



Introducing Rev. Kristina Church

Rev. Kristina Church grew up all over the U.S. in a U.S. Air Force family that moved frequently. Kristina's mother, Billie Jean, was an elementary school teacher, who was very good at finding and embracing the best parts of each community they lived in. After stints in Maryland, Northern & Southern California, and Illinois, Kristina spent her teen and young adult years in Anchorage, Alaska – the city she still considers her adopted hometown.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, Kristina went on to earn a Master's in Social Work from Columbia University in New York City; she then returned to Anchorage to work in the social services field for many years.

In 2008, Kristina and her husband, Greg – a chemistry professor originally from the Philippines – moved to Buffalo, New York for his new teaching position at Canisius College. There, Kristina connected with Unitarian Universalism, and quickly became involved with the choir, numerous religious education programs, and leadership development opportunities at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo. Then Kristina and Greg's life changed in a surprising and wonderful way: their son, Rafael, was born in 2011.

After several years as a stay-at-home parent, Kristina answered a call to UU ministry and enrolled at Meadville Lombard Theological School, eventually earning a Master's of Divinity, and receiving fellowship as a UU minister in December 2019. Graduating and being ordained in 2020 (during the pandemic) completed Kristina's time in seminary. She served as Minister of the UU Church of Hamburg, the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, and the UU Congregation of Erie during the pandemic. In 2021, Rev. Kristina and her family moved to Erie so she could continue serving the UU Congregation of Erie, now as their $\frac{3}{4}$ time minister.

In addition to her parish service, Kristina is a member of the Board of Trustees for UU Justice Pennsylvania, a UU Wellspring facilitator, co-chair of the Fun & Spiritual Nourishment Squad at Side with Love, and an Adult Youth Chaplain at Central East Region Summer Institute. Kristina's passions in ministry include environmental and racial justice, pastoral support, and faith formation for all ages. In her "spare time" she loves to sing, read, cook, and hike. Her performing arts background keeps popping up in surprising ways throughout her ministry and throughout her life, making it full of adventures and delights!