

## Pastoral Care Team

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Team is to provide support to members of the congregation who are having a challenging time in their lives or to celebrate a joyful time with them.

The team has been active since September, 2012. One of our goals for this year was to split the Pastoral Care Team into two teams under the title Pastoral Care Team. The goal was for one team to continue on as we have been doing by reaching out to the church community members who are in need of support by being willing listeners, sending cards or emails, offering hugs and tissues or by making telephone calls so congregants knew they are cared about. We wanted to add a second team which has been named Caring Community. The purpose of the Caring Community is to help by trying to arrange rides to medical appointments or church, to provide meals, etc. We were able to accomplish this when Jenn Morton joined us to coordinate the Caring Community.

Rev. Allison and Sandra Greenfield both joined our team this year. Rev. Allison has been able to provide the team with a more focused direction. She has also helped with one of our other goals for this year which was by suggesting someone to do additional training for our team. In February, we invited Aaron Pawelek of the New England Pastoral Institute. He provided a wonderful workshop for our team and others in the congregation and the community who were interested in pastoral care. The title was Listening in the Service of Healing. This workshop was well received by everyone who attended, and we anticipate doing another workshop with Aaron in the fall. This past year members of the team attended the Leadership Summits that were offered by the UUCN Leadership Team. We found the summits to be very informative and hope to be one of the co-hosts in the future.

As a way for the congregation to get to know the lay members of the Pastoral Care Team, each week one of the lay members of the team has been lighting the candles during Joys and Sorrows. Also Pastoral Care Team has been added to the name tags of each Pastoral Care Team member. The Pastoral Care team is also in the process of creating a Referral and Resources database. The Pastoral Care Team has begun using Google Docs as a way to better keep track of the needs of the congregation.

Next year the Pastoral Care Team is planning to hold another workshop as mentioned above. When the Referral and Resource data base is complete, we would expect that to help better address the needs of the congregation. Also next year we want to find a way to introduce the concept of Pastoral Care to the children and youth by either being in the classrooms with them or by doing a Story for All Ages.

Current committee members are:

Eileen Herring, Chairperson  
Joan Connacher  
Gail McMorrow Donahue  
Jenn Morton  
Rev. Allison  
Lori Lerude  
Sandra Greenfield