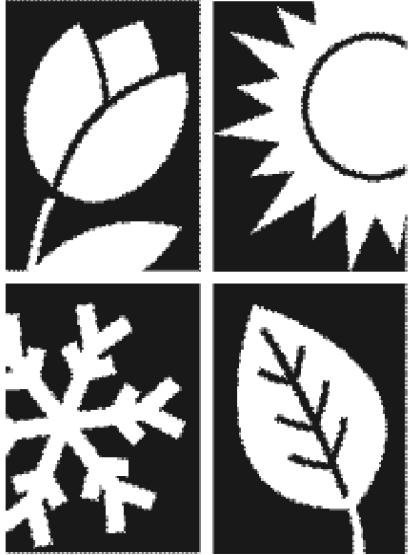




Mental Illness Awareness

Mental Health MATTERS



EVERY DAY

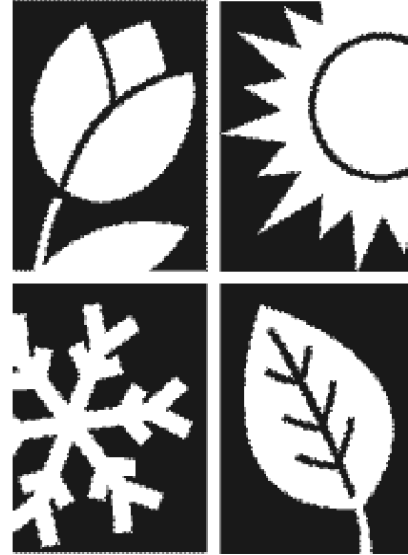
Look into the faces of our congregation. One in every four will suffer some form of mental illness this year, ranging from depression and anxiety to schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. They are illnesses like any other medical illness which require treatment. Faith communities should be nurturing to those living with mental illness, helping them to grow, and supporting them with a sense of belonging. When we are loved and cared for, we can then reach out to others with understanding and

compassion as we recognize our own gifts and share them. Our world is then filled with the beauty and fullness of life that God desires for us.



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Faith Communities Lift the Issues of Mental Illness

The faith community says to those people
who suffer from the symptoms of mental illness,
and to their family members:

*We will walk with you. And God walks with you.
You will not go through this alone.*

Prayer:

O Lord, you have searched us and known us
You know when we sit down and when we rise up,
and know our innermost thoughts.
You search out our paths and know all our ways.
Before we speak, you know our words.
When we were knit together in our mother's womb
You knew us as woman, as child, as man.
Wherever we go, Your hand will lead us.
So guide us along the pathways to hope,
that night becomes bright as day.
So lead us on our walk together,
that darkness is lifted from our hearts.
So encourage us that our sisters and brothers
Who have mental illness shall know that
they never walk alone.

Amen

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