



# Selected Books

***Creating Moments of Joy Along the Alzheimer’s Journey: A Guide for Families & Caregivers***  
by Jolene Brackey (Purdue University Press, 5th edition, 2016)

The author has a vision: that we will soon look beyond the challenges of Alzheimer’s disease to focus more of our energies on creating moments of joy. When people have short-term memory loss, their lives are made up of moments. We are not able to create perfectly wonderful days for people with dementia, but we can create perfectly wonderful moments, moments that put a smile on their faces and a twinkle in their eyes. Five minutes later, they will not remember what we did or said, but the feeling we left them with will linger.

***Creative Care: A Revolutionary Approach to Dementia & Elder Care***  
by Anne Basting (HarperOne, 2021)

This MacArthur Genius Grant recipient pioneers a radical change in how we interact with older loved ones, especially those experiencing dementia, as she introduces a method that uses the creative arts to bring light and joy to the lives of elders and those who care for them. Early in her career, Basting noticed a problem: today’s elderly—especially those experiencing dementia—are often isolated in nursing homes or segregated in elder-care settings, making the final years of life feel lonely and devoid of meaning. To alleviate their sense of aloneness, Basting developed a radical approach that combines methods from the world of theater and improvisation with evidence-based therapies that connect people using their own creativity and imagination. Rooted in 25 years of research, these techniques draw on core creative exercises—such as “Yes, and . . .” and “Beautiful Questions.” The approach fosters storytelling and active listening, allowing elders freely to share ideas and stories without worrying about getting the details “correct.”

***Creative Engagement: A Handbook of Activities for People with Dementia***

by Rachael Wonderlin & Geri M. Lotze (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020).

An activity book to help caregivers improve the quality of life of people who have dementia. Dementia activity expert Rachael Wonderlin and developmental psychology professor Geri M. Lotze provide dozens of creative, hands-on ways to engage with people living with cognitive loss. Teaching caregivers how to find dementia-friendly daily activities and introduce them into a person’s life, this comprehensive, empathetic guide is aimed at both family members and professionals. Its 12 chapters are full of useful, tangible activities that touch on a range of topics, including exercise; technology; cooking and baking; memory games; and arts and crafts.

***Dementia & the Church: Memory, Care, & Inclusion***

by Mary McDaniel Cail (Fortress Press, 2023)

The author calls upon extensive personal and professional experience to offer insight, context, and concrete guidance for congregations and leaders seeking to serve the growing percentage of the population that is experiencing life with dementia. Churches have vital roles to play, Cail explains, in showing those living with the difficulties of dementia the “soul-quieting God” who promises we are engraved, never to be forgotten, on the palms of God’s hands. By recognizing and supporting the full humanity of all people, congregations and leaders can help both patients and caregivers live more fulfilling lives.

(Links to activities and additional resources are available at [www.allweatherftiend.org](http://www.allweatherftiend.org).)

***Dignity and Grace: Wisdom for Caregivers & Those Living with Dementia***

by Janet L. Ramsey (Fortress Press, 2018)

Drawing on her own experience as a pastor, teacher, therapist, and family caregiver, as well as on interviews with eight family and professional caregivers, the author helps caregivers and those with impaired memories learn as they listen to each other. She also shows them how the Holy Spirit can awaken their imagination and understanding while they discover how to live with dementia.

***Do This, Remembering Me: The Spiritual Care of Those with Alzheimer’s & Dementia***

by Colette Bachand-Wood (Morehouse Publishing, 2021)

Almost everyone knows someone with some form of dementia, yet few know how to answer the question: “What do I do to help?” And very little material exists on providing spiritual care to adults with dementia-related diseases. This book provides a hands-on manual that will give clergy, spiritual care providers, and family members an understanding of the ongoing spiritual needs of individuals with dementia, as well as practical tools such as how to create a religious service in a memory-care unit and how one might plan a nursing home visit.

***Floating in the Deep End: How Caregivers Can See Beyond Alzheimer’s***

by Patti Davis (Liveright, 2022)

With the heartfelt prose of a loving daughter, the author provides a life raft for the caregivers of Alzheimer’s patients. When her father, the 40th president of the United States, announced his Alzheimer’s diagnosis in an address to the American public in 1994, the world had not yet begun speaking about this cruel, mysterious disease. Yet overnight, Ronald Reagan and his immediate family became the face of Alzheimer’s, and Davis, once content to keep her family at arm’s length, quickly moved across the country to be present during “the journey that would take [him] into the sunset of [his] life.”

In this book, Davis provides a guide that covers every potential stage of the disease from the initial diagnosis through the ultimate passing and beyond. Including such tips as how to keep a loved one hygienic and careful responses for when they drift to a time gone by, she stresses the emotional milestones that come with slow-burning grief.

***I’m Still Here: A New Philosophy of Alzheimer’s Care***

by John Zeisel (Penguin Publishing Group, 2009)

An approach to Alzheimer’s care that shows the possibility and benefits of connecting with Alzheimer’s patients through their abilities that do not diminish with time, such as

understanding music, art, facial expressions, and touch. Harnessing these capacities and using other strategies offer such patients a quality life with connection to others and to the world.

***Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia through a Spiritual Lens***

by Kenneth L. Carder (Abingdon Press, 2019)

Dementia diseases represent a crisis of faith for many family members and congregations. Magnifying this crisis is the way people with dementia tend to be objectified by both medical and religious communities. They are recipients of treatment. Ministry is done to and for them rather than with them.

While acknowledging the devastation of dementia diseases, the author draws on his own experience as a caregiver, hospice chaplain, and pastoral practitioner to portray the gifts, as well as the challenges, accompanying dementia diseases. He confronts the deep personal and theological questions created by loving people with dementia diseases, demonstrating how living with dementia can be a means of growing in faith, wholeness, and ministry for the entire community of faith. He also reveals that authentic faith transcends intellectual beliefs, verbal affirmations, and prescribed practices. He asserts that the Judea-Christian tradition offers a broader lens, defining personhood in relationship to God's story and humanity's participation in God's mighty acts of creation and new creation, thereby contributing to hope, community, and self-worth.

***My Journey into Alzheimer's Disease***

by Robert Davis (Tyndale House Publishers, 1989)

A book of encouragement of how one man of faith faced the oncoming darkness of Alzheimer's disease. In a powerful story of courage and faith, Davis shows how God gives strength and grace.

***No Act of Love Is Ever Wasted: The Spirituality of Caring for Persons with Dementia***

by Jane Marie Thibault & Richard L. Morgan (Upper Room Books, 2009)

Relying on their many years of experience in gerontology, the authors provide a fresh, hopeful model of dealing with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

Caregivers have two basic needs: affirmation that their caregiving is not in vain and reassurance that the lives of those for whom they care are not without purpose. Care receivers need more than medical attention—they need tender care, involvement in the community, and a sense of connection with a loving God. When care receivers and caregivers are able to view their relationship as a mutual spiritual path, each plays a role in deepening the spiritual life of the other.

***No Way Out of This: Loving a Partner with Alzheimer's***

by Sue Fagalde Lick (She Writes Press, 2024)

The author's much-older husband was a forgetful man. She'd always found that charming. But when his absent-mindedness worsened into full-blown dementia, she suddenly found herself dealing with his illness alone. Struggling to care for her husband and manage their two loveable but incorrigible dogs and still find time to write and play music, Lick constantly faced impossible choices: Tell people about his illness? Let him drive? Put him in an institution? Treat his medical problems, or let him go? Every decision felt wrong—but in the end, their love carried them through it all.

***Remembrance of Things Present: Making Peace with Dementia***

by Peter Maeck (Shanti Arts, 2017)

Caring for an aging father diagnosed with Alzheimer's exposes a multitude of experiences and feelings. Writer and photographer Peter Maeck approached this extremely difficult time of life with extraordinary mindfulness and compassion. Using the language of his craft, Maeck observed that he and his father "moved from a prose relationship into one of poetry . . . less literal and more metaphorical . . . engaging more in rhyme than in reason."

***The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring/or People Who Have Alzheimer Disease & Other Dementias***

by Nancy L. Mace & Peter V. Rabins (Johns Hopkins University Press, 7th edition, 2021)

With more than 3.5 million copies sold, the bestselling guide to understanding and caring for people with dementia is now completely revised and updated. For 40 years, the book has been the leading work in the field for caregivers of those with dementia. Written by experts with decades of experience caring for individuals with memory loss, Alzheimer's, and other dementias, the book is widely known for its authoritative and compassionate approach to care. Featuring everything from the causes of dementia to managing its early stages to advice on caring for those in the later stages of the disease, it is widely considered to be the most detailed and trusted book available.

***Walking Each Other Home: Spiritual Companionship for Dementia Caregivers***

by Jean Denton (Morehouse Publishing, 2021)

Dementia changes everything—and not just for the person who receives the diagnosis. Each of the 5.6 million Americans with dementia has one or more caregivers struggling to make meaning while watching their loved one's personality vanish. The caregiver is sure to be changed—not only by the myriad tasks and responsibilities, but by the soul-searching questions: Dare I hope? Who's to blame? What do I do with my anger? Where's God in this? These questions of doubt, guilt, intimacy, depression, and acceptance are ultimately questions of spirit. This book directly addresses the spiritual needs of the caregiver. It invites the reader to explore his or her own spiritual journey rather than offering pre-determined answers.

***When Your Parent Becomes Your Child: A Journey of Faith Through My Mother's Dementia***

by Ken Abraham (Thomas Nelson, 2012)

As he chronicles his own mother's degenerative condition, the *New York Times* best-selling author educates while offering inspiration to help readers cope with and manage their family circumstances. With humor and spiritual reminders of God's command to honor our parents, Abraham encourages readers through often-difficult responsibilities. He suggests many practical things families can do to make the experience safer, kinder, and more enduring for everyone involved.

***When Words Fail: Practical Ministry to People with Dementia & Their Caregivers***

by Kathy Berry (Kregel Ministry, 2018)

Millions of Christians suffer from dementia diseases such as Alzheimer's, making ministry to them difficult as they lose memories and the ability to communicate. Drawing on her

years of experience as a long-term care chaplain, the author provides practical information and tools to equip ministers and lay leaders to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of those living with dementia.

***Where Two Worlds Touch: The Spirit & Science of Alzheimer's Caregiving***

by Jade C. Angelica (Skinner House Books, 2024)

In this updated 10th anniversary edition of the author's beloved memoir and pastoral guide for those who love someone with Alzheimer's, Angelica adds more learnings from her years in Alzheimer's ministry and important discoveries from the world of science. She draws on interfaith theological and spiritual resources, historical information, medical research, social context, and practical know-how from professional and family caregivers, as well as her own life's story to provide a life-changing resource for those who need its gifts.

***Worshipping with Dementia: Meditations, Scriptures & Prayers for Sufferers & Carers***

edited by Louise Morse (Monarch Books, 2010)

A resource for people living with dementia and their caregivers, offering consolation and support in tough times. It gives hard-pressed people a book they can pick up and leaf through for words and scriptures and prayers to help at any time.