

2025/2026 UUCSC Helping Hands Annual Report

Helping Hands co-coordinators: Kelsey Ellis Briggs Bethany Sorrentino

Helping Hands is a workgroup dedicated to supporting our beloved UUCSC community during times of need. Whether someone is recovering from a hospital stay, facing illness, welcoming a new baby, experiencing a difficult transition, or simply in need of extra practical support and connection, Helping Hands coordinates assistance within the congregation for members of all ages. Congregants may reach out through the church office, email uuhelpinghands@gmail.com, or contact a Helping Hands coordinator directly to request assistance or refer someone who may benefit from support.

Throughout the year, Helping Hands continued maintaining and growing a network of volunteers through an email action list of congregants willing to provide meals, rides, cards, care packages, and other practical acts of care. Our volunteer email list has now grown to more than 40 congregants willing to help support members of our community when needs arise.

Transportation assistance remained one of the most common requests this year, including rides to Sunday services, medical appointments, congregational events, and errands. Volunteers also provided meal deliveries and practical assistance to congregants during periods of illness, recovery, and other challenging times.

While Helping Hands focuses on practical support rather than pastoral care, coordinators also helped connect congregants with resources and services in the wider community when direct assistance was not available. This included helping congregants access transportation resources such as RIPTA Flex services, navigate meal delivery options such as Uber Eats, and connect with local senior services and community programs.

In addition to responding to requests for care, Helping Hands also worked to strengthen awareness within the congregation about the support available and welcomed new volunteers interested in participating in this ministry of mutual care and compassion.

Helping Hands remains deeply grateful to everyone who contributed time, meals, transportation, companionship, and encouragement throughout the year. The quiet generosity of volunteers continues to help sustain meaningful connection within our congregation and reminds members that they are not alone during difficult moments.

For the upcoming year, Bethany Sorrentino is stepping down as co-coordinator. We are deeply grateful for her dedication, compassion, and partnership in this work. Mary Fulton will be joining Helping Hands as coordinator alongside Kelsey Ellis Briggs as Helping Hands continues its work supporting the UUCSC community!

With gratitude,
Kelsey Ellis Briggs
UUCSC Helping Hands Coordinator
Submitted May 2026