**CARE TEAM**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

**CHURCH OF KENT**

*An important part of our mission is to create a caring community. Every member and friend of this church has a part in that creation. This brochure describes how you can take part in our giving and receiving community of care.*

*Revised 3/20/13*

**Helping Hands Network**

The Helping Hands Network is a practical resource to help provide for basic, temporary, physical needs for members and friends.

**Q: Who are the members of the Helping Hands Network?**

**A:** The Network consists of people like you who volunteer to assist others

who are experiencing a difficult time. Anyone who can cook, drive, do light housework, or provide other similar services can be a member of the network.

**Q: How does the Network support the congregation?**

**A:** The Network helps by providing limited care through:

* Making and delivering meals
* Offering transportation
* Providing emergency childcare
* Shopping, running errands, and light housework

**Q: How can I be a part of the Helping Hands Network?**

**A:** Fill out the form in this brochure. We will keep a list of volunteers

 and you will only be asked to help in your area(s) of interest

 when you are able to do so. We are always in need of people who

 may be willing to offer assistance to those whom they do not

 know well.

**Q: How can I get help from the Helping Hands Network?**

**A:** Let us know how we can support you. Please contact the Care Team Coordinator, Patty Miller at 330.676.1643 or pattym55@hotmail.com, the minister or the church office for assistance. To best assist you we ask that you give us a week’s notice for requests when possible.

**Pastoral Associates Listening (PAL) Team**

The PAL Team is designed to offer support by providing a listening ministry of presence to members and friends in need.

**Q: Who are the members of the PAL team?**

**A:** PAL team members have undergone an initial training and made a

commitment to serve members and friends of this church. They continue to participate in on-going training and supervision with the minister.

**Q: What is the role of a PAL team member?**

**A:**  A PAL’s primary role is to listen, witness, and care. PAL team

 members will also occasionally provide a referral if further

 supportive services are needed.

**Q: How do the PAL team members support the congregation?**

**A:** We are committed to helping members and friends who are experiencing any of life’s stressful events - whether sad or joyous. Support can be short-term or for an extended term. Members and friends with chronic illness or limited mobility are invited to consider an ongoing relationship with a PAL team member.

**Q: What happens to the information I tell my PAL team member?**

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**A:** The PAL team has committed to keep in

 confidence the names and personal

 information of the people they are visiting. If

 you are interested in receiving a visit from a

 member of the PAL team or in joining the PAL

 team, please contact our minister, Reverend

 Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, the Care Team

 Coordinator, Patty Miller at 330.676.1643 or

 pattym55@hotmail.com or simply call the church

 office.

**Pastoral Care from our Minister**

Our minister works closely with our care ministries because she believes that ministry is something we do together. Along with them she also provides pastoral care to the congregation.

**Q: How can I get pastoral care or counseling from our minister?**

**A:** Contact her at the church office (minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net)

 Or 330.673.4247)to request an appointment. If your concern is

 urgent, call our minister’s cell phone rather than the office

 (330.554.7268).

**Q: What kinds of concerns can I bring to the minister?**

**A:** You may call the minister for any reason, but you are especially

encouraged to call upon her when you need spiritual support. You might consider calling when:

* you or someone you care about is very sick or in the hospital.
* someone you care about has died.
* you would like to discuss your own mortality.
* you are planning a wedding or commitment ceremony.
* you are planning to separate or divorce.
* you would like a ceremony of dedication for your child.
* you are pregnant, but wish you weren’t or are trying to become pregnant, but cannot.
* you or someone you care about is in legal trouble or has been arrested.
* you or someone you care about is struggling with abuse or addiction or mental illness.
* you have lost hope or faith in yourself, another, or life itself.
* you need a referral to a professional counselor.
* you would like to be visited in your home.

**MINISTER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Thanks to the generosity of the members and friends of this congregation, our minister is able to provide limited financial assistance from the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. If a financial crisis renders you unable to pay for your housing, food, medication, utilities, transportation or other urgent items, please contact the minister.