



Covid 19: Faith Community Responses and Resources for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families

A webinar series hosted by the Collaborative on Faith and Disability

(www.faithanddisability.org)



Covid 19: Faith Community Responses and Resources for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families

Presenters: Cristina Gangemi, Ph.D. Keith
Dow PhD, and Shelly Christensen, M.A.

Moderator: Eric Moody PhD.

VISION AND MISSION



People with disabilities and their families will have compelling opportunities and supports to develop and express their spirituality, engage in congregational life, and share their gifts and talents in ways that are personally valued and that strengthen communities.

Our mission is to support people with disabilities, their families, and those who support them by providing national and international leadership in the areas of research, education, service, and dissemination related to disability, religion, and inclusive supports.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



A FEW IMPORTANT NOTES

- This webinar is being recorded and will be posted soon on the Collaborative on Faith and Disability website (www.faithanddisability.org).
- All slides, mentioned resources, and several helpful links will also be posted along with the webinar recording.
- Questions can be submitted in the chat box for discussion after the presentations.
- We will read posted questions to the presenters during the Q&A. All phone lines are silenced.
- Our time is brief and so shall the presenters be as well.
- Information about upcoming webinars and the Collaborative on Faith and Disability will be shared at the end of the webinar.



Covid 19: Faith Community Responses and Resources for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families

Presenters: Cristina Gangemi, Ph.D. Keith
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Christina Gangemi Director, The Kairos Forum, UK

Cristina Gangemi holds a Master's degree in Pastoral Theology and Lay ministry, with a special focus on Disability. She is Director of The Kairos Forum, which focuses on enabling communities to be places of belonging for people with a disability. She has had extensive experience in Special Education, the training of specialised Lay ministers and parent support and is currently working with Livability and other charities. Cristina has recently worked with the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Pontifical Council for New Evangelisation and Catechesis on issues regarding disability. During the 2012 Games she was a spokesperson for the Christian community and is a national advisor to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Author of : *Because I Am: Christian accompaniment for the unborn child and their parents with a pre-birth diagnosis of Disability*





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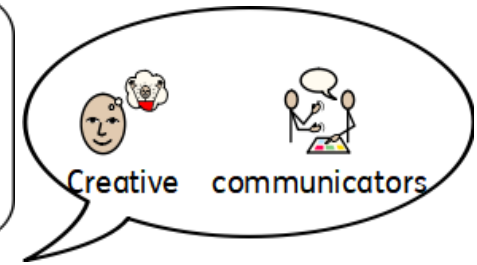
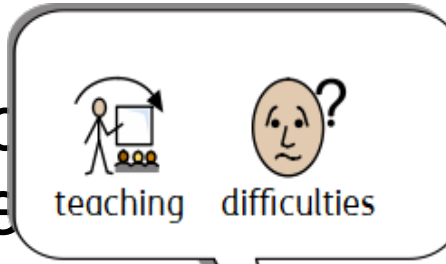
www.kairosforum.org

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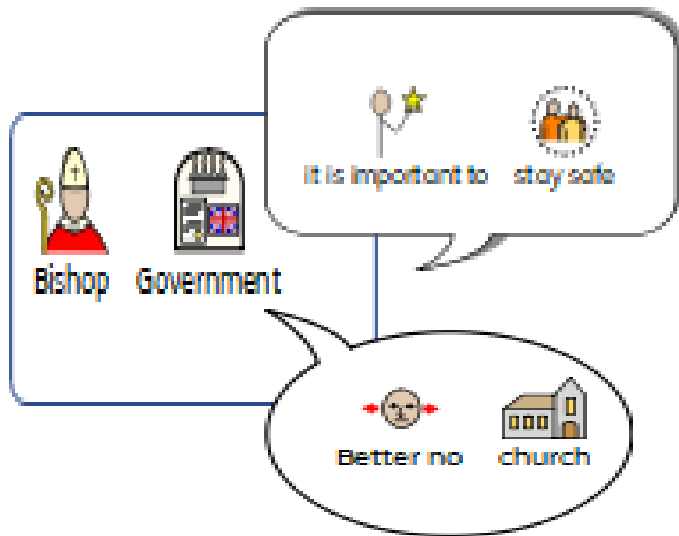
Making SPACE

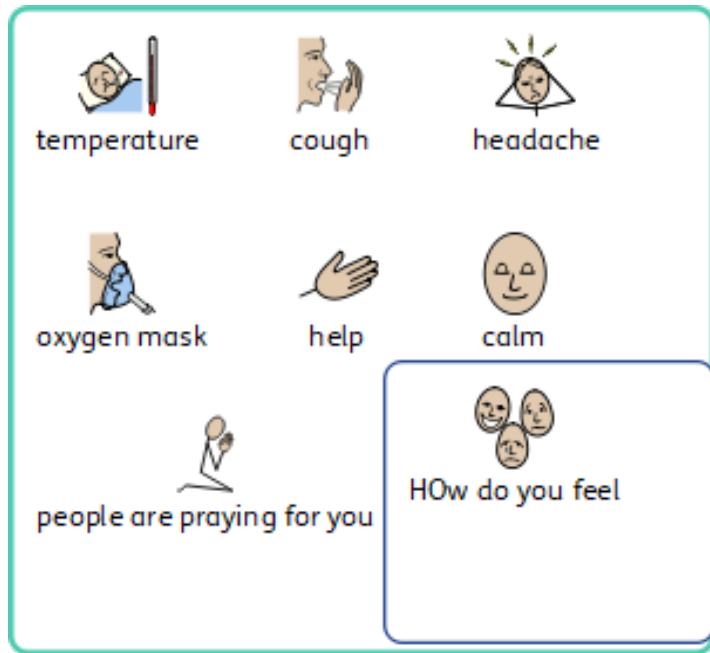
Sacred Place for Accessible
Communication/Community and
Empathy

Covid hits Italy ? What is that ? As the world closed in, the Church went online

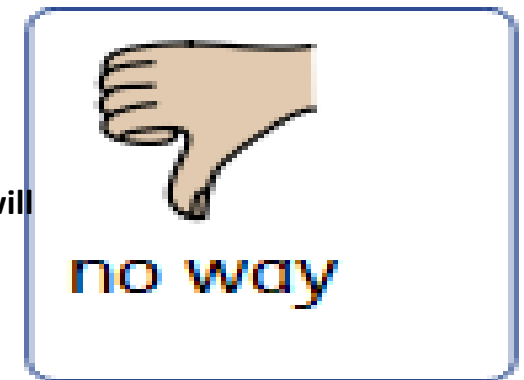
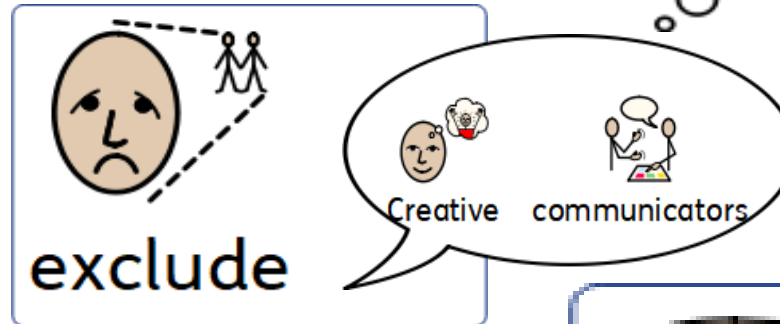


I try to Live in the world from a shared perspective
Learning difficulty **or** teaching difficulty Is this why
people are Overlooked, left out or squeezed out ?

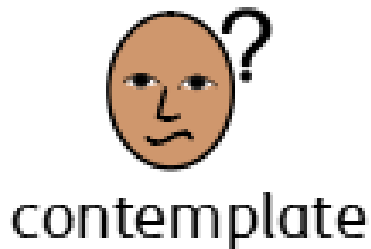




Will a eugenic outlook deny hospitalisation to people with 'frail or vulnerable' label



Main concerns: What am I facing here, will I die, will I get help, am I worth it? Who will I loose, friends .. Parents ? Will I die Alone ? With all of these question needing answers , the task ahead seemed overwhelming, from Lockdown Rome. But is was clear that at NO COST would people be omitted from SPACE , Easter and the animation of their spirit. **THIS WAS AN URGENT CALL**

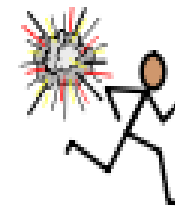


<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/downloads-shop/beating-the-virus>

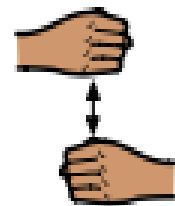
Irene Tuffrey Wijne and
Sheila Hollins



Hypercognitive Communication

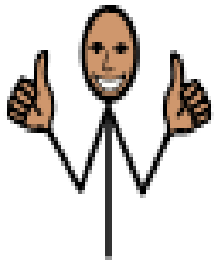


Time for


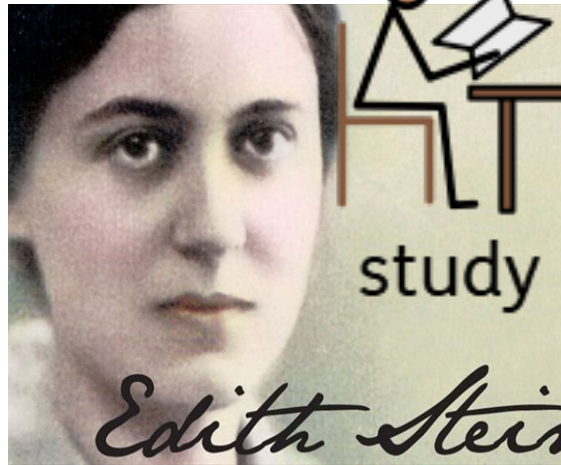


action

As I began to contemplate... The Internet became alive with Faith, lists, guidelines MANY at degree level , Webinars, zoom, information about autism but nothing directly accessible so as to meet those probing questions. Working with Book Beyond Words, who immediately produced two great resources /guidance based on early reflection , which we were then able to use : NO time to contemplate : IT was time for ACTION. **CARMELITES, CEI, NCPD, All Belong, Anne Masters, were amongst the first to be present**



My main drivers



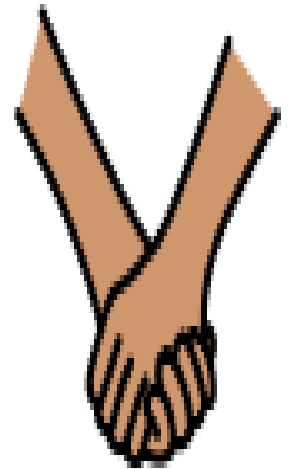
We needed to make SPACE

A diagram showing two short horizontal black bars with an upward-pointing arrow between them.

to practice faith

A stick figure with its arms raised in a 'V' shape.

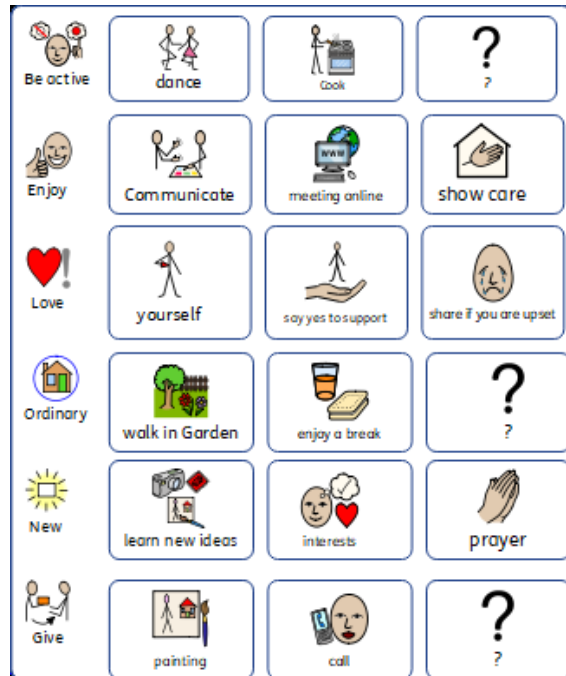
and beliefs

A stylized letter 'G' in white, set against a yellow and grey background with exclamation marks.

together

- Think about and plan for any existential and faith motivated questions that may arise,
- Engage people with intellectual disabilities in providing insights and prayer.
- Plan for support and resources for when people are sick, dies, miss people or ask about COVID,

My Doctoral study of Edith Stein's anthropology, my own experience and a shared approach to knowing God
I decided to create that SPACE on my website , *we needed to be together, even if we had to be apart*

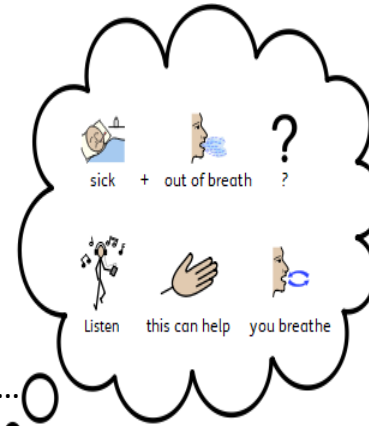


learn

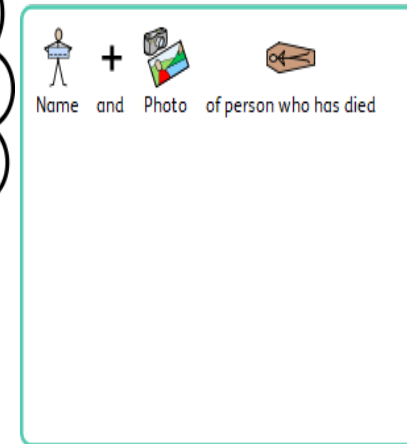


What did I learn

The use of music. And symbol...
Breathe with God... become
God's breath
I am with you

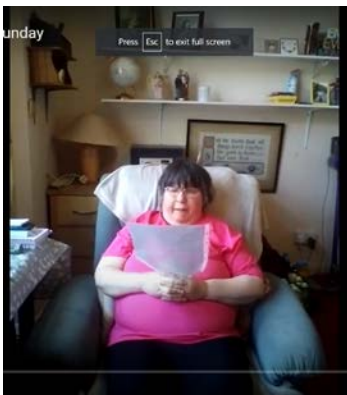


We remember

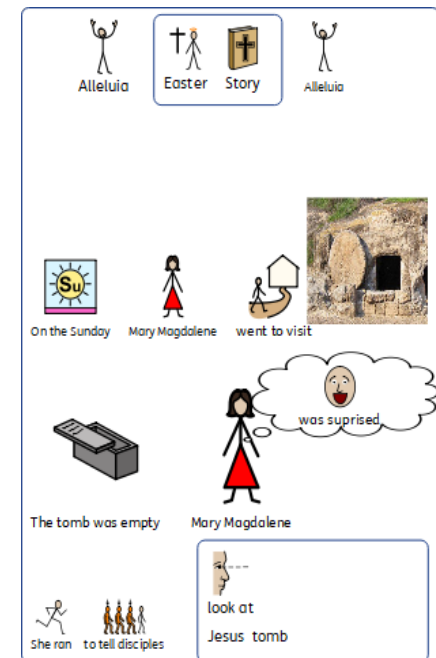


Name and Photo of person who has died

- Immediate access affirms that the person's story is as important as anyone else's. Less words
- Families and individuals needed something to do and creative resources to help i.e timetable, music, breathe, walk belong. We needed an effective way to help people talk share about Covid and respond to issues about death.
- Resources to help people who may go to hospital and may not understand the virus. Working with partners and colleagues and sharing Links

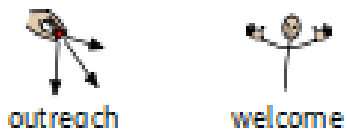


<http://www.kairosforum.org/prayer-reflection/celebrating-holy-week-and-easter/>

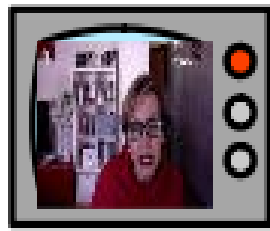


The word of God alive and At Work

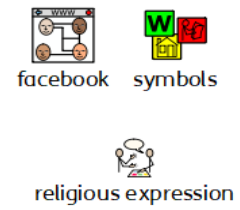
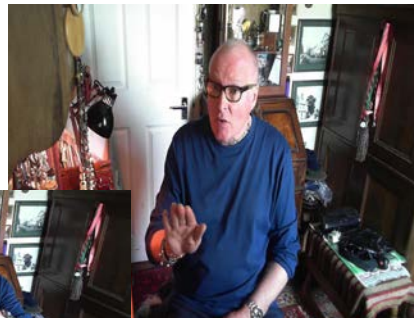
Hermeneutics that was alive and immediately as hand'. A phone call to Hand in Hand , who led our liturgies in Rome 2016, lead to writing out the Easter story and the dividing of roles between themselves. *Here is the evidence not of a learning difficulty but creative communicators*, During Easter we practiced our faith : Watching, singing, signing and Listening . Facebook became our conversation space but that needs to be built up more.



We drew in the skills and support of SEN teachers, cousins, uncles. anyone was welcome to help it was like living **LUKE 14**, **all invited to the feast.. and no one was to be left out.**

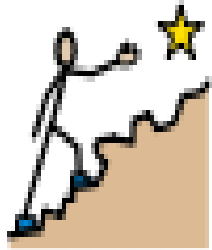


advertise



- https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2629703364015175&id=185961818737973?sfnsn=scwspwa&d=w&vh=e&extid=Lo5M6vRpfUxitpl&d=w&vh=e
- https://www.facebook.com/EWTNVatican/videos/2642776689296972/UzpfSTewMDAwMTE5NzgwMTk4OToyODI0OTg2Nzc3NTUxMjIx/?notif_id=1586962604953231¬if_t=story_reshare
- <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-04/covid-19-faith-accompaniment-for-people-with-disabilities-amid.html>
- <http://www.kairosforum.org/prayer-reflection/>
- <http://www.kairosforum.org/prayer-reflection/praying-when-people-die/>

(John 9:1-12)



challenges



no funds



no commitment



busy



Expectations

?

?



volunteer

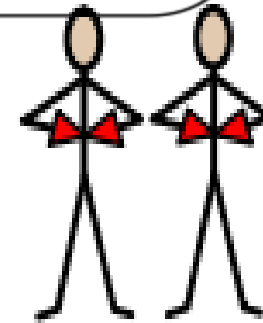
sent



So much potential, so much still to do, volunteers?
Commitment ? The lesson I have learnt is that
'Making SPACE means trust, belief and openness to God's expression through others' : It is about being sent to ministry & hope



Thank you




we are the ones to do it

cgangemi.kairos@gmail.com

Tel: +44 7958955804

Website : www.kairosforum.org

 Livingfullynetwork

 @kairosforum

 @livingfully2016



Faithfully Responding to COVID-19

“For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness,
but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”

2 Timothy 1:7, HCSB



Keith Dow, PhD

*Manager of Organizational and
Spiritual Life with Christian Horizons*

kdow@christian-horizons.org

www.christian-horizons.org/coronavirus



Navigating COVID-19 in faith-based social services

Faithfully Responding to COVID-19

KEITH DOW, PHD

Manager of Organizational and
Spiritual Life with Christian Horizons

kdow@christian-horizons.org



The best laid plans...

- A cause for humility
- A need to work together
- A time for advocacy



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

#COVID19

#Coronavirus

#COVID19 and disability

People with disability are at a greater risk of contracting coronavirus because of:



Physical barriers to access hygiene facilities



Need to touch things



Difficulty in enacting social distancing



Difficulty accessing information



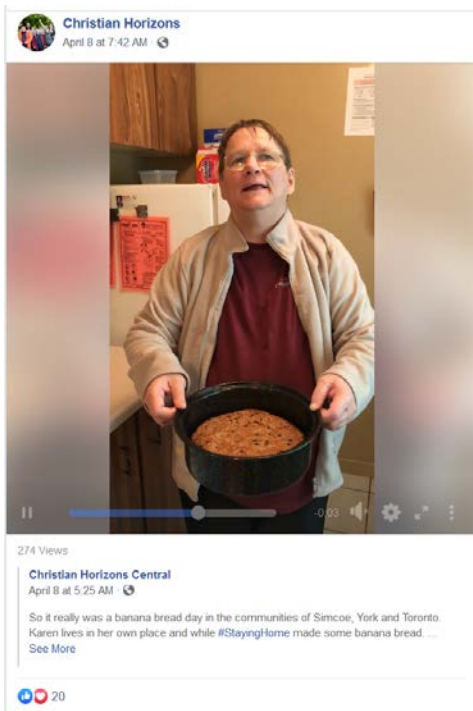
World Health
Organization

#coronavirus

Information overload

- How to advocate in a time of ceaseless information?

STORIES



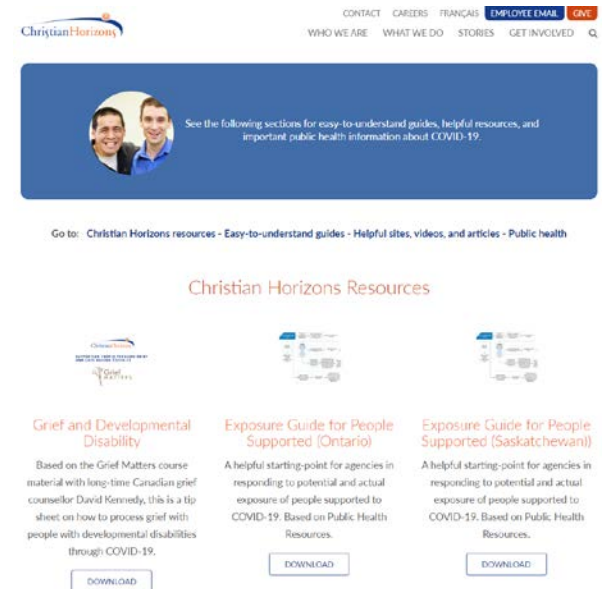
Facebook: **FriendofCH**

Twitter: **@CHorizons**

FAITH



RESOURCES



Christian Horizons Resources

GRIEF/LOSS

SECTOR

RENEW

SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH GRIEF AND LOSS DURING COVID-19

Grief Matters is a course that Christian Horizons has been offering for almost 15 years. Never has recognizing and addressing grief issues been more relevant than it is today. One of the important learnings from that course is that while grief is often recognized when a loved one dies, grief can arise out of many other losses and life experiences as well.



In these times with increasing restrictive social isolations and health protocols that many of the communities, relationships and activities that people are connected to are suspended indefinitely. It could be some time before things return to "normal." Or, the "normal" we discover may be a new way of being and acting in the world. We are all carrying the weight of these unknowns.

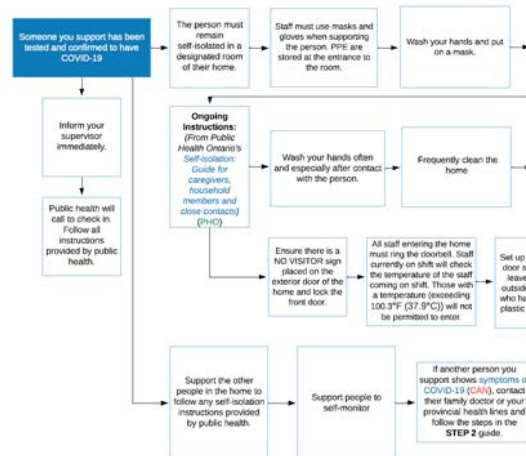
Suspension of our normal patterns of living and social interactions can trigger anxiety. These come with a range of responses and ways of coping. Many expressions of grief are a result of "secondary losses." These are not always recognized or acknowledged. In days of heightened emotions and uncertainty, change is the only constant and change can create uncertainty, unease, anxiety, worry, and fear.

As support one another, we need to bear in mind the varied and often-unconscious grief that people may be experiencing. This goes for our teammates and for the people who use our services. How do we best manage our own grief responses and help others through these times?

The following are some helpful tips from Grief Matters.

- 1. Recognize that grief due to loss of connection and in-person gathering is real**
 - a. Don't minimize or dismiss the impact or importance of the loss
 - b. Acknowledge the loss and explore alternate ways to connect people with their friends and loved ones. Try to do so, to the best of your ability, in such a way that minimizes frustration, delays, and interruptions in people's schedules and daily routines.
- 2. In times of crisis people may respond out of character**
 - a. This can be triggered by their own feelings of anxiety
 - b. As Open Future Learning reminds us, unexpected responses are coping strategies rather than "behaviours."
 - c. Look for unexpected responses as potentially a sign of grief or loss, even loss of predictable patterns or routines that may now be changing.
- 3. Recognize that our own anxiety impacts the anxiety of others**
 - a. People intuitively pick up on the anxiety of others.
 - b. Many people with limited verbal communication skills are even more attuned to the non-verbal responses and actions of people around them.
 - c. It is important for team members to acknowledge and process our own anxiety and grief and to consider how we might limit the transference of these stresses to the people who use our services.





www.christian-horizons.org/coronavirus

The importance of plain language


- Respecting rights and choices when options are limited.

What's going on?

 [Coronavirus Social Story \(Aptus Treatment Centre\)](#)

 [COVID-19 Plain Language Guide \(Green Mountains Self-Advocates\)](#)

 [One-page Guide from Surrey Place](#)


 ["What is happening?" Video from H-CARDD](#)


What is Coronavirus? How do I protect myself?



 [A COVID-19 Introduction Video](#)

 ["Beating the Virus" \(Beyond Words Picture Book\)](#)

 ["How does it spread?" \(Aptus Treatment Centre\)](#)

 ["How to stay safe: Handwashing" \(H-CARDD and Opening Doors\)](#)

 ["Jack Plans Ahead for Coronavirus" \(Beyond Words Picture Book\)](#)

A guide for family and carers.

www.christian-horizons.org/coronavirus

Covid 19: Faith Community Responses and Resources for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families

Belonging Now More Than Ever in Our Jewish Communities

Collaborative on Faith & Disability

April 22, 2020

**Presented by
Shelly Christensen, MA, FAAIDD**

Shelly@inclusioninnovations.com
www.inclusioninnovations.com



Meeting the Challenges to *Belonging* Now

Do not separate yourself from the community.

~*Pirke Avot* 2:5 (The Ethics of Our Fathers)

Synagogues

- Streaming all the events—
 - Passover community seders
 - Shabbat services
 - Torah study
 - Preschool
 - Religious School
- Zoom visits with congregants, including people with IDD
- Zoom *bar/bat mitzvah* tutoring for all students
- Providing technology and/or resource information to congregants
- People who don't belong to a congregation are participating in online services





Temple Rodef Shalom

For there will never cease to be needy ones in your land, which is why I command you: open your hand to the poor and needy kinsman in your land.

Deuteronomy 15:11

Our temple is redirecting funds we would usually spend on our soup kitchens, which are currently closed, and other community projects to help those same organizations and others in the ways they are requesting help.

All in all, we are trying to reach in and reach out to be here in any way we can.

Anita Thornton, Director of Caring and Inclusion





“Give people consistency, stability, one thing they can have now—*a sense of community*—no matter where they are or what they’re doing.”

Stacey Spencer,
Inclusion Program Manager

NEW! JOIN OUR CARING CONNECTIONS GROUP ON FACEBOOK!

→  → 

To join, click the link at the end of this email

 **JFCS** Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis

> CARING CONNECTIONS
virtual PASSOVER SEDER

ON FACEBOOK

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
Tuesday, April 14
4:00 - 4:45 pm

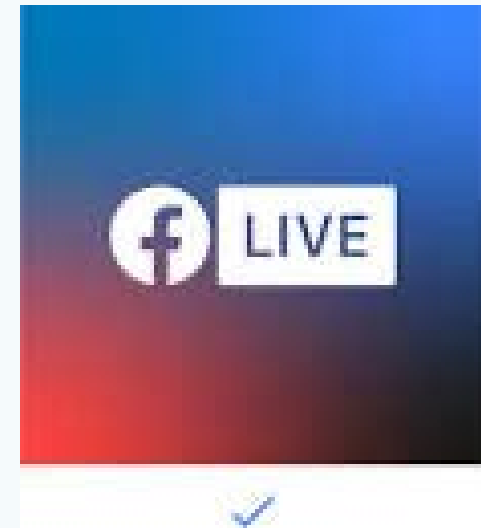



caring connections

Founding Sponsor:
Fox and Mayer Krupp Family Charitable Foundation
Lynne and Andrew Radzick Foundation

Sponsor:
Tudie & Frank Treisman Special Needs and
Collaborative Education Endowment Fund, a
designated fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation

For more information, please
contact: Stacey Spencer, Inclusion
Program Manager, 952-542-4875 or
caringconnections@jfcsmpls.org



157 Comments
Individuals, families &
caregivers participated
More events planned



Staying Connected

11 Programs Moved Online

***Weekly plain language* COVID-19 chat**

Writing Club with Grace

EveryDay Friends with Effie M-F

Parent and Caregiver Chat With Liv

Weekly Improv Classes

Weekly Comics Chat

Weekly Dance Party

Netflix watch parties

Karaoke

Drawing Class



“We are working hard to keep people connected to each other and to staff.”

**Liviya Mendelsohn
Director, Accessibility and
Inclusion**



The Virtual Keshet - The Power of Connection

Calgary Jewish Federation

Theme of the Week. Yom Hashoah—remembering our ancestors and all those whose lives were taken in the Holocaust.

Passover practical package drop offs

Mothers' Day gathering on Zoom to talk about what it's like to be a parent during COVID-19.



When people say that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can't use technology, I ask, 'Why are you assuming that people don't know how to connect to Facebook?' Assuming competency is the way to go!!!

Karina Szulc, Inclusion Manager

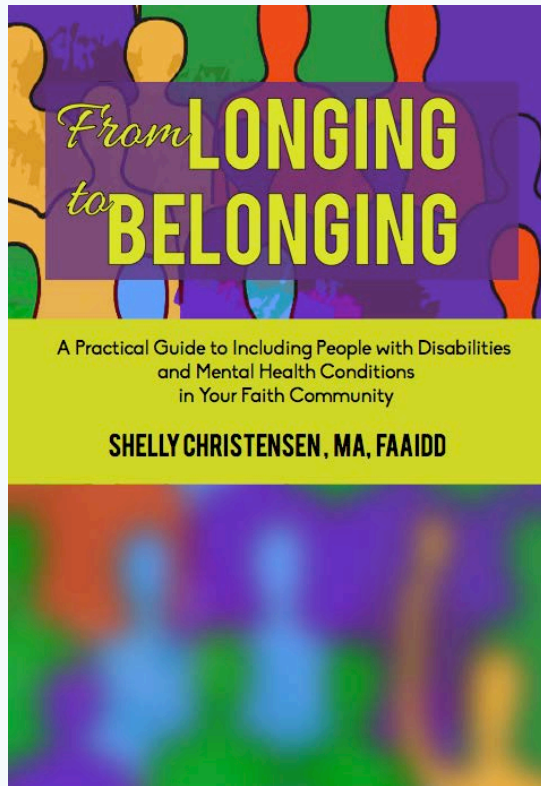
Innovation and Creativity Result in Belonging

We zoom every Wednesday with a group of people that makes challahs on Wednesdays. This way we stay connected to each other.

I zoomed with my family for the first seder. That was awesome. Did you know Zoom has all kinds of backgrounds that you can use when you are talking?

Sharon Palay, Minneapolis





From Longing to Belonging:
A Practical Guide to Including
People with Disabilities and Mental
Health Conditions in
Your Faith Community

<https://inclusioninnovations.com>

Shelly@inclusioninnovations.com

amazon.com

BARNES & NOBLE.com
www.bn.com



Q&A with the speakers

Please post your questions in the chat box

UPCOMING WEBINARS



May 27, 2020

Places of Belonging: Using Our Heads, Hearts, and Hands to Overcome Social Divisions

Presenter:

Amy Julia Becker: Amy Julia Becker is an award-winning writer and speaker on faith, family, disability, and privilege. She is the author of four books, including [*White Picket Fences: Turning Towards Love in a World Divided by Privilege*](#).

- Register at www.faithanddisability.org

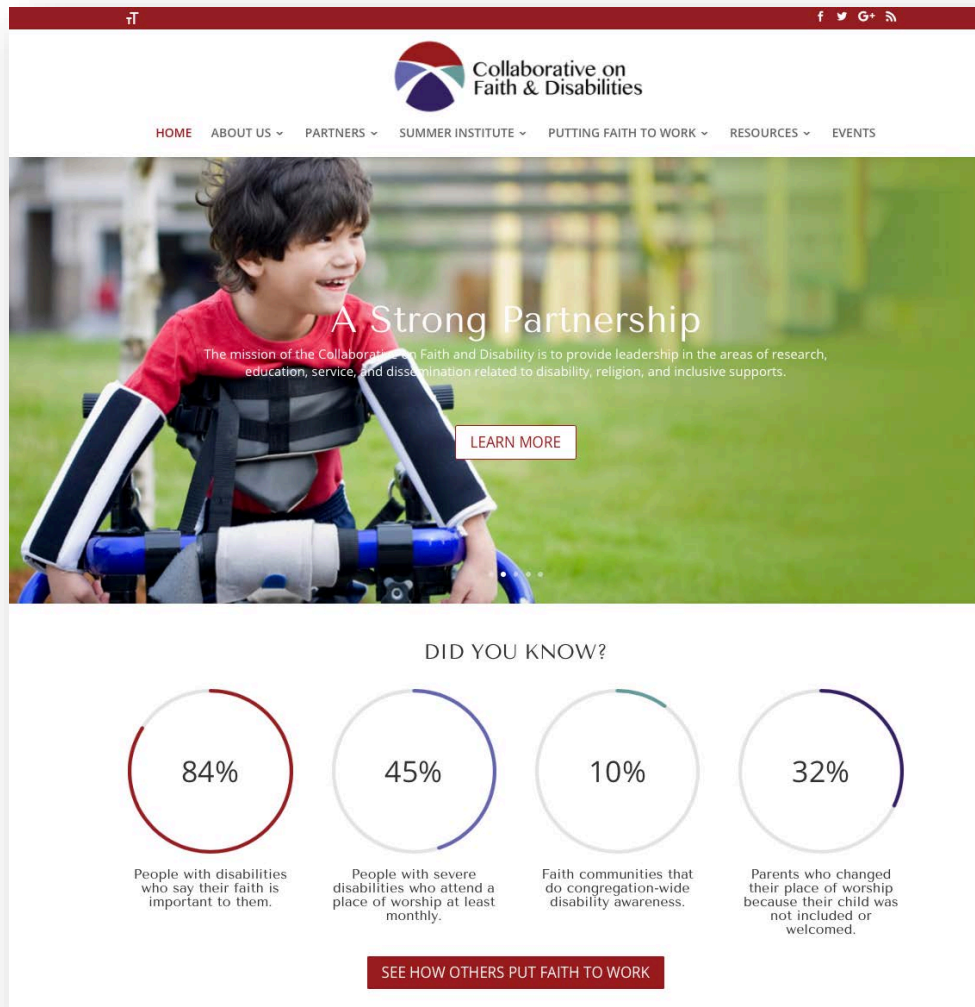
Other News and Updates

- The 2020 Institute on Theology and Disability, scheduled for May 18-23, has been cancelled because of COVID-19. There is an abundance of plenary videos from past Institutes available at

<https://faithanddisability.org/2019-summer-institute/>

- To receive news of upcoming webinars, new resources, creative programs and other educational opportunities related to faith and disability, like the [Institute Facebook Page](#):

www.faithanddisability.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Collaborative on Faith & Disabilities. At the top is a dark red navigation bar with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, RSS) on the right. Below this is a white header featuring the organization's logo on the left and a navigation menu on the right. The main content area has a large background image of a young boy in a red shirt sitting in a blue and white adaptive bicycle. Overlaid on this image is the title 'A Strong Partnership' and a paragraph about the organization's mission. A 'LEARN MORE' button is positioned below the text. Below the main image is a section titled 'DID YOU KNOW?' containing four circular progress charts, each with a percentage and a descriptive text block. At the bottom of this section is a red button labeled 'SEE HOW OTHERS PUT FAITH TO WORK'.

Collaborative on Faith & Disabilities

HOME ABOUT US PARTNERS SUMMER INSTITUTE PUTTING FAITH TO WORK RESOURCES EVENTS

A Strong Partnership

The mission of the Collaborative on Faith and Disability is to provide leadership in the areas of research, education, service, and dissemination related to disability, religion, and inclusive supports.

[LEARN MORE](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Percentage	Statistic
84%	People with disabilities who say their faith is important to them.
45%	People with severe disabilities who attend a place of worship at least monthly.
10%	Faith communities that do congregation-wide disability awareness.
32%	Parents who changed their place of worship because their child was not included or welcomed.

[SEE HOW OTHERS PUT FAITH TO WORK](#)

