

Caring Ministry Team 2022 Annual Report

The Caring Ministry team comprises Pastor Beth Parsons, Pastor Nancy Walker, Arnette Anderson, Jennifer Hastings, Jean Hazemi, Orma Paton, Ruth Schulz, Carol-Ann Staples, Elizabeth Surerus, and Joanne Thomas (Chair). Margaret Bates withdrew in February, and we express appreciation for her contributions over the years; Blyth Hughes is an affiliate member.

Early in the year, the Caring Ministry launched a Dementia Caregiver Support Group, led by Rev. Wilda Cottam. Four people have participated in this monthly gathering and three continue to attend regularly. The group provides support and an opportunity to share with others also caring for a loved one with dementia.

In early September three Caring members called about 30 people who had not returned to regular worship to invite them to return to church, particularly for Celebration Sunday. A few expressed appreciation at being contacted.

As part of an outreach plan to the local community, the Caring team planned and launched a drop-in café on the second Saturday of the month with the first event in September. At the end of September, some Caring members delivered approximately 70 flyers to mailboxes in the community to invite them to drop-in at Cordova (Bay United) Café. Appreciation goes to Ron Norman and Sam Boehner for their part in helping to promote this initiative. At the inaugural Café, fundraising efforts resulted in over \$300 going to assist local Ukrainian refugees. The book sale at the November Café raised \$578 that went to the church; the baking and Christmas décor sale in December raised \$958 with \$400 going to Our Place and the remainder going to the church budget.

The drop-in cafés seem to be well received and up to 40 people have come out to enjoy the social interaction, including a few people from the community. At a recent meeting, the Caring team voted to not allow personal sales at their monthly cafés.

In late November Caring members helped to distribute about 50 flyers to houses near the church to apprise neighbours of the Christmas services and activities taking place in December.

Two prayer shawls were distributed in 2022 to provide comfort to those going through a difficult time.

The Caring team has begun a visioning process to examine the role of the Caring ministry in the church, consider what we would ideally like to do, and determine what is feasible to do.

Respectfully submitted
Joanne Thomas, chair