

Welcome Jennifer and Family!

Born in Queens on her mom's day off, Jenn grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She was interested in acting very young, performing in "Finian's Rainbow" at the age of 8. By the time she was in high school, she was a working (paid) actor. She attended Temple University, where she majored in Drama. Politically active like her mom, she joined her mom at the polls. At age 12, she got the job of marking the returns on the huge tally board. After graduation, there were not a lot of roles for brown actors. Jenn dove into politics. In 2002, "Bend it Like Beckham" changed the perspective on who could be an actor and what stories could be told. Three times she turned down the role of a black singer-dancer because she did not fall into any of those categories. Instead, she got a job in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives writing speeches and doing publicity for as many as 36 Congressional members.



She moved to New York City to take a job at the national office of the American Civil Liberties Union, working on the issues of the day; abuse of power in a post 9/11 world, the National Security Agency, wire-tapping, the school to prison pipeline, Hurricane Katrina, the Drug Law Project, racial disparities related to sentencing minor drug offenders and the like. On her last day of work, nine months pregnant, she waddled out to door, arguing on the phone with Steve Kroft, *60 Minutes* journalist about a mistaken identity case. Three days later, her daughter Moira was born.



The following year, Kalinda (Kali) came into the world. At the time, Jenn was involved in the First United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, the epicenter for inclusion. Her pastor, Beth Stroud, went on trial and was defrocked after being found guilty of practices incompatible to Christian teaching because she admitted to being in a committed relationship with a woman. Jenn preached often as a Lay Leader and began to contemplate seminary. At six months, Kali became violently ill and nearly died. A social worker advised her to get a divorce, which would give her more access to benefits for her daughter. After the divorce, she suddenly became a single mother of color with a special needs child on welfare. At nine months, Kali's condition got worse. A seizure put her in the hospital. After extensive testing, she was diagnosed with a rare disease. Lifetime medication gives her a good prognosis.

In the midst of terror, Jenn heard a call, "Go to Drew." She began her study in 2011, where she and the girls lived in an apartment for graduate students. Somehow, God provided when there wasn't even a jar of peanut butter in the house. Her first assignment was in New Hope, Pennsylvania, where she served for two years. While serving as a student pastor in New Jersey, she often felt alone and prayed for a Joseph to come into her life. She met Chad Joseph Currier, a Jewish carpenter who became her fiancé in October, 2017. Two months later, Chad was diagnosed with a rare, terminal cancer, Cholangiocarcinoma. He passed away on January 11, 2018. When asked, "What are your thoughts about being in New Paltz?" she replied, "I'm still pretty shell-shocked. But, I could not imagine landing in a better place in terms of theology and ideology."

