

Pastoral Care Associates Annual Report 2022-23

Pastoral Care Associates: Moe Daniels, Marie Jones, Kim Steele, Sharon Machado, 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, and the continuing, albeit lightened, restrictions 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.

On March 19th, the PCAs worked with Ministerial Intern Caro Barschow and Rev. Allison to lead a worship service entitled “Lean on Me”. The service addressed issues of vulnerability when asking for help. It was very well received and everyone present appreciated Kathy Fletcher in devil horns and flame glasses!

Moe, Marie, Kim, Sharon, and Jim are all returning next year. We will be joined by Laurie Barry and Nancy Klarman!

We wish to extend our congratulations and love for Reverend Caro Barschow who will be leaving us this year. Caro filled in as minister while Allison was on sabbatical and set a wonderful example of pastoral care while leading the PCAs.

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.