

Pastoral Care Team 2016-2017 Report

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. The team continues to grow under Rev. Allison's leadership.

One of our past goals 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 had 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 for a period of time when Jenn Morton became coordinator of the Caring Community. However, Jenn accepted a different opportunity and has left the Caring Community. We are hoping to fill that role in the future. For now, we have noted that these needs are being filled organically by the congregation.

Training is an important goal for the Pastoral Care Team. In December, 2016, we planned to offer a program geared toward helping a caregiver care for themselves. Unfortunately, very few people signed up and the program was cancelled. We are planning to offer a training in the fall of 2017.

The Pastoral Care Team was part of a change to the way that Joys and Sorrows are done. In an effort to make Joys and Sorrows more meaningful, anyone wishing to share something is asked to complete a Candles Card either online before 9 a.m. each Sunday or they can complete a Candles Card in person before the service begins. One of the Pastoral Care Team members now arrives at 9:40 a.m. and sits in the pew directly in front of the chalice. This has two purposes. One is to be there to collect the completed Candles Cards, but also allows for members of the congregation to come by

and talk if there is something weighing on their mind. A link has been added to the church's home page to make it easier to complete a Candles Card.

One goal of the Pastoral Care Team this year was to introduce pastoral care to the children and youth. We were able to accomplish this goal by sponsoring an AREA event on March 26. This event allowed the children and youth to paint their own chalice that they and/or their families could use at home. Also, during the event they were able to learn yoga poses and to walk a labyrinth as a way of learning self care. They were also able to make cards that can be sent to someone in need. The Pastoral Care Team is grateful to Pat Ladew, Dick Widhu and the Children and Youth Faith Formation Team for sharing their talents and helping to plan this event. The following Sunday, April 2, the Pastoral Care Team participated in the Children's Chapel where pastoral care was once again discussed. These two events proved to be very popular with the children, youth and Pastoral Care Team members.

Barbara Spitz of the Pastoral Care Team has been working on creating a Referral and Resources database that the congregation as well as the Pastoral Care Team can referred to when someone is need of assistance. This has been a large undertaking, but Barbara is hoping to have the information available soon.

The Pastoral Care Team has begun using Trello as a way to keep track of the ongoing needs of the congregation. It has been a very helpful tool.

In order to have the youth perspective represented on the team, we were fortunate to have Siobhan Rogers join us in September, 2016. Siobhan has been an important member of the team this year. Unfortunately, for us, she is graduating from high school and will be leaving New Hampshire. At this time, we are looking to find another youth to join the team.

Current committee members are:

Eileen Herring, Chairperson

Joan Connacher

Gail McMorrow Donahue

Dan Holland

Barbara Spitz

Deede Loffler

Shiobhan Rogers

Rev. Allison

Lori Lerude