

RUTH THOMPSON CARVER grew up in the Chicago area as the first of four children of a tenor and soprano who taught music in a Baptist college. "One of my fondest memories as a kid is falling asleep while my parents practiced arias from Handel's Messiah out in the living room." Ruth started piano studies at a young age and went on to earn a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance at Wheaton College and then a Master of Music degree in music theory at UW-Madison. After graduate school, Ruth worked as a freelance accompanist, taught piano privately and taught at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, gradually getting more and more involved in the music ministry at Eastbrook Church in Milwaukee. From 2008-2013, she was the pastor overseeing all of Eastbrook's worship, music, & arts ministries. However, beginning in 2004, she sensed God calling her onto a different path and she took a CPE unit (Clinical Pastoral Education) and received her Master of Divinity from Bethel Seminary in 2011. Now she is Pastor of Congregational Care at Eastbrook and loves all that the role entails. But she still loves music and playing the piano!