

## When to call the minister

When you have problems you would like to discuss with your job, children, marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.

When you are going to the hospital or know of someone else in the congregation who is.

When someone close to you has died or is critically ill or you're dealing with a significant loss of some kind.

When you are planning to be married or divorced.

When you would like your child dedicated.

When you are pregnant and glad you are or wish you weren't, also if you want to be pregnant but aren't.

When you feel ready to join the congregation.

When you have concerns or suggestions.

When you have religious or spiritual questions.

When you are seeking to deepen your spiritual life.

When you are upset with the minister or would like to express appreciation.

## When to call a member of the Pastoral Care Team

When you would like a visit in the hospital;

When you would like to know what pastoral resources are available to you in the congregation;

When you might like someone to pray with you;

When you'd like information about assisted living centers, aging or mental health concerns;

When you'd welcome a home visit;

When you need food or some other immediate, short term assistance;

When you'd like an occasional ride to church;

When you'd like to find out more about what the pastoral care team does!

### Contact Information

For all pastoral concerns, call one of the ministers at 440-333-2255 ext. 115 or 102  
In the event of an emergency, call 440-653-3476  
Or

Doris Matthey,  
Commissioned Lay Leader Candidate  
216-773-6265

# THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM AT WEST SHORE



*Offering a  
ministry of  
presence  
during  
times of  
transition*

## A COMMUNITY OF CARING AT WEST SHORE

The Pastoral Care Team is a program of the church that supplements ministerial services and coordinates other community resources. The Pastoral Care Team works in cooperation and collaboration with the ordained ministers toward the goal of a more caring community. We seek to promote an atmosphere of hope and to ensure that no member of our community need fear being alone in a time of crisis. Members of the Pastoral Care Team agree to receive regular training on a variety of aspects of pastoral care.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team serve as listeners and supportive friends. Through ongoing training, they put the Unitarian Universalist principles to work by assisting people in need within a framework of confidentiality and a focus on working for the benefit of the person being served.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team have been trained on hospital visitation, general grief counseling, etc. However, they are not a substitute for professional therapy or counseling. Confidentiality is assured unless an individual is a threat to him/herself or another; then professional services may be called.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of Pastoral Care Team is intended:

- to provide a team of well-trained and qualified individuals who are identified as pastoral care-givers in the congregation;
- to provide immediate and emergency assistance to church members in need;
- to be a resource for the Ministry Team about social services in the community and how to best utilize those resources;
- to apprise the Ministry Team of pastoral situations in the church that may need ministerial support or assistance.



## WHO USES THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM?

Pastoral Care Team support is helpful during life transitions such as illness, death of a loved one, marriage, divorce or separation, a new baby, job loss, retirement, nursing home stays, etc.

Members of the church can call upon a Pastoral Associate when they are in pain, sick, lonely or struggling with changes. It can be comforting to know you're not alone and it helps to have someone from the church community listen, care and offer support.

## WHAT DOES THE TEAM DO?

The Pastoral Care Team offer a "ministry of presence" to people in times of transition. They develop confidential relationships ranging from one or two phone conversations to regularly scheduled visits over many months. They primarily offer listening and support, but also have been able to assist with concrete problem solving and can try to arrange for a ride or a meal when possible. They consult with the ministers and offer access to other resources as needed. Sometimes more than one Pastoral Associate will offer support.

## CAN I STILL SPEAK WITH A MINISTER?

Yes! You can still go to a minister with your joys and concerns. Pastoral Care Team are not meant to replace the minister's role in pastoral care. The goal of the Pastoral Care Team program is to expand the opportunities in this community to give and receive pastoral care.

## WHAT IF I KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS SUPPORT?

It's hard to ask for help. If you know a church member who could use some support, ask him or her if you can call the minister or a member of the Pastoral Care Team on his/her behalf. Unfortunately, we cannot respond to third party calls when an individual wishes to remain anonymous.