

Pastoral Care Associates Annual Report 2025 - 2026

Pastoral Care Associates: Marie Jones, Edmund Lowe, Laurie Barry, Tricia St. Laurent, Victoria Agnew

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 Michael Packard and have been active since September 2012. Rev. Allison and Ministerial Intern Michael co-led the Pastoral Care Associates this year.

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, rides, and other support 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, and who has followed up recently with those who have ongoing needs.

Starting in February, the PCA team initiated “Office Hours” on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:30 am, following services, to improve Pastoral outreach at a time convenient for the congregation. The goal is to provide a low-pressure, safe space for members to share and receive support. We continue to adjust the meeting location to discover the best place for accessibility and privacy.

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.