

Join us for a robust conversation about how to make the church a welcoming place for people of all ages, stages, and abilities. From welcoming people who are living with dementia to special needs children and their families, our presenters, Dorothy Linthicum and Roger Hutchison, will offer theological grounding and practical ideas for helping our congregations better reflect the fullness of the Kingdom of God.

Resources

- Lori Amdam, "[Spiritual Care for People with Dementia: Practical Tips](#)," Tapestry Foundation for Health Care, September 24, 2012, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- Katie Norris, "[Creating Dementia Friendly Congregations](#)," Teleconference, May 30, 2017

Practices Guides:

- [Developing a Dementia-Friendly Church: A Practical Guide](#)
- Ten Tips for Communicating with a Person with Dementia in "[Caregiver's Guide to Understanding Dementia Behaviors](#)," Family Caregiver Alliance National Center on Caregiving
- [Wisconsin Memory Café Programs: A Best Practice Guide](#), ©2017 Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Books:

- James Farwell, "[The Liturgy Explained](#)" (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2013)
- Audrey Scanlan and Linda Snyder, "[Rhythms of Grace: Worship and Faith Formation for Children and Families with Special Needs](#)" (Denver: Morehouse Education Resources, 2010)

Online Articles:

- Joyce Mercer, "[What Does Christian Vocation Look Like for the Elderly?](#)" The Christian Century, June 23, 2017
- John Swinton interview with Jessica Bratt Carle, "[To Belong We Need to be Missed](#)," (Church Health Reader, February 22, 2016)

Helpful Websites:

- [Community of Hope International](#): Creating communities steeped in Benedictine

spirituality to serve others through compassionate listening

- [Dementia Friends USA](#) is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. Developed by the Alzheimer's Society in the United Kingdom, the Dementia Friends initiative is underway in the USA to help everyone in a community understand what dementia is and how it affects people

About the Presenters

Dorothy Linthicum is an adjunct instructor at [Virginia Theological Seminary](#) (VTS), who has studied and taught courses and workshops about older adult spirituality and ministry at the seminary, conferences, dioceses, and churches. Her study led her to write with co-author Janice Hicks [Redeeming Dementia](#) (Church Publishing, 2018), which looks at dementia through the lens of spirituality, theology, and science. She is also a catechist for the VTS [Baptized for Life](#) initiative in Arkansas exploring camp experiences for adults.

Author and Artist Roger Hutchison is the Director of Christian Formation and Parish Life at [Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church](#) in Houston, Texas, and the author of four books including [My Favorite Color is Blue. Sometimes](#). He had the privilege of painting with children who had experienced the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. This affected him profoundly and convinced him of a vocation to use his writing and art to serve those who grieve. Roger currently serves on the [Forma](#) Board and is a member of the [National Association of Grieving Children](#).