

## **Pastoral Care Associates Annual Report 2021-22**

Pastoral Care Associates: Moe Daniels, Jamie Hinkle (Aug. - Jan.), Hal Holway, Kim Steele, Diane Wolfe, Kathy Fletcher, and Jim Woolsey

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs) 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 PCAs meet regularly with Rev. Allison Palm and Ministerial Intern Caro Barschow and have been active since September 2012.

The PCAs take turns being the designated PCA during Sunday worship services. In this role we 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, PCAs 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 have also organized members of the congregation to provide meals and rides for short periods of time for members who are in need.

This year, the PCAs incorporated training into their first few meetings, including training on the technology needed to communicate with one another, and restriction requirements enacted to protect ourselves and others from COVID-19. The PCAs and staff use Trello to track pastoral needs in the congregation.

The PCAs were able to resume some in-person visits this year, which has deepened the care we were able to offer. They also continued to keep in touch with congregation members and friends by phone, email, and snail mail.

In February, the PCAs worked with Rev. Allison to lead a worship service called “Who You Gonna Call?” The service answered some FAQs about pastoral care and each PCA shared about what made this work meaningful to them. The service was well received, and the PCAs are already working on an idea for a service for next year.

Kathy Fletcher and Diane Wolfe are leaving the PCAs at the end of this church year. We have been so grateful for their presence and will miss them!

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.