

Other Pastoral Visitor Ministries

Candles On Sundays, you will find a stained glass chalice and candles at the side of the sanctuary. We invite you to light a candle signifying a joy, sorrow, or concern.

Cards On the table with the candles, you will find “Joys, Sorrows, and Milestones” cards and pencils. We invite you to complete a card and place it in the envelope. Members of the Pastoral Visitors Ministry address the requests you make on your card. Requests might include that we hold your concern in our hearts with prayer, or to offer you support from our ministers or a member of the team.



Pastoral Visitors Covenant

Pastoral visitors covenant to befriend and comfort members of our church community, providing them with a listening ear and a caring and compassionate temperament. We commit to educate ourselves, encourage and support each other, and welcome others to serve. We create confidentiality in which to share our caregiving and personal challenges, and deepen our sense of collective mission and effectiveness. We pledge to listen deeply, respond thoughtfully, and hold our conversations in the light of truth and love.

Where Can I Get More Information?

The Community Care bulletin board is in the lounge next to the Visitors’ Center. You will find brochures for the Pastoral Visitors, We Care, and the Soul Matters programs. You will also find greeting cards to sign and send to church members in need of our care.



...The anguish of your heart finds echo in my own.

*I know I cannot enter all you feel
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain;*

*I can but offer what my love does give:
The strength of caring,
The warmth of one who seeks to understand...*

Howard Thurman
Meditations of the Heart



**Cedar Lane
Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

**Pastoral Visitors
Ministry**

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
9601 Cedar Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-4099
Phone: 301-493-8300 x 204
Email: communitycare@cedarlane.org

What is Pastoral Care?

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church seeks to embody a sense of the Beloved Community in its ministries and activities. One role of a community is to extend help to those within our congregation whose life circumstances call out for one on one spiritual care. The ministers provide such care, but many within the congregation are able to support their efforts such that it truly becomes an outreach of the community at large. The Pastoral Visitors Ministry is a group of volunteers from the community who have been trained to provide care that augments the work of the ministers. The care is under the supervision of the ministers, and is available to those who feel they might benefit from a supportive and confidential listener.

Who Are the Pastoral Visitors?

The Pastoral Visitors Ministry of Cedar Lane UU Church are volunteers who have been trained to provide confidential service to others, under the leadership of the ministers and the Lay Coordinator for Pastoral Care. Their training includes developing the skills, such as active listening and supportive presence, that are needed to provide an empathetic and trustworthy

connection with those in need. Training also includes ongoing classes or workshops in particular subjects, such as dementia. Visitors are available for Cedar Lane UU Church members and friends in their home, hospital, nursing home, or rehabilitation center. Pastoral Visitor support is usually requested during times of life transition, such as illness or injury and recovery, death of a loved one, or confinement to a hospital or other facility.



What Do the Visitors Do?

Pastoral Visitors develop confidential relationships that vary in time from a brief contact or telephone conversation, to regularly scheduled visits over several years.

The Pastoral Visitors offer a ministry of presence. They are there to listen and support the individuals whom they visit.

They work closely with the ministers and can offer access to other resources as needs arise. The Pastoral Visitors and ministers share information in confidential meetings to assure the best care to those we visit.

How Can I Request a Visit?

You may contact the Pastoral Visitors' team by filling out a card on the candle table in the sanctuary, by emailing communitycare@cedarlane.org, by speaking with the on-call Pastoral Visitor after each Sunday service, or by calling the on-call Pastoral Visitor throughout the week at 240-426-2513. Additionally, you can contact Janet Cromer, the Lay Coordinator of Pastoral Care by emailing her at the Community Care email address, or by contacting Rev. Michelle Collins at mcollins@cedarlane.org or 301-493-8300, ext. 204.

