

**CIRCLE OF CARE:
A LAY PASTORAL CARE
PROGRAM**

ROADMAP FOR TODAY

Why do we need this?

How will it work?

How can people access care?

How can I get involved?

Next steps towards a more caring church



WHY?

- Lots of care already happening, but disorganized, separate, and unequal
- Newer members left out because they don't know how to connect
- Folks who can't come in person feel disconnected
- Young families want connection but hard to figure out how to do it
- Increased need for mutual aid in light of political shifts

WHERE IS ALL THIS COMING FROM?

- UCC resource Circle of Care
- “The Caring Congregation” program
- Conversations with ministers in similar churches to ours
- Suggestions from within FCCB



SOME THINGS PASTORS WILL CONTINUE TO DO...

- Emergency visits in person, by phone, and by zoom--hospitalizations, deaths, other crises
- Funeral/end of life planning
- Theological conundrums
- Family crises
- Visits to “homebound” folks about twice a year
- Meetings with newbies

SOME THINGS LAY FOLKS WILL CONTINUE TO DO

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- More regular contact with “homebound” folks
 - Sometimes as a rotation
 - Sometimes as a small team of regulars
- Regular visits to longer-hospitalized folks or folks in skilled nursing or other long-term care
- Meal trains for illness, new baby, etc
- Ongoing support around family issues, transitions, illnesses through forming a care circle
- Ongoing prayer support by the Prayer Team
- Love Notes sent out by the congregation, organized by the Deacons

WHO'S GONNA DO WHAT?

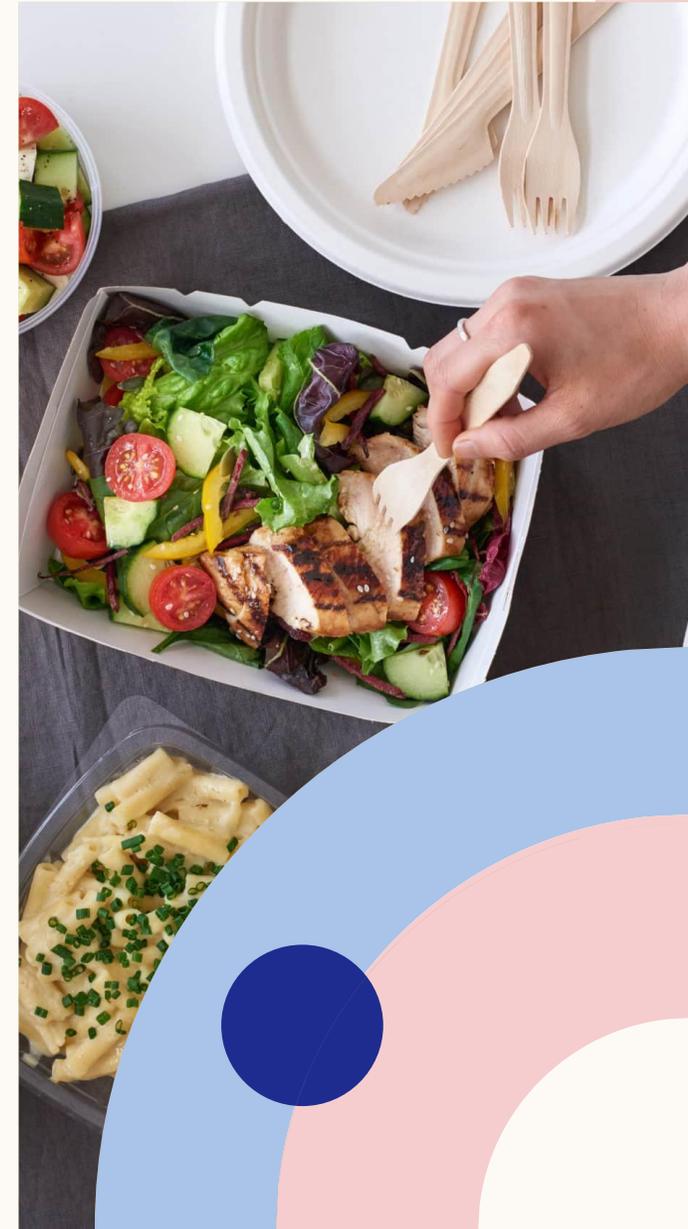
A **Circle of Care Organizing Team** will meet monthly, in place of the Pastoral Care Team meetings we've been having.

On that team will be:

- All the Pastors
- Louise
- New Member Coordinator Kathy H
- Meal Train and Ride Coordinator Robin K
- Lay Visit Coordinator _____?
- A representative from the Deacons _____?
- A liaison from the Over 60s Group _____?
- And maybe a couple of other folks who want to help organize

HOW WILL IT WORK?

- A week before the Organizing Team meeting, an email will go out to all the Care Visitors asking for updates on the folks they are supporting
- A notice will also go out in the Carillon asking for folks to share pastoral care information
- At the meeting, the list of people receiving care is updated. The Lay Visits Coordinator(s) work on connecting folks, updating schedules, and communicating assignments to the Care Visitors. The Meal Train coordinator connects with anybody who needs a Meal Train organized. The pastors follow up as needed with folks needing a pastor.

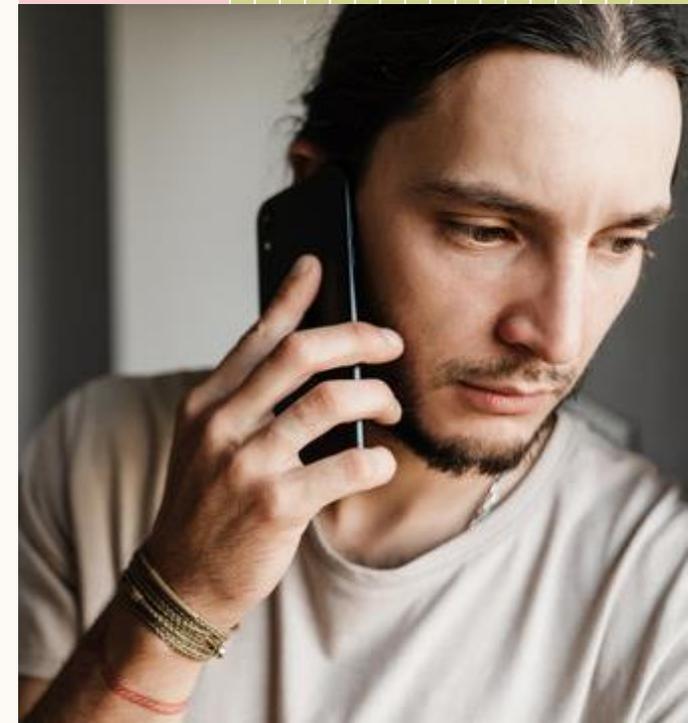


BUT SOMETIMES THINGS COME UP!

Yes! As needs come up in between meetings, the Organizing Team will be in touch via email to make plans.

Pastors will respond to emergencies as always of course.

Folks can let us know through all the normal channels: call the Pastoral Emergency Line, email any of the pastors, email info@fccb.org, etc.



WAIT, WHAT'S THE PASTORAL EMERGENCY LINE?

IT'S (510) 854-0187 !

We have a phone number that rotates between pastors! If you're having a pastoral emergency, the best thing to do is call or text the pastoral emergency line, which will get you whoever's "on" for pastoral care that day.

We're not available 24/7, of course—that line (like every line) gets some spam calls, and we're not able to commit to answering it overnight. But someone will get back to you normally within a few hours, or if you leave a message overnight, you'll hear back in the morning.

MORE ON CARE VISITS

- Sometimes we'll do a rotation of visitors for folks who need regular visits for companionship but would like variety. I'm managing those schedules so far.
- Sometimes we'll pair someone in need of care with a small care team who may visit individually or together
- Frequency of visits will be determined on a case-by-case basis. We may try to get some folks visited every week, while others may only need/want a visit every month or so.
- Not all "visits" need to be in person—a phone call or zoom can count as a visit, too.

Care Visitors replace the "First Friends" program where we pair someone in need of support with one support person.

Some folks in need of support will be set up with a Care Circle for themselves—a team of supporters who will work together to determine the best way to provide support in an ongoing way.

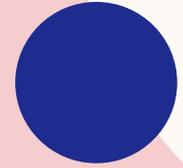
CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CARE VISITORS AND SUPPORTERS

Approximately quarterly, we'll have a learning hour focused on an aspect of providing care to people. Upcoming topics will include:

- supporting people with anxiety
- learning about dementia and memory loss
- supporting people through cancer
- how to pray with someone during a care visit
- boundaries for care provision
- and others that arise or are requested by care visitors.



GROUP SUPPORT



As needs emerge around a particular topic shared by a group of people simultaneously, group supports may be created.

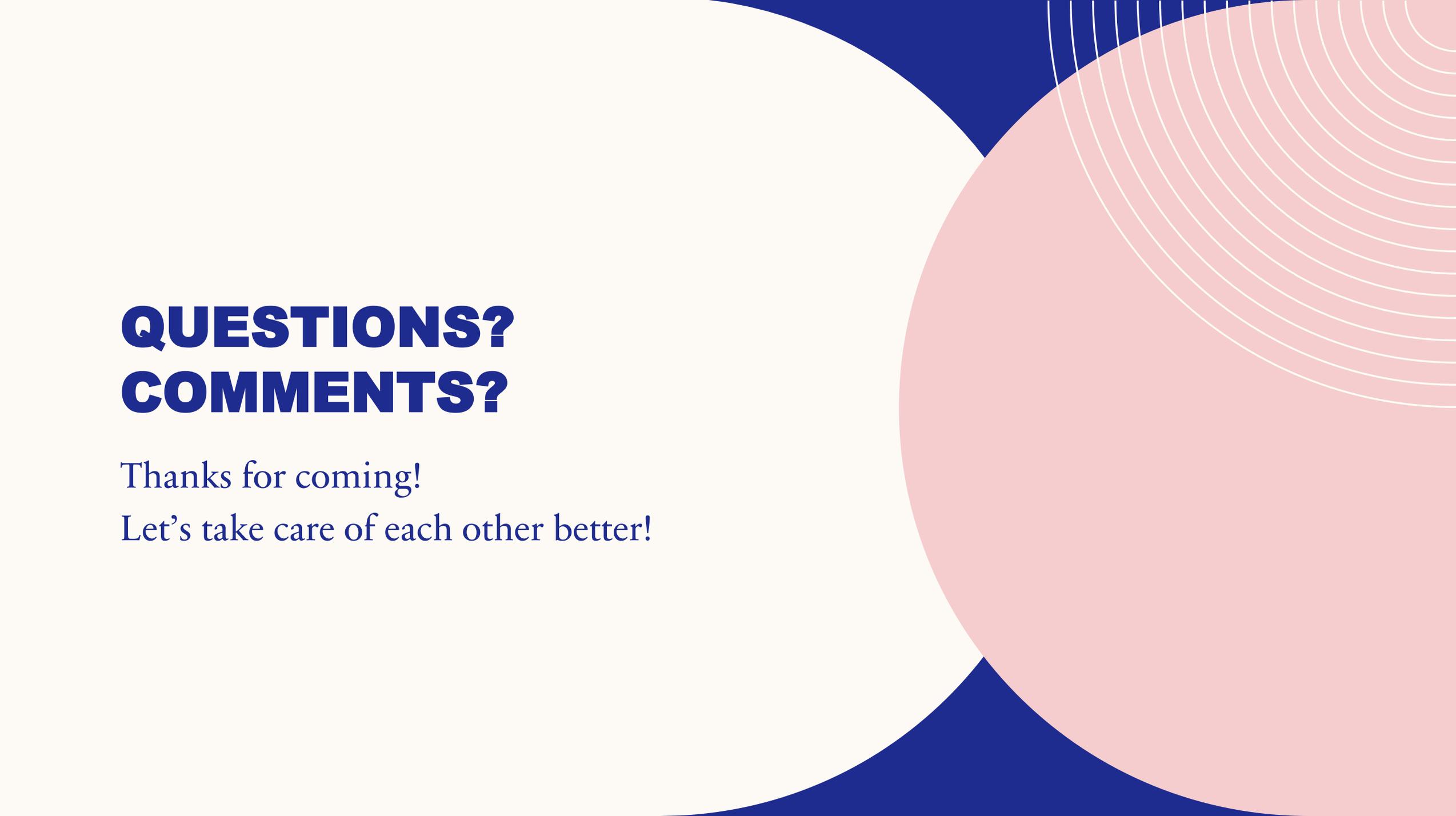
A lay leader will be sought to work alongside the pastor to present the group, which in normal circumstances will be a time-limited offering.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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Basically, let me know!

1. If you are interested in serving on the **Organizing Team** (organizing lay visits, liaising with the Over 60 group, or being the Deacon Liaison) please say so.
2. If you are **already visiting someone** regularly to support them, please let me know so I can keep track of that.
3. If you are willing to serve as a **Care Visitor**, please let me know so I can include you on my list and we can get organized.
4. If you find out about **pastoral care needs** that aren't being met, please ask the person if you can share them with us.
5. Please keep participating in **Meal Trains**
6. and writing **Love Notes**



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Thanks for coming!

Let's take care of each other better!