



Reaching Out to People in Need:

*Compassionate presence:
an interfaith series on care giving*

Unsure what to say when a friend in your congregation is grieving or sick?
Want to be able to offer the most helpful support to neighbors or friends in need?
Feel helpless or insecure when someone of a different faith is suffering?
--Join participants from a number of different local congregations in learning and refining the art of caring for others across all religions—

This free three-part Interfaith Workshop offers participants a unique opportunity to consider the ways our various beliefs and practices as caregivers empower or hamper the helping relationship. Core learning of the series focuses on principles and skills that cross faith and denominational boundaries such as attentive listening, observation, and empathetic response. Through a variety of methods, including role-play and group discussion, participants will explore ways to help suffering people access the comfort and challenge of their own faith. Though any interested adult is welcome to attend, those currently serving on care teams in congregations, or considering joining one, may find the training particularly useful. Content of each session is fundamental to those that follow, so participants are encouraged to attend all three sessions if at all possible. Small charge requested for refreshments each session. No other fees except for childcare if needed.

Local pastoral caregivers, supported by a larger interfaith Planning Team, designed the curriculum and will serve as session facilitators. They are The Rev. Margie Allen and Lynn Crager (The Unitarian Church in Westport), The Rev. Elsa Worth (Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church), and Diana Mrotek (Green's Farms Congregational, United Church of Christ).

Sunday, 3/30, 2-5PM at Green's Farms Congregational Church
71 Hillandale Rd., W'port; <http://www.greensfarmschurch.org/directions.htm>

Sunday, 4/6, 2-5PM at Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
55 Myrtle Ave., Westport; <http://www.chtwestport.org/where.php>

Sunday, 4/13, 2-5PM at Temple Israel
14 Coleytown Road, Westport; <http://www.tiwestport.org/aboutus/directions/>

Space is limited / Register by March 20*

RSVP to Charlene at: avilafc@optonline.net or 226-7218 or Margie at: margie@uuwestport.org or 227-7205, ext.19

*Approximately \$15.00/child/session for those in need of on-site childcare provided by **The Sitting Service of Connecticut LLC**. We *must* be notified of your need by **March 9**. Please include the # and ages of children when you contact us to register.