

Helping Hands Report
May 14, 2022

Dear members of UUCSC,

I believe Helping Hands is not technically a committee, but wanted to include some information and a report on our activities this year. We exist as a practical support to fellow congregants, to connect people who need a service with those willing to provide the service (such as rides around town, meal preparation and delivery, etc).

In March, I participated in a Zoom meeting with about 11 others to decide the direction of this workgroup. I offered to facilitate and coordinate Helping Hands and received the current list of contacts from Lynda White-Burrell. This list was graciously transformed into a spreadsheet by Betsy Dalton and currently has 30 people who have offered rides, meals, phone calls, cards & notes, as other "odds & ends."

Since that time, Randi Marten has agreed to be a co-facilitator with myself. We are planning a division of work based on our various scheduling needs. At this point, the plan is that I will serve as the primary contact person and Randi will help with phone calls and scheduling when we receive requests. We are meeting next week to go over our process and plan for some proactive engagement with the congregation.

So far, we have helped coordinate rides for two people and have mailed several cards to those in the congregation who are going through a hard time. We plan to keep a list of services provided, and will be adding to our growing spreadsheet so we can easily keep track of this information.

Some plans for where we will go from here:

- Creating an email specific to Helping Hands that can be checked by multiple people and serve as a main contact point
- Contacting those who have offered services to get more specifics such as time availability, best ways to contact them, etc, to update our records with and make it easier to find a good fit when a need comes up
- Encouraging the congregation to proactively volunteer services or to suggest someone who may be in need of some help
- Identify a consistent way to be in touch with volunteers on a monthly basis, to share information such as folks who might like to receive a card that month and other opportunities to connect.

It's a pleasure to be a part of this effort! I love to see the ways this community wants to connect even more and look forward to facilitating this into the next congregational year.

Kind regards,
Bethany Sorrentino
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