

Meet the New Pastors, the Vittorio-Schindlers

Rev. Garrett Vittorio-Schindler and Rev. Marena Vittorio-Schindler



Left-to-right, Marena, Kaleb (age 3), Garrett, and Magdalena (age 1)

Marena grew up in the Midwest “I” states (Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa), earning her undergraduate degree in piano performance from DePauw and her Masters in Sacred Music and Organ Performance from Emory University. Garrett grew up in New Washington, Indiana and earned a BS in mathematics from Indiana State University. They both attended, and graduated from, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary where they met.

They have two children. Kaleb Derice is 3 years old and loves people and the church – especially on Sundays when we share “Juice for Jesus”. Magdalena Evette is 1 year old and is still getting use to the world around her.

Prior to this call, Garrett was the pastor of Bovina United Presbyterian church in New York state. Most of the community was involved with the congregation in some way, and Garrett became the pastor for the whole community. Like many congregations, most of the regular attendees were older/retired. But the congregation had a special focus on youth and community, and, with the help of his wife, numerous programs were offered for both.

Marena started at a church that was a recent union of three separate congregations. It was a difficult situation but allowed Marena to explore family systems and conflict mediation. Her second call was at Andes Presbyterian, in New York state. Under Marena’s guidance the church came to life, with energy for the church and community, a huge growth of young people, and meaningful ministries for older and retired folk.

Garrett and Marena found out five years ago that they would inherit a portion of Marena’s seven-generation family farm, including the family homestead built in 1826, right here in Indiana. They are in the process of gutting and restoring the home, excited to be stewards of this special place.

Garrett lists his hobbies as basketball (he has mentioned this more than once), kayaking, and becoming an aspiring homesteader. Marena loves music (of course), baking, creating new recipes, traveling, and kayaking.

Marena and Garrett are excited to be part of our community and to join with our congregation as we move forward in faith.