

## Caring Connection Services

The *Caring Connection* volunteers provide a number of pastoral care services.

The *Rides Coordinator* arranges rides for members to appointments, First Parish worship and events, and for other needs.

*Please contact one of the ministers or lay ministers to request these services.*

**Meal Delivery** brings meals to parishioners during illness, injury or bereavement.

**By Your Side Singers** are a pastoral choir that helps through life's transitions by singing rounds, chants, lullabies, choral music, hymns and spirituals to parishioners in their homes or at the hospital.

**Friendly Visitors** are matched with members and friends of First Parish who would like to be contacted regularly.

**Shawl Ministry** provides shawls to those who are experiencing a time of loss, difficult transition, illness or injury.

## Pastoral Care Contacts

**Primary contact: Marion Visel**, Minister for Pastoral Care, [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org), 978-369-9602, cell 203-931-5239

**Senior Minister: Howard Dana**, [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org), 978-369-9602, cell 717-412-8543

**Minister of Religious Education: Amy Freedman**, [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org)

**Ministerial Intern: Jan Hutslar**, [jhutslar@firstparish.org](mailto:jhutslar@firstparish.org), cell: 315-714-9287

**Pastoral Care Lay Ministers** are trained to provide support during hospitalizations, bereavement, illness, and to families in crises.

**Sally Brandon Bemis** [sgbrandon@me.com](mailto:sgbrandon@me.com)  
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### **Rides Coordinator**

**Contact: Pat Brinkman**  
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## Pastoral Care

### First Parish in Concord

## Pastoral Care

**Supports** people through crises, transitions and difficult situations

**Listens compassionately and helps** individuals sort out what can and cannot be changed

**Is present** with people in their pain, loss, struggle, anxiety, and joy

**Relates gently** to individuals as whole people

**Offers encouragement and comfort** in times of trouble

**Is available** to everyone at any stage of life

## Seek Pastoral Care

**During crises and transitions** such as divorce, health issues, retirement, death of someone close to you, marriage, family concerns, mid-life crises, coming to terms with sexual identity, losing a job, making a career change or financial distress

**You need to talk** confidentially with a compassionate listener, even if you are not sure what is bothering you

**You are facing** a major life decision

**You are grieving or hurting** and need emotional and spiritual support

## Pastoral Care Process

1. A First Parish member or friend contacts a minister or lay minister to express his or her concerns.
2. The minister or lay minister talks with the member to better understand his or her needs.
3. Together, the member and the minister or lay minister decides what type of support or referral would be helpful, and initiate support.
4. The minister or lay minister follows-up with the member to see if the pastoral care support has been beneficial and whether further support is needed.