

## **PASTORAL ASSOCIATES/ LAY PASTORAL CARE**

### **Report for May 22, 2022 Congregational meeting**

#### **Who are we?**

We are lay members of the pastoral care team, working closely with our Interim Minister Rev. Michelle Collins and other members of the ministerial pastoral care team, community ministers Rev. Sue Magidson and Rev. Jane Ramsey.

Pastoral Associates and other lay members who join us in pastoral care are usually out of the congregational limelight. Though sometimes overlooked or unknown by those whose lives are currently stable, we provide important connections of comfort and healing and embody our important Mission of “creating loving community.”

#### **What do we do?**

We reach out to UUCB Members and Friends to acknowledge their joys and concerns, losses and tough times through calls and visits of listening presence and supportive notes. We also each regularly reach out to older congregation members who are unable to attend in-person worship.

We help free our ministers’ time to better share their professional pastoral skills with church members and their loved ones, supporting those who are seriously ill, dying, bereaved and suffering and creating celebrations of birth, wedding and lives well lived.

#### **Caring by the numbers**

In the last 12 months we connected directly with 80 or more persons of whom we became aware were experiencing injury, illness, serious illness, and/or bereavement or other concerns or joys, themselves or of a loved one. At least 48 of these persons were under 80 years old, as hardship is shared by young and old alike.

**How do we know who might welcome support?** People respond to our ads in UUCB publications to tell us themselves or more often, about a friend who is “sick, hospitalized, recovering, grieving or otherwise in need of attention and support”

People may call, talk with us in person or send an email to [pastoralcare@uucb.org](mailto:pastoralcare@uucb.org)

These ads also direct people to Rev. Michelle for her professional pastoral attention, by calling or texting her at 301-675-5314 or emailing her directly at [minister@uucb.org](mailto:minister@uucb.org). In turn, Rev. Michelle may request that we follow up non-confidential contacts.

#### **Special Projects**

We continue the valued tradition of honoring our older members who have milestone birthdays of 80 and better with their recognition as *Doctors of Durability* and additional distinctions of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Summa cum Laude and Ultra cum Laude. This year we are working closely with Rev. Michelle to create the May 15 worship and provide tokens of appreciation to 37 honorees. We have 78 current and past honorees 80 and better.

*Holiday messages to our “elders and others”* On December 10, 2021 on “Giving Saturday,” we set up tables, provided cards and encouraged those coming to church with food bank donations or evidence of Covid vaccinations to also create messages for all our older adults and also younger members who were ill or injured. Recipients especially enjoyed the colorful drawings and messages created by our youth.

Colorful *Super Cards* filled with messages of support are a valued and tangible symbol of being part of a loving community and warm those who’ve given permission to share their joys and concerns. Seeing Lynne Cahoon’s decorated pages out on Sunday mornings also prompts signers to send their own cards.

*Facilitating awareness of those welcoming support:* With the permission of the involved person(s), we submit items to the informal email church Discuss List to invite messages of support for those who have been ill or injured, hospitalized or bereaved. We remind the bereaved non-church members of our formal church Circle of Life announcements, which prompt comforting condolence notes and attendance at memorial services.

### **Join us in acts of caring and service**

Our opening words for our monthly Pastoral Associates’ meetings, adapted from Richard Gilbert, end “In this human circle, caring is a calling. All of us are called.” Please let us know if there is time in your life you’d like to share with someone in the UUCB family who may welcome loving attention through visits, calls and notes and/or acts of service such as rides to church, prepared meals, or medical appointment companionship

Barbara Cullinane, Chair, Pastoral Associates and  
Pastoral Associates Lynne Cahoon, Dorothy Herzberg, Judy Sam, Marta Tobey and  
Anne Wardell.