

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Nondenominational Resources

[NAMI FaithNet](#) is a network composed of members and friends of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). It was established to (1) facilitate the development within the faith community of a non-threatening, supportive environment for those with serious mental illness and their families, (2) point out the value of one's spirituality in the recovery process from mental illness and the need for spiritual strength for those who are caretakers, (3) educate clergy and congregations concerning the biologic basis and characteristics of mental illness, and (4) encourage advocacy of the faith community to bring about hope and help for all who are affected by mental illness. NAMI FaithNet is not a religious network but rather an outreach to all religious organizations.

[Mental Health Ministries](#) has evolved into an ecumenical and interfaith outreach. It works with faith communities, advocacy groups, community organizations and mental health professionals. It focuses on using one's faith and spirituality as an important part of the recovery and treatment process and as a way for family members to find strength and hope in caring for a loved one with a mental illness.

[Pathways to Promise](#) is an interfaith technical assistance and resource center which offers liturgical and educational materials, program models, and networking information to promote a caring ministry with people with mental illness and their families. These resources are used by people at all levels of faith group structures from local congregations to regional and national staff.

In addition to sponsoring the Caring Clergy Project, the [Interfaith Network on Mental Illness](#) sponsors regular conferences and offers other resources to help clergy, staff and lay leaders educate themselves and their faith communities on mental illness.

A new website from the federal government, www.mentalhealth.gov offers a variety of resources to help your congregation start a conversation about mental health.
Christian Resources

DENOMINATIONAL

The [Mental Illness Network of the United Church of Christ](#) offers resources for understanding and supporting people who have a mental illness. Also see www.wideningthewelcome.com, an annual national conference jointly sponsored

by the United Church of Christ (UCC) Mental Illness Network and the UCC Disabilities Ministry.

[Lutheran Network for Mental Illness/Brain Disorders](#) is a joint effort of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Its purpose is to assist Lutheran congregations toward more effective responses to individuals with mental illnesses or brain disorders and their families.

The [Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network](#) welcomes those who advocate in the church and greater community for those who have been touched by mental illness. They seek equity, justice, human dignity and full acceptance into the life of the church.

The [National Catholic Partnership on Disability's Mental Illness Ministry](#) is committed to providing resources and training to pastors, deacons and diocesan and parish personnel in their efforts to reach out to Catholics experiencing a mental illness and their families.

Download an excellent booklet produced by the Archdiocese of Chicago: [Mental Illness And Faith Community Outreach: Communities Of Compassion And Justice](#)

The [United Methodist Church](#) offers extensive resources on mental health for congregations.

The [American Baptist Home Mission Societies Disabilities Ministries](#) website does not focus specifically on mental illness but does offer resources of interest.

The Christian Reformed Church offers several mental health resources on its [Disabilities Concerns](#) Web page.

JEWISH RESOURCES

The [Jewish Healing Center](#) offers mental illness resources, including fact sheets, prayer cards and other helpful materials, including "[Give Me Your Hand: A Guide to Mental Illness for Jewish Clergy](#)."

[Relief Resources](#) is a non-profit organization that provides multiple services to individuals suffering from mental health disorders. Relief's efforts are particularly sensitive towards the needs of the Jewish community in light of the many challenges they face in obtaining quality mental health care. Its aim is to provide access to the best resources available and to partner individuals with the best mental health professional appropriate to their specific need.

[Mental Health Through a Jewish Lens](#), a website by the Religious Action Committee of Reform Judaism

OTHER FAITHS

[Buddhism and Mental Illness](#) is a forum for those interested in issues surrounding mental illness and Buddhist approaches to it.

[Muslim Mental Health](#) is an organization committed to promoting research and educational activities, introducing Muslim mental health concepts and advancing culturally sensitive therapeutic approaches.

[Connecting the Muslim Faith Community to Mental Health Resources](#) is a booklet produced by the Center of Excellence in Culturally Competent Mental Health. It helps you recognize when worshippers at the Masjid have emotional problems more severe than ordinary worry and unhappiness. It also tells how you can help them get the care they need.