

March 31, 2021

Dear members and friends of FUSW,

I hope you are all enjoying the beginnings of spring, and that your spring holidays, however you may celebrate them – Nowruz, Passover, Equinox, Ostara/Easter – bring you a sense of hope and possibility this year. It brings me joy to know that more and more FUSW folks are getting their vaccines, and we're all moving towards a time when lives can again be filled with possibility.

I am also writing to tell you that the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, Pennsylvania, has extended to me an offer to become their settled minister, and I have decided to accept their call. My decision is based on a number of factors involving my family: my husband's departure from academia this year, my moving into breadwinner status, and all the many demands on my time and energy that parenthood and ministry entail.

There is a sadness in knowing that I won't get to be your minister for another year, because I have come to care very much for you all. We have been together during a momentous time, and perhaps that's one reason that I feel a special bond with FUSW. It's also the way you have embraced and affirmed my ministry, in a year when my skills as a new minister have been stretched to the limit. Yet another reason is the incredibly dynamic, caring, committed people that I've been blessed to get to know here.

This is a wonderful community, and I want you to know that my experience here has been positive. I have every reason to believe that you'll continue to care deeply about one another, and to join together in creativity and connection, as you do so well. I know that you will find ways to renew, grow, and transform together as a congregation. I believe that the future holds good things for FUSW.

This isn't an imminent goodbye; I'll continue to serve as your minister for several more months, so we will have time to look ahead and to look back, and to be fully present to one another in this moment. Feel free to talk to me about your own needs during this time of transition as well. I continue to be grateful and proud to serve as your minister. Thank you for this time together.

With gratitude for today, and blessings for the future,

*Kristina*

