



Connecting for Health. Connecting for Life.

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Community of Care: How Churches Can Impact Suicide

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Content Disclosure: Content included in this article will include topics of suicide, grief, death and loss as well as posttraumatic growth.

Introduction

Suicide. This is a word that at times is whispered instead of spoken. It is a word that is rarely preached about from the pulpit, let alone having a multi-week series planned around the topic. Yet when we begin to speak openly about the many facets of suicide, it has the power to heal and comfort in miraculous ways. I was 12 years old when suicide became a reality in my world; I witnessed my brother's first suicide attempt and would grow up with the trauma related to the event as well as the impact it would make on my career choices within crisis response and clinical social work.

By definition, suicide is the act of ending one's life voluntarily or intentionally (Suicide,n.d.). Within this article the term suicidal desperation will be used to describe that state in which people may have a desire, plan or act toward ending their own life. Approximately 726,000 people die by suicide globally every single year (World Health Organization, 2024). That is not a misprint of data; 726,000 is the number of confirmed deaths worldwide by suicide, with suicide being significantly

underreported which indicates that this number is likely much higher. It is common for intense anger, confusion, judgments, bargaining, or blaming to accompany the grieving process for those who may lose a friend or loved one to suicide.

How Can Faith Communities Help?

Faith communities, especially within health ministry areas of service, are vital to mental health and suicide awareness; it is more likely that a person will disclose suicidal desperation to a faith leader or teacher than a mental health expert (Heseltine-Carp & Hoskins, 2020). It is the community, in which a person is a part of, that helps walk alongside to get them to the trained experts who can work on treatment. It is the community that will support the recovery of those facing suicidal desperation; hope and healing grow when that community is safe to also be a struggling human. Here are some approaches that help in cultivating a soul-safe community that fosters healing and hope...

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Vegan Sweet Potato Pie

By Franklin Dorsey, NAD Health Ministries Staff

This vegan sweet potato pie has quickly become a holiday staple in our household. It's a perfect balance of sweetness and spice, offering a comforting, dairy-free dessert that's sure to impress even those who aren't vegan. Enjoy it as a holiday treat or anytime you crave a slice of satisfaction!

Healing for the Holidays Brochure



Discover tips for a healthier, happier holiday season! Our special brochure features festive recipes, simple exercises, wellness tips, and a look back at our year of inspiring events. Make this season your healthiest yet!



Click the photo or scan the QR code to check it out.

Adventist Nurses Conference Registration & Call for Abstracts



You are warmly invited to attend the Nurses Conference, April 2-6, 2025. This event will provide contact hours for nurses, networking and friendship building, and inspiration for the Ministry of Nursing.

We are currently accepting submit a presentation topic from any of the following topic areas:

- Balancing Care for Self and Others
- Bringing Spirituality into Nursing Care
- Recovery Ministries and Nursing: Addressing Suicide, Addiction, and Trauma
- Technology for Today's Nurse



Scan the QR code for more details, to register, and to submit an abstract.

International Health Fair Draws the Community

Health Fairs are a common tool used by churches to connect with their communities. Seventh-day Adventist Churches, in particular, often use banners that discuss various lifestyle-based approaches to prevention and support of healing. The health ministries team of the Ellicott City Seventh-day Adventist Church (ECC), however, took a different approach for their 2024 HealthyYOU Community Fair.

Jonathan Brauer, co-director for health ministries, shared the idea of giving the health fair an "international" focus. ECC had previously hosted several International Sabbaths, which were very much enjoyed by the church membership. It highlighted one of the strengths of the local church — the wide cultural diversity that makes up its membership.

[click here to continue reading](#)

Words of Hope

The story of Bethlehem is an exhaustless theme. In it is hidden "the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God." We marvel at the Savior's sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring angels for the beasts of the stall.

— *Desire of Ages*, p. 49

NAD Health 2025 Upcoming Events

The 2025 NAD Health Ministry General Calendar is set! You will find our upcoming events listed on the right. [Click here](#) to find more information about all of the events in one place!

- EndItNow® Safeguarding Peace Conference
- 2025 Adventist Nurses Conference
- Seasons of Grief Facilitator Training
- Journey to Wholeness Facilitator Training
- 2025 Virtual Health Summit Intensive