



Episcopal Health Ministries @ St. Andrew's

RESOURCE LIST

UPDATED JANUARY 2026

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- General Medical
- Suicide Prevention
- Grief Support
- Advance Care Planning
- Palliative Care
- Hospice Information
- Medical Aid-in-Dying
- Other Advance Planning
- Suggested Articles, Books, and Podcasts
- Contending with Chronic Pain

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
306 N. Division St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.664.0518 | standrewsaa.org

General Medical

Websites about medical conditions – just a few of the many websites that provide health care information. Be aware that there is a lot of incorrect information on the internet, so choose a site that is associated with a health care institution for accurate information.

<http://www.michiganhealthblog.org>

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/>

<http://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/default.aspx>

Suicide Prevention

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

9-8-8 or 1-800-273-8255

<https://988lifeline.org>

Available 24 hours in English, Spanish

If you are hard of hearing: Dial 711 then 988



En Español: 1-888-628-9454 <https://988lifeline.org/es/inicio/>

Links

[SAMHSA Suicide Awareness Digital Toolkit](#)

[Firearm Storage Safety Factsheet](#)

Books

A Long-Shadowed Grief: Suicide and its Aftermath by Harold Ivan Smith

Courage to Thrive: Finding Joy and Hope in the Midst of Mental Health Struggles by Robert D. Flanagan. Recommended by Province V Bible Study

While You Were Out: An Intimate Family Portrait of Mental Illness in an Era of Silence by Meg Kissinger

Articles

Hope in Grief by Neil Steinberg: <https://www.rotary.org/en/hope-grief>

Grief Support

GriefShare Support Group

<https://www.griefshare.org>

Meets at Christ Our King Lutheran Church, Saline (Spring 2023) with other local meeting options available. Other programs from Church Initiative (publisher of GriefShare), include “Single & Parenting,” “Divorce Care,” and “Divorce Care for Kids.” These programs offer practical support in a Christian-based setting for those who hurt and grieve.

UofM Health System Grief Resources and Support

<https://www.uofmhealth.org/patient-visitor-guide/grief-support-following-death-loved-one>

<https://www.uofmhealth.org/patient-visitor-guide/grief-resources-support>

Ele’s Place: A Healing Center for Grieving Children and Teens

<https://www.elesplace.org/branch-locations/ann-arbor>

Ele’s Place is a healing center for grieving children, teens, young adults, and their families, and Ann Arbor has a branch.

Arbor Hospice Grief Support Groups

<http://arborhospice.org/our-services/grief-support-groups/>

Advance Care Planning

Five Wishes: User-Friendly Advance Directives and Living Wills

<http://www.agingwithdignity.org/five-wishes.php>

Aging with Dignity introduced *Five Wishes* in Florida in 1997, and a year later, to the nation. *Five Wishes* meets the legal requirements in 42 states [including Michigan] and has helped literally millions of people plan for and receive the kind of care they want. *Five Wishes* is unique among all other advance directives and living wills because it is user-friendly and easy to complete. *Five Wishes* Online

was introduced in 2011, allowing people to complete *Five Wishes* on screen and print out a personalized document immediately.

Aging with Dignity is a national non-profit organization with a mission to affirm and safeguard the human dignity of individuals as they age and to promote better care for those near the end of life.

Produced by Aging with Dignity

CaringInfo

<http://www.caringinfo.org>

CaringInfo provides information and support for anyone who is planning ahead, caregiving, living with a serious illness or grieving a loss. Advance directives specific to Michigan are available here.

The Conversation Project

<http://theconversationproject.org/>

The Conversation Project is dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for end-of-life care. We believe that the place for this to begin is at the kitchen table—not in the intensive care unit—with the people we love, before it's too late.

Conversations of a Lifetime

<http://www.conversationsofalifetime.org>

Learn how to talk about the end of life. Information on starting the conversation, resources for taking action, and options for end of life.

Death Cafe

<http://deathcafe.com/>

At a Death Cafe people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. The objective is *'to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'*. A Death Cafe is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. Information about the Ann Arbor Death Cafe can be found on this website or speak to Marilynne Rush, a member of St. Andrew's.

Palliative Care

Palliative Care Video

<http://www.palliativecarevideo.com/>

This video explains palliative care in the words of a palliative care patient and several care providers. They will talk about the many facets of palliative care, including pain and symptom control, the team approach, keeping your own doctor, and communication with patients and their family members.

Get Palliative Care

<http://getpalliativecare.org/>

Get Palliative Care provides clear, comprehensive palliative care information for people coping with serious, complex illness. Key components of the site include a Palliative Care Provider Directory of Hospitals, a definition of palliative care and detailed descriptions of what palliative care does and how to get it. It also provides an interactive questionnaire to assist you in determining whether palliative care might be appropriate for you or a loved one. *Produced by the Center to Advance Palliative Care*

Palliative Doctors

<https://palliativedoctors.org/>

Developed by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, PalliativeDoctors.org is geared to patients with serious illness and their families. This mobile-friendly site includes pages with patient stories, frequently asked questions, links to important resources and more.

Hospice Information

Arbor Hospice, Ann Arbor, MI

<http://www.arborhospice.org/>

Arbor Hospice annually serves more than 9,000 patients and their families at home, in hospitals and care facilities, and has been a leader in end-of-life care and family support for more than 25 years. Arbor Hospice is non-profit and has a residence for patients in Ann Arbor; it is one of a handful of hospice organizations that also serves pediatric patients and their families.

Hospice Foundation of America

<http://www.hospicefoundation.org/>

Hospice Foundation of America is a non-profit, grassroots foundation dedicated to providing leadership in the application of hospice principles, informing the public about end-of-life care, and training healthcare workers and the families they serve in issues related to loss.

Perinatal Hospice

<http://perinatalhospice.org/>

Perinatal hospice and palliative care is an innovative and compassionate model of support that can be offered to parents who find out during pregnancy that their baby has a life-limiting condition.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCCO)

<http://www.nhpco.org>

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. The organization is committed to improving end of life care and expanding access to hospice care with the goal of profoundly enhancing quality of life for people dying in America and their loved ones.

Medical Aid-in-Dying

At His Own Wake, Celebrating Life and the Gift of Death

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/25/world/canada/euthanasia-bill-john-shields-death.html>

Tormented by an incurable disease, John Shields knew that dying openly and without fear could be his legacy, if his doctor, friends and family helped him. May 25, 2017. *By Catherine Porter, Photographs and video by Leslye Davis*

Compassion & Choices: Understanding Medical Aid in Dying

<https://compassionandchoices.org/end-of-life-planning/learn/understanding-medical-aid-dying/>

Website that explains what is involved and where this is an option

Physician Aid-in-Dying

<https://depts.washington.edu/bhdept/ethics-medicine/bioethics-topics/detail/73>

Detailed article including ethical arguments both for and against physician aid in dying.

Other Advance Planning

Funeral Consumers Alliance

<https://www.funerals.org/>

“Funeral Consumers Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting a consumer’s right to choose a meaningful, dignified, affordable funeral. We do for funeral purchases what Consumer Reports does for products.”

Durable Powers of Attorney for Finances

<https://rochesterlawcenter.com/services/durable-power-of-attorney-michigan/>

Information regarding durable power of attorney for finances in Michigan.

After Death Home Care

<http://afterdeathhomecare.com/>

Contrary to popular belief, embalming, cremation or burial is not required within 24, or even 48, hours of death under most circumstances. Families can care for their own loved one in the home after death. This is what everyone did three to four generations ago, and what many people still do throughout the world. It’s called a “home funeral.” With proper care it is safe, simple, inexpensive and legal. The benefits of home funeral and green burial include personal expression of grief in a relaxed and loving atmosphere, the love and honor that only family members can provide, inclusion of the family and the community, and an easier grief journey for those involved. *Run by Merilynne Rush, a member of St. Andrew’s*

Planning a Funeral at St. Andrew’s

<https://standrewsaa.org/funerals.html>

Planning a funeral or memorial service to honor, remember, and celebrate loved ones who have passed away can feel overwhelming. St. Andrew’s assists families during these difficult times by providing support, comfort, and help in designing a meaningful memorial service or funeral. Available resources include a Funeral Planning Form, Suggested Funeral Readings, and Suggested Funeral Hymns.

Suggested Articles

5 Questions Every Patient Needs to Ask

<http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2012/07/5-questions-patient.html>

A physician recommends five questions every patient should ask when a doctor offers them a treatment of any kind.

4 Perfect Questions When Facing an End of Life Situation

<http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2012/04/4-perfect-questions-facing-life-situation.html>

Four questions Dr. Susan Block mentally carries around that guide her through the difficult but important conversations.

When Medical Wishes Are Respected

<http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2014/02/medical-wishes-respected.html>

Tom had the elusive good death. He was home, with the woman he loved, in the house they’d built together. His medical treatment had been driven by his wishes, and these were respected by everyone involved.

Change the Warfare Metaphors When It Comes to Illness

<http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2013/04/change-warfare-metaphors-illness.html>

“There are . . . other metaphors which can be employed. We are not, as we seem to feel, locked in to using only warfare imagery which offers only the polarities of victory or defeat. Michael J. Fox, for example, says of living with Parkinson’s disease: ‘I don’t look at life as a battle or as a fight. I don’t think I’m scrappy. I’m accepting. I say ‘living with’ or ‘working through’ Parkinson’s.’”

A caregiver’s survival guide: Advice from people who’ve been there

<https://www.npr.org/2025/10/18/nx-s1-5558451/caregiver-care-giving-family-burnout-support-advice>

When NPR asked caregivers to share their stories, nearly 600 responded with practical advice, hair-raising stories and plenty of hard-won expertise on navigating the medical maze, adjusting to the new normal, how to ask for (and receive) assistance, self-care, dealing with a changing relationship dynamic, and resources.

How Successful is CPR in Older Patients?

<http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/09/how-successful-is-cpr-in-older-patients/>

“Most of us have watched too much television – one minute the heroic medical worker pumps the victim’s chest and grabs the defibrillator paddles and yells ‘Clear!’, and in the next scene the victim is sitting up, chatting with detectives – to have any realistic idea.”

Can connected health improve the lifestyle challenges patients face?

<http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2014/12/can-connected-health-improve-lifestyle-challenges-patients-face.html>

We’re now in an era where chronic illness management and prevention accounts for 70 percent of health care costs. Of the forces responsible for illness – bad luck, bad genes and lifestyle – lifestyle is the predominant cause of chronic illness. Consumers by and large still do not understand this. They still mostly seek care when there is some symptom or acute need. This is problematic because so much lifestyle-driven illness is silent for years.

Spelling out your views for end-of-life care is a ‘spiritual’ act

<http://www.religionnews.com/2013/11/22/spelling-views-end-life-care-spiritual-act/>

The author sees a spiritual value to urging people to think about their end-of-life wishes, talk about them and write them down. She calls these actions of autonomy and self-respect. “Throughout all of our lives, we are constantly trying to make sense of the beyond, whatever that may be. It’s an honor and a responsibility to participate in such conversations in this world so we make that transition in a way that reflects how we lived our lives,” she said.

When the Patient Won’t Ever Get Better

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/04/28/when-the-patient-wont-ever-get-better/>

There are about 100,000 chronically critically ill patients in the United States at any one time, and with an aging population and improving medical technologies, this number is only expected to

grow. The outcomes of these patients are staggeringly poor. Half of the chronically critically ill will die within a year, and only around 10 percent will ever return to independent life at home.

The Dirty Secret about CPR in the Hospital (That Doctors Desperately Want You to Know)

<https://kvscruggs.wordpress.com/2016/04/11/the-dirty-secret-about-cpr-in-the-hospital-that-doctors-desperately-want-you-to-know/>

When patients and families have unrealistic expectations about what their doctors can accomplish, many people die in a way they never planned for or wanted: in the hospital, dependent on strangers for the basics such as eating and bathing, and often hooked up to machines.

Doctor wants patients to reclaim dying as part of living

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2015/oct/25/doctor-wants-patients-to-reclaim-dying-as-part-of-/>

Dr. Ira Byock is calling for a revolution, where health consumers – especially patients and their families – demand a better death on their terms. That means accepting that death is a natural part of life and that at some point medicine can’t save people. It means keeping people out of pain and at home so they can be present in this poignant time that is often sacred for families.

Steven Petrow’s Advice On Stupid Things Not to Do When You Get Older

<https://www.nextavenue.org/steven-petrow-stupid-things>

When author Steven Petrow was in his 50s and his parents were in their 70s, he began to see them making quite a number of decisions that he thought weren’t in their best interests. He started to make notes, which led first to a New York Times column (more on that later) and now a book: “Stupid Things I Won’t Do When I Get Old: A Highly Judgmental, Unapologetically Honest Accounting of All the Things Our Elders Are Doing Wrong.”

Health Care for Seniors Often Goes Beyond Their Desires

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/03/08/469538699/health-care-for-seniors-often-goes-beyond-their-desires>

As people get older, their health care goals may shift from living as long as possible to maintaining a good quality of life: quality over quantity. In many cases, the medical treatment older people receive often doesn't reflect this change in priorities. A wide-ranging report from the Dartmouth Atlas Project uses Medicare claims data to examine aging Americans' health care. Among other things, the researchers found five key areas where too many older people continue to receive treatments that don't meet established guidelines or, often, their own goals and preferences.

Dying to Know Day: Your Final Checklist

<https://www.dyingtoknowday.com>

The Long Goodbye: Katy Butler On How Modern Medicine Decreases Our Chance Of A Good Death

<https://thesunmagazine.org/issues/460/the-long-goodbye>

In 2001 journalist Katy Butler's father suffered a stroke at the age of seventy-nine. A year later a hurried decision was made to equip him with a pacemaker, which kept his heart going while doing nothing to stop his descent into dementia. In 2007 Butler's mother, exhausted from being her husband's full-time caregiver and distressed by his suffering, asked her daughter for help getting the pacemaker turned off. Butler agreed, and so began a long investigation into how modern medicine has changed the way we approach the end of life. In this interview, she shares her thoughts and insights into this important topic. *By Sam Mowe*

How to cope with 'death anxiety,' according to a hospital chaplain

<https://www.npr.org/2025/12/30/nx-s1-5637461/death-anxiety-grief-mortality>

What being around death taught a hospital chaplain about life. Part of NPR's Life Kit. *By Marielle Segarra and Malaka Gharib*

What the End-of-Life Movement Can Learn from the Natural Childbirth Movement

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/karen-m-wyatt-md/what-the-end-of-life-movement-can-learn-from-the-natural-childbirth-movement_b_9352650.html

Back in the 1970's the Baby Boom generation changed the way babies are born in the U.S. by demanding a more natural approach to pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal care. This momentous transformation came about through a "perfect storm" of forces that converged over several decades to result in maternity care that was more humane, less medicalized, and more family-centered. Today a similar "perfect storm" seems to be brewing as Baby Boomers approach the later years of their lives and face aging and dying in a society that is fearful and avoidant of these realities.

When End-of-Life Plans Are Just Hopes

<https://www.nextavenue.org/end-of-life-plans/>

Why her mom's living will turned out to be useless. *By Lola Butcher*

You Could Pay Thousands Less For A Funeral Just By Crossing The Street

<http://www.npr.org/2017/02/07/504020003/a-funeral-may-cost-you-thousands-less-just-by-crossing-the-street>

Report of an investigation by NPR reporters. Includes a list of funeral shopping tips. *By Robert Benincasa*

Advice From Health Care's Power Users

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/20/upshot/advice-from-health-cares-power-users.html>

When you're sick, the health care system can be scary and confusing. But in a recent survey, seriously ill Americans shared some hard-won wisdom. *By Margot Sanger-Katz*

Books

The Best Care Possible
by Ira Byock, MD.

Handbook for Mortals
by Joanne Lynn, MD, Janice Lynch
Schuster, MFA, and Joan Harrold, MD

*A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows
Through Loss*
by Gerald Sittser

How Doctors Think
by Jerome Groopman, MD

Knocking on Heaven's Door
by Katy Butler

*Caregiving: A Step-By-Step Resource for
Caring for the Person with Cancer at Home*
by Peter S. Houts, PhD and
Julia A. Bucher, RN, PhD

*The Caregiver's Book: Caring for another,
Caring for Yourself*
by James E. Miller

*Can't We Talk About Something More
Pleasant?*
by Roz Chast

*Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters
in the End*
by Atul Gawande, M.D.

*Public Faith in Action: How to Think
Carefully, Engage Wisely and Vote with
Integrity*
by M. Volk and R. McAnnally-Linz

- **Chapter 12:** *Health and
Sickness;*
- **Chapter 13:** *Aging Life; and*
- **Chapter 14:** *Ending Life*

*Extreme Measures: Finding a Better Path
to the End of Life*
by Dr. Jessica Nutik Zitter, M. D.

When Breath Becomes Air
by Paul Kalanithi

Twelve Breaths a Minute: End of Life Essays
by Lee Gutkind, Francine Prose,
Karen Wolk Feinstein

*Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's
Currents and Flourishing As We Age*
by Mary Pipher

*Advice for Future Corpses (and Those Who
Love Them): A Practical Perspective on
Death and Dying*
by Sallie Tisdale

*Over My Dead Body: Unearthing the
Hidden History of America's Cemeteries*
by Greg Melville

Getting Good at Getting Older
by Laura Geller and Richard Siegel

Broken Fragments
by Catherine Merrell

As Long as You Need: Permission to Grieve
by J.S. Park

*The Hospice Journey Handbook:
Your Complete Guide through the Hospice
Experience*
by Peter M Abraham, BSN, RN

The Unexpected Journey
by Emma Willis, Bruce Willis's wife

*I'm Sorry I Cremated You: Finding the
Funny in Life and Loss*
by Jaclyn Michelle Smith

Contending with Chronic Pain

BOOKS

Mayo Clinic on Chronic Pain, 2nd edition (2002)
by Mayo Clinic; ISBN 978-1893005273

Pain is Really Strange (2015)
by Steve Haines; ISBN 978-1848192645

Pain: The Science of Suffering (2002)
by Patrick Wall; ISBN 978-0231120074

The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma (2015)
by Bessel van der Kolk; ISBN 978-0143127741

The Brain That Changes Itself (2007)
by Norman Doidge; ISBN 978-0143113102

The Pain Survival Guide: How to Become Resilient and Reclaim Your Life (2020)
by Dennis Turk & Frits Winter; ISBN 978-1433831829

The Way Out: A Revolutionary, Scientifically Proven Approach to Healing Chronic Pain (2022)
by Alan Gordon & Alon Ziv;
ISBN 978-0593086858

Unlearn Your Pain, 4th edition (2022)
by MD Howard Schubiner;
ISBN 979-8986471600

Why Do I Hurt? (2013)
by Adriaan Louw; ISBN 978-0985718626

Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers, 3rd edition (2004)
by Robert Sapolsky; ISBN 978-0805073690

BOOKS (Children)

Be the Boss of Your Pain: Self-Care for Kids (2007)
by Timothy Culbert & Rebecca Kajander;
ISBN 978-1575422541

GrrrOUCH! Pain is Like a Grouchy Bear (2010)
by Cathryn Morgan; ISBN 978-1897508848

When Your Child Hurts: Effective Strategies to Increase Comfort, Reduce Stress, and Break the Cycle of Chronic Pain (2016)
by Rachael Coakley; ISBN 978-0300204650

WORKBOOKS

Living Beyond Your Pain: Using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy to Ease Chronic Pain Paperback (2006)
by JoAnne Dahl & Tobias Lundgren;
ISBN 978-1572244092

The Chronic Pain and Illness Workbook for Teens: CBT and Mindfulness-Based Practices to Turn the Volume Down on Pain Paperback (2019)
by Rachel Zoffness; ISBN 978-1684033522

The Pain Management Workbook: Powerful CBT and Mindfulness Skills to Take Control of Pain and Reclaim Your Life (2020)
by Rachel Zoffness; ISBN 978-1684036448

ORGANIZATIONS

American Chronic Pain Association

<https://www.acpanow.com>

Chronic Pain Anonymous

<https://chronicpainanonymous.org>

U.S. Pain Foundation

<https://uspainfoundation.org>

Contending with Chronic Pain (CONTINUED)

PODCASTS, VIDEOS & WEBSITES

Pain Bytes

<https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/chronic-pain/painbytes>

Pain Explained (Psychology Today)

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/pain-explained>

Tame the Beast

<https://www.tamethebeast.org/tame-the-beast>

The Science of Pain (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTWSuH2elxw>

University of Michigan Pain Guide

<https://paiguide.com>

Unlearn Your Pain

<https://unlearnyourpain.com>

And he said to him,
“I will come and
cure him.”

- Matthew 8:7

