

Pastoral Care Associates Annual Report 2023-24

Pastoral Care Associates: Moe Daniels, Marie Jones, Kim Steele, Sharon Machado, Jim Woolsey, Laurie Barry, Nancy Klarman, and Carl Phillips

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 Erin Scott 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.

The PCAs started the year with a training in August and met every 1-2 months for the remainder of the church year. The PCAs and staff use Trello to track pastoral needs in the congregation.

With the lessening concerns over COVID-19, the PCAs resumed in-person visits when convenient and appropriate as well as keeping in touch by phone, email, text message, and good old snail mail which has deepened the care we were able to offer.

On April 7th, the PCAs worked with Ministerial Intern Erin Scott and Rev. Allison to lead a worship service entitled “We Need One Another”. In keeping with the month’s theme of Interdependence, the service strived to discuss what it means to be part of a community and the gift of offering as well as receiving help. The PCAs kicked off the “Giving Fest”, inviting people to ask for help and to sign up to accept help with that task. Folks were also encouraged to offer help if they had a particular skill to offer such as organization or baking.

Kim and Jim are ending their time as Pastoral Care Associates after this year. We are grateful for all the care they have offered in their time on the team!

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.