

**CHAPLAINCY SERVICES** 

**Director Sam Stacy** 

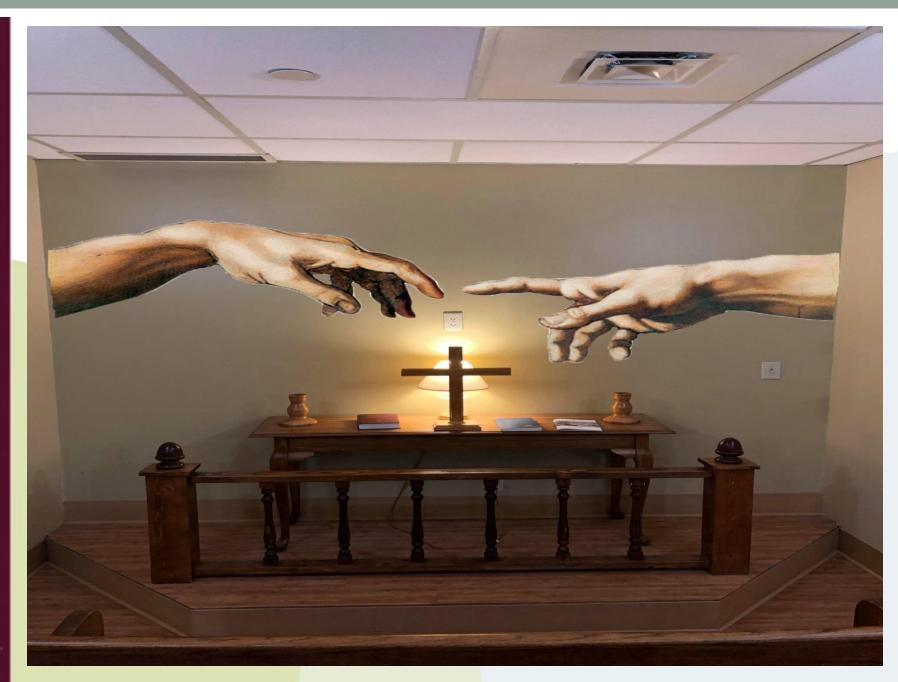


#### ARH Chaplaincy Services-Connecting Patients and Staff with the God of Grace, Mercy and Peace!



# Dealing With Death & Dying







As Healthcare Chaplains our job and goal is to provide words of encouragement, a listening ear and hope for the hereafter to those that are facing death.



Our aim is to provide comfort and support during a time when the patient or a friend is dealing with this battle at the end of life.



Knowing what to say to someone who is dying and when to say it, can be difficult.



The following ideas may be useful at any point during a serious illness, but especially when the person is not expected to live more than a few weeks or days.



It is normal to feel anxious when talking about dying with someone who is nearing end of life, especially if the person is someone you love.



- Some people handle this anxiety by being clear and blunt. Others say little or nothing about the situation for fear they may appear to be giving up hope.
- Cone way or another, we tend to try to protect each other at this difficult time.



- Let the dying person lead the conversation, if they want to talk about dying, do not say everything is going to be OK or deny the inevitable. **BE HONEST!!!**
- Let them share their thoughts. Listen and encourage, be slow to speak, yet be empathetic and compassionate.



- Some people who know they are dying avoid talking about it right up until the moment of death, or may never speak of it
- ➤It's important to recognize that this is a valid choice and to respect it. More often, however, people who are dying feel respected and supported by openness and honesty in conversations.



- They may wonder what to expect when death is near. Rather than avoiding these concerns, acknowledge them.
- Ask them if they would like to know more about this from their doctor, or if you can help them draft some questions about what to expect.



- Share scripture about heaven, if they are believers.
- If not- ask them if they feel that they are ready to meet the Lord. Gently lead them to a saving knowledge of Christ. If they prefer not to talk about this- so be it.



#### Avoid Empty Reassurances

- Don't say, "Everything happens for a reason," or, "I'm sure you'll feel fine after you start the new medicine."
- ➤ If you don't know what to say, focus on listening instead. Ask the patient if they want to talk about how they're feeling.



#### Avoid Empty Reassurances

- ➤Don't say, "I know how you feel"
- This can come across as unsupportive and make the patient feel worse.



## Understand that they may say things they don't mean!

- They are going thru a frightening, time, they may say some strange things because of the meds, the stress, the unknown.
- This may also need to be shared with the family



## Legacy Wishes

- Ask them if they would like you to write some things down for the family.
- They may not have the energy to write their own story, let them dictate it for it and record for the family.



## Legacy Wishes

Ask them if they would like you to record anything special that could be shared at the funeral, or an intimate letter to their family.



## Legacy Wishes

- ➤ Would they like to share some stories from their childhood, or express their love in a special way.
- Ask them if they would like any special songs or messages shared at their memorial service



## Comfort the Family

- Let the family know that during this most difficult time you are praying for them.
- > Ask them how you can serve them.
- ➤ Be with the family for the viewing of the body, if asked, but wait on permission from the hospital staff.



## Comfort the Family

- >Pray with the family right there.
- Answer questions for the family Ex. What happens to their loved ones body after they pass.
- Listen intently to their questions and concerns whatever they may be.



## Comfort the Family

- Read scripture, share your thoughts, but don't preach a 30 minute sermon.
- ➤ Give Heaven Scripture Cards
- Dealing With Grief brochures



### QUESTIONS???

