

## **Meet the Member**

### **Jared and Macey Kurtz**

In 2019, Jared and Macey met through an on-line dating service called Hinge. Three years later, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, they were married. Like most young married couples, they are merging their similarities and differences into one life together.

Jared is one of four siblings who grew up in Birdsboro, PA until his family's move to Rock Hill in 2008 when he was 12. He and his siblings were home schooled and taught Biblical values at an early age. His older sister is married with two kids and lives in Fort Mill. His older brother is married with one child and lives in Japan and his younger brother is married with two children and lives in Columbia. (At 27, Jared already has five nieces and nephews.)



Macey grew up in Aiken, SC one of three siblings. Her parents still live there, but were originally from Indiana, hence no Southern accent. She graduated from Winthrop University in Rock Hill with a degree in chemistry and a passion for soccer having played soccer for the Winthrop Eagles. She has been a chemist for Quantum Coatings for the last 5 years developing graphic coatings for the printing industry as well as a soccer coach for the Charlotte Soccer Academy in Charlotte.

Jared graduated from Anderson University's school of nursing and has worked as an ICU nurse for five years, the first four in the Neuro ICU at Presbyterian Medical Center. Currently he is working in ICU at the new Fort Mill Hospital. He is pursuing his master's in nursing education and will be finished in the summer of 2023.

Both Jared and Macey grew up in homes where there was a strong Christian influence. As a 9-year-old, Jared remembers a Christian production of Daniel and the Lion's Den. It impacted his heart and he prayed on his own to receive Christ. However, his faith was put on "auto pilot" even through his college years. It wasn't until he had to come face to face with an addiction that God became real in his life. After a long struggle with pornography, he finally surrendered it to God and sought his help without reservation. It was in that moment of complete surrender that God removed the desire and freed Jared from this sin.

Macey grew up in a Christian home, but her faith became real when she volunteered to help in a Methodist summer work project. During the days, the team helped fix up homes and, in the evenings, the team gathered for worship. Macey volunteered for five straight years and realized that living your faith was important in experiencing the full blessings of God.

In 2017 a friend suggested that Macey start attending Eternal. She did and has continued even through the pandemic. Macey enjoys the expository teaching and quotes Don, "The Bible cannot mean what it was never intended to mean". Macey says, "We like the hard truths and deeper learning of God's Word that is being preached at Eternal." They are active in Community Groups and help with kid's check-in on Sundays. Jared is part of the team that sets up chairs for worship in the YMCA.

Jared has taken up golf and with the help from friends at Eternal has slowly learned the game. Of course, Macey's love is soccer and coaching young girls has replaced playing. Together, they enjoy hiking in the mountains and when they are home alone, playing cards like Canasta.

Jared's favorite verses are James 1:2-4. *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* These verses remind Jared that in every struggle, faith can grow.

Macey's favorite verse is Isaiah 46:3-4. *"Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."* Macey states, "He promises to be the sustainer of my life as long as I/we depend and focus on Him."

They live in Rock Hill with their 6-year-old Boston Terrier/Pit Bull mix named Riggins. Their lives are busy, and they strive to put God at the center of it all.

Written by Paul Veerman