

LAST ACTS OF LOVE 2012

Wednesday, February 15, 29 and March 7, 14, 21, and 28

Witherspoon 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in Westminster Hall

This six week series will help you and your family with conversations about end of life issues. Navigating through the various aspects surrounding death can be difficult, and sometimes intimidating. Together we will have conversations about the following:

SESSION I. INTRODUCTION

A documentary: Consider the Conversation - An intimate story about the American struggle with communication and preparation at the end-of-life

"Through a series of compelling interviews and stories, Consider the Conversation explores people's fears and hopes as they live with serious illness - and offers an expanded view of how we can better care for one another and live fully through the end of life," says Byock, director of palliative care at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) and chair of palliative medicine at Dartmouth Medical School (DMS). "The film is evidence that American society is finally ready to consider how mortality affects all of our lives. In doing so, as a culture, we can begin to grow the rest of the way up."

SESSION II. When Death Comes: What Will They Say at my Funeral?

Leaders: Rev. Paul Rock and Rev. Don Fisher

A conversation with clergy with an opportunity to learn and talk about what Presbyterians believe about death and what we do as a community of faith when death comes. As well as conversation about the theology of the body and what makes a Christian memorial service.

SESSION III. Bioethics as Conversation: Caring Conversations.

Leader: Barbara Bollier, M.D.

This program will begin with a brief lesson and practicum on communication of issues related to bioethics, followed by a video which illustrates what a family faces when a person cannot speak for him/herself. Caring Conversations®, a consumer education initiative that helps individuals and their families share meaningful conversation while making practical preparations for end-of-life decisions, will be introduced to the class including an opportunity for questions and answers. If time allows, this session will include a discussion about decision-making, including palliative care and hospice.

SESSION IV. PASSAGES FOR CAREGIVING

Leaders: Jacqueline Cyphers and Susan Vann

No one really expects it, but at some time or another, just about everyone has been—or will be—responsible for giving care, for a sustained period, to someone close to them. Take this opportunity to learn more about identifying the various stages of caregiving, how to successfully navigate through the experience with new tips and strategies.

SESSION V. What Will Happen to my Resources?

Leader: Larry Bingham, Estate Attorney

Clarification about wills, trusts, the legal ways to provide for your family through your estate, and charitable giving.

SESSION VI. My Legacy

Leader: Bill Tammeus

A conversation about dying well. And, besides sharing personal stories, the five things dying people want to share: "I forgive you," "please forgive me," "I love you," "thank you," and "good-bye."

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RESOURCES

1. ACCOMPANY THEM WITH SINGING: The Christian Funeral by Thomas G. Long
2. CARE NOTES* – Also available in church hallway track rack
3. DEPARTURES*(2008 documentary)
4. DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT BROCHURES
5. DYING WELL by Dr. Ira Byock
6. FINAL GIFTS: Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying by Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley
7. I CARE TO SHARE* by Dr. Debi Stewart
8. PASSAGES IN CAREGIVING: Turning Chaos into Confidence* by Gail Sheehy
9. REFLECTIONS ON PSALM 23 FOR PEOPLE WITH CANCER: A Personal Journey* presented by Ken Curtis
10. SHARE THE CARE* by Cappy Capossela and Sheila Warnock
11. THE ART OF DYING: Living Fully Into the Life to Come by Rob Moll
12. THE FOUR THINGS THAT MATTER MOST: A Book About Living by Ira Byock, M.D.
13. Center for Practical Bioethics website – <http://practicalbioethics.org/>
14. KC Hospice and Palliative Care website - www.kansascityhospice.org
15. Shepherd's Center Central website - <http://sccentral.org/our-programs-services/>

*Available in the church library