**Pastoral Care Associates Annual Report 2018-19**

Pastoral Care Associates: Cecile Bonvouloir, Karen Campbell, Rhonda Cook-Moore, Joan Connacher, Hal Howay, Gail McMorrow Donahue, Barbara Spitz

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Associates is to extend the reach of the minister in providing pastoral presence and care to members and friends of the congregation and to support the congregants in their joys and sorrows. The Pastoral Care Associates meet regularly with Rev. Allison Palm and have been active since September 2012.

The Pastoral Care Associates take turns being the designated Pastoral Care Associate of the day during Sunday worship services. In this role we collect Candles Cards before the service, light candles during the “Caring Candles” time in our worship service, follow up as needed with those who submit a card, and send out the weekly email with the candles to the UU Cares email list. Throughout the year, members of the team offered care by staying in touch with those who can no longer attend church services regularly, listening to and holding space for those who needed someone to talk to, sending cards, reaching out by telephone and email, and visiting as appropriate. We also organized members of the congregation to provide meals and rides for short periods of time for members who were in need.

Our monthly drop-in Grief Group continued this year, led by Karen Campbell. Members have continued to take advantage of this space, and we are glad to be able to point people to this resource. Through our Adult Faith Formation programming, we offered two other monthly support groups this year: one for those caring for aging loved ones, and one for parents. In addition to these ongoing groups, Karen Campbell and Eileen Herring (a former Pastoral Care Associate) held a “Death Café” in March to encourage people to have conversation about end of life issues. Fifteen people attended and had lively and thoughtful conversations.

This year, the Pastoral Care Associates incorporated training into each of our monthly meetings to ground us in the work of listening and caring, and to talk about some of the joys and challenges of pastoral care. We also worked with some pastoral care scenarios, and did some training on the technology we use to communicate with one another. The Pastoral Care Associates and Rev. Allison use Trello to track pastoral needs in the congregation, and have greatly benefited this year from the use of our new database, Breeze, to access contact information.

Joan Connacher will be leaving the Pastoral Care Associates at the end of this year, after serving for many years in that capacity. We are grateful for all the time and energy she has given to caring for others in the congregation!

The Pastoral Care Associates are always considering how best to serve the needs of the congregation. If you have ideas, feel free to reach out to Rev. Allison or one of the Associates.