanic congregation of FBCNN, was invited to apply for a sabbatical grant through the Clergy Renewal Program of the Lilly Endowment foundation. The purpose of this program is to provide grants to congregations to send a pastor on an extended sabbatical for renewal, recreation, family time and spiritual restoration. In doing so over the years, the Lilly Foundation has discovered that sabbaticals restore pastors and lead to longer, healthier congregational relationships between pastors and churches.

Juan approached Senior Pastor Randy Shepley, the Personnel Committee, Harvey Perkins (Church Moderator and Vision Team Chair), and Rick Elofson (Treasurer) to receive permission to apply for the sabbatical grant. We are happy to report that even though the Clergy Renewal Program grants are highly competitive, Juan's proposal was selected for funding. With endorsement from our Personnel Committee and Vision Team, the church received a grant of just over \$42,000 to fund Juan's sabbatical. At a called church conference on March 20, 2022, the church ratified the Vision Team and Personnel Committee approval of Juan's sabbatical.

What is the purpose of a sabbatical? Sabbaticals are extended seasons of full disconnection from work that allow employees to recharge, rest, reconnect with family, and find renewal for their calling and purpose. Sabbaticals are most often associated with academia and churches. Since professors and ministers are always creating, imagining, studying, and preparing lectures, sermons, and presentations, extended time away for reimagining and rekindling personal creativity and passion prove useful for clergy and professors. Clergy, in particular, pour themselves out in prayer, counseling, and care for their congregations, and after a few years, this continual outpouring can drain even the most faithful clergy members.

As noted above, sabbaticals are often associated with colleges and churches, but corporations have also recognized the benefits of sabbaticals for their long-term employees. Well-known companies like McDonald's, Charles Schwab, Timberland, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Cheesecake Factory, Intel, Microsoft, and Nike are some of the companies who have discovered the

healing effect of sabbaticals for their key employees and the positive impact sabbaticals have on their companies.

What does all of this mean for our church? It means that from May 16, 2022 – September 5, 2022, Pastor Juan will be on sabbatical leave from his duties as the Pastor of our Hispanic congregation and as an Associate Pastor of FBCNN. His compensation and benefits will continue to be provided by the church while the funding for Juan's sabbatical activities and for persons who handle his regular ministry responsibilities will be funded by the sabbatical grant. After more than 15 years leading our Hispanic congregation, Juan has earned this time of renewal.

Juan will spend his sabbatical time in retreat, study, prayer, and rest in places around the world. He will spend time hiking a portion of the Camino de Santiago in Spain, touring Israel, visiting his wife Monica's family in Bolivia, and in other places as well. All of these times of study and travel are covered through the sabbatical grant from the Lilly Endowment. Juan's purpose will be to fully disconnect from his church responsibilities so he can connect deeper with God and his family.

Juan has worked with our Hispanic congregation members and our staff to make sure all of his ministerial responsibilities are handled while he is gone. What we can do for Juan and his family is pray for them. We can pray for our Hispanic congregation and find ways to serve alongside them during these sabbatical days. Finally, we can send Juan and Monica cards of encouragement leading up to this sabbatical time.

On Sunday, May 15, we will have a combined worship service at FBCNN at 11:00 pm. During this service, we will send Juan off to sabbatical with our prayers and blessings. Be watching First News for more information and please remember to congratulate Juan when you see him. Receiving a Clergy Renewal Grant from the Lilly Endowment is a high honor for Juan and our whole congregation.



Holy Week at FBCNN

We hope you enjoyed celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this past Sunday! Here are a few photos of some of the Holy Week services and events:

Palm Sunday

Our children greeted members and guests entering the sanctuary by shouting "Hosanna!" and waving palms.



Good Friday Service

Narrators told the story of the last hours of the life of Jesus before he was crucified. Children came up to the platform to snuff out a candle at the end of every scene. The congregation participated in communion together as the disciples did with Jesus in the Upper Room. The Sanctuary Choir sang, followed by the tolling of the bell, extinguishing the Christ candle and leaving in silence.



Easter Sunday

During the 8:30 service, we enjoyed hearing the Joan Monroe Handbell Choir, and the Sanctuary Choir. During Sunday Bible Study, children listened to the Easter story told by Randy Shepley and then placed flowers on the living cross outside of the sanctuary. The 11:00 service started with the Youth Praise Team leading in worship followed by Transformed. Pastor Randy preached at both services a sermon on John's account of Jesus' resurrection.

If you missed any of the Holy Week services, click on the link at the bottom of the Weekly Worship Opportunities to open up our website where you can join in worship by selecting the previously recorded service.

You're Invited to Dinner Next Wednesday Night

We will be gathering in Payne Fellowship Hall next Wednesday, April 27 at 5:30pm for a pasta dinner! Donations will be taken to support our partners who are providing relief efforts for Ukrainian refugees.

Upcoming Events

April 24 Picnic in the Park at Deer Park City Park at 12:30pm (See article for more information)

April 27 Pasta Dinner in Payne Fellowship Hall (See article above for more information)

April 29-May 1 CBF VA Mission Madness

A group of youth from FBCNN will be traveling to Harrisonburg, VA to do mission work with youth from other churches.

Attention Class of 2022!

Congratulations to our high school and college graduates! If you would like to be recognized in our Graduate Recognition service on June 5 at 11am, please send where they are graduating, what their future plans are, and a few (3-4) photos to either Kolby, kkeller@fbcnn.org, or Nikki, nikki@fbcnn.org. If you are graduating from high school and are interested in filling out a scholarship application, please contact Kolby for more information.



Ways to Help Ukraine

We are continuing to pray for the lives impacted by the war in Ukraine. We are also collecting funds for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Ukraine Relief Fund and The Baptist World Alliance Forum for Aid Development, the international



Family Picnic at Deer Park April 24 at 12:30pm

Right after the 11am service, families will pick up fast food and meet at Deer Park City Park to eat lunch together, play on their playground, walk the trails, and enjoy the azaleas, which should be in full bloom! Look for us at shelter #1.

Service for Ann Bledsoe

A memorial service for Ann Bledsoe, Tracy Houston's mother, will be held at 2pm on April 30 at Peninsula Funeral Home. Visitation will be at 1pm.



First Baptist Preschool Now Registering!

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year has started. The preschool has classes for ages 2-4 years old. If you would like more information, please contact Lindsay Rew at 757-930-0911 (ext. 222) or preschool@fbcnn.org.

disaster response work of the Baptist World Alliance. To help with this cause, send your donation to First Baptist and designate "Ukraine Relief Fund" in the memo. We will be sending these funds out on a regular basis so they can be used quickly. If you would like to learn more about the CBF Ukraine Relief Fund or donate directly, please click [here](#).

We have recently heard that Camp Harghita has started receiving refugees from Ukraine. As a result, we have begun to support them as part of the Ukraine relief. Continue to pray for Erika and Zoltan Joo as they are using their camp as a safe haven for others.



Download Our App

Stay connected with your church family!

Download Now

Available on the Apple, Android, Amazon, and Roku App Stores

You can download our app on your phone, smart TV or Roku player. This will give you the opportunity to get push notifications (notifications that pop up on your phone) that will allow you to stay informed. In the event of bad weather, we will be able to notify everyone if we need to make changes to our Sunday morning services and Bible Study or Wednesday night activities. You can also watch past and present services, see upcoming events, and more. If you need assistance in downloading the app

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, April 24 at 8:30am and 11am!

Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

If you have any technical difficulties watching the service on Facebook Live, please send us a direct message on Facebook so we can help troubleshoot the issue.

The following is a list of weekly events that can be accessed on the First Baptist Church of Newport News Facebook page. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page-@fbcnnyouth. The 8:30 and 11 Sunday worship services are streamed directly to our [website](#), and can be accessed by clicking on Sermon Library in the Resources tab.

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Youth Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
- 12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Mondays

- 7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults

Wednesdays

- 5:00 p.m. Library Open
- 5:30 p.m. Mid-Week Café
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Spiritual Formation Groups
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering and Worship
- 6:30 p.m. Children's KMotion (Music, Missions, and Fun!)
- 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

contact Ethan or a member of our Tech Team for help.

Make a financial contribution to FBCNN today by clicking on the Donate link.

DONATE

Thursdays

10:00 a.m. Swingin' Singers

Thanks to our new FBCNN app, we are able to stream our services directly to our website! Click on the link below to watch the service from 8:30 & 11 this past Sunday. (Services are listed in chronological order with the most recent at the top.)

[April 17](#)

Donation Opportunity for Those with IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

Congress has approved a permanent charitable giving tax break, known as the "IRA charitable rollover". The rollover is available for those who are 70 1/2, though if your 70th birthday is July 1, 2019 or later, you do not have to take withdrawals until you reach age 72. You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, such as First Baptist Church. The donation will count toward your IRA required minimum distribution.

The distribution is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either. With the change in the recent Tax Legislation, the Standard Deduction has doubled thus itemized charitable deductions will no longer be needed to be kept track of. By donating all or part of your IRA RMD to the church, you receive the benefit of a reduced Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in that the RMD to charity is not taxed, which helps the opportunity of obtaining lower cost for your Medicare Part B and Prescription Drug premiums.

The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the church not through the owner of the account. Let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia, know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund.

Rick Elofson, Treasurer FBCNN

Staff Contact Info

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