



Ideas for Becoming a More Dementia-Friendly Church

Train church leaders and members in dementia awareness and strategies for dealing with potential challenges that might arise.

Develop a team to visit members with dementia when they become homebound or move to a skilled medical center. Include regular communion delivery and videos of worship services as part of the visits.

Host dementia caregivers' support group meetings. (Group leader training is available free through the Alzheimer's Association.)

Offer respite assistance for caregivers of members with dementia.

Look for talents and abilities in people with dementia that they can develop and share with other people in the church. Affirm them in performing their service by acknowledging and thanking them before the entire church.

Develop a daily or weekly prayer chain and checking-in program for the families and caregivers of those who have dementia to minister to their mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Offer a monthly special worship service for members with dementia, or designate special Dementia Sundays where the main worship service is designed specifically for those with dementia.

Sponsor a memory cafe.

Conduct a workshop on making memory boxes for members with dementia and their caregivers.

Offer a resource or reading center on dementia. Research, develop, and print a community resource guide for caregivers of those who have dementia.