

## **Presentation of Schweitzer Medal by Beth Pollard to Barbara Cullinane**

You know the feeling when someone looks at you and really sees you? Or listens to you and truly hears you? Or says they care and sincerely means it? And to get all three? That is what it is like to be with Barbara Cullinane.

A countless number of congregants being deeply seen, listened to, and cared for is what the church got when Barbara, along with her husband Patrick, came here in 1989.

Through the years, Barbara has consistently, conscientiously, and compassionately shown her love and skill in caring about and for members through our individual challenges. (I know, because it was Barbara I called when my mom entered Hospice.)

This unique talent was initially contributed informally through her many volunteer roles. It expanded after she retired from a career in social work with older people and their families in 2013.

After joining the Caring Circle, she was tapped with others to create the Pastoral Associates and later became chair. "I can't imagine anyone else handling this responsibility with such care and thoughtfulness." "Barbara is a wise and empathetic person," are among colleagues' comments about her service, in addition to "big heart, thorough, responsible, collaborative, and thoughtful partner who loves to learn."

Among Barbara's many other roles have been Worship Associate in the 90s, Evensong Co-Leader, *Stewardship Connector*, *Sharing Our Journey* and *homily speaker*, member of the Committees on Ministry, Chalice Circle Leadership, Adult Education, Safety Response, Ushers, Program Council and even snake handler and wicked stepsister in UUCB productions. In our last capital campaign she was project manager for *A Book of Reflections*, personal testimonials valuing UUCB.

Because of Barbara's dedicated, talented, and inspiring work, UUCB is a more connected, supporting and loving community. It is my honor to present Barbara Cullinane with this Schweitzer Medal.