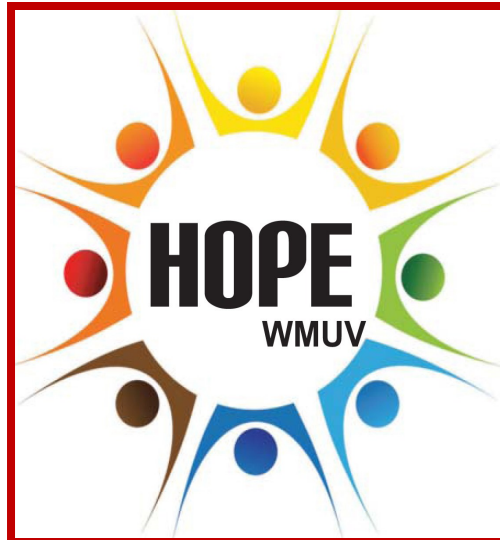


Mental Health/Dementia Facilitator's Guide

Everyday 10,000 people in our country turn 65 and about ½ of them will eventually have some form of dementia. These disorders impact the daily functioning of the patient and of their caregivers. Should the church even care? Here Kathy Berry and Mary Ann Johnson make a case for the church in offering compassionate and wholistic care to sufferers and their caretakers.

Rev. Kathy Berry, Presenter— served as a chaplain in long term care, hospital and hospice settings, specializing in memory care. She has also taught spirituality and aging and is a trainer with Alzheimer's Association. Kathy received an MS in patient counseling, and post-graduate certificate in aging studies from Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, VA, and a Masters in Religious Education from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. You can find Kathy's heart in her book, [When Words Fail: Practical Ministry to People with Dementia and their Caregivers.](#) She also contributed to [Dementia-Friendly Worship: A Multifaith Handbook for Chaplains, Clergy and Faith Communities.](#)

Mary Ann Johnson, Presenter— has a master's in Christian education and is a Certified Dementia Care Practitioner. She has worked in the world of dementia for twenty years. She has experience working in residential communities and managing the dementia special care unit. Mary Ann recently retired as Program Director from the Alzheimer's Association Greater Richmond Chapter. She also has experience in working with families and people who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related dementia disease. Mary Ann has presented at local and national conferences on Spirituality and Dementia and Art and dementia. Her mother had probable Alzheimer's disease for about twenty years and Mary Ann was a long-distance care partner and support for her family. Mary Ann serves on the HOPE: Mental Health team.



Selected Scripture References

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|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| A Psalm | Psalm 79:1 | David makes a special petition to God. |
| Old Testament | Isaiah 46:4 | God is a sustainer of the weak. |
| New Testament | Philippians 3:20-21 | Assurance of citizenship in heaven. |

Explore Together

1. Why would God care about individuals suffering from dementia?
2. Mary Ann shares about her journey with her mom. How can sharing one's testimony among the faithful help caretakers to persevere?
3. Kathy served as a Chaplain in a retirement community and knows the power of listening and being present so that those with dementia can have a sense of peace and feel close to God. How does Kathy suggest that we do this?
4. Kathy tells us that that people over 85 are the fastest growing segment of our population. What are some creative ways we can deal with dementia coming to church?
5. WMUV HOPE volunteers are raising awareness about dementia and the aging of America throughout our churches and associations. Explore together how the church can provide ministry in these situations.

Pray

Pray for family members who are caretakers of loved ones suffering with dementia.

Pray for family members, medical and custodial care personnel that they will be loving, patient and kind when caring for those suffering with dementia.

Pray for the church to be an intentional caring presence when dementia comes to church.

Pray that the stigma will be removed so that those who need help will ask.