

## Dealing with Dying and Death

"Meaning making" for the patient, family and friends

**Purpose:** Dying and death bring new responsibilities and role changes to patients, family, and friends. This seminar will shed new light on how to understand and embrace these new roles, using philosophical, theological, psychological, sociological, and practical aspects of living meaningfully.

<b>Course #</b>	19SDD
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderator:</b>	Jeanne Ballantine
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Monday, 10:00-Noon 10 weeks, starting February 25
<b>Location:</b>	Applewood in Amherst, Meeting Room

**Description:** Relevant topics may include: how to cope with diagnosis; constructing new roles/statuses; challenges to one's self-image; living with ambiguity; alternative therapies, diets, medicines; what to say/not say to a dying person; dealing with awkward situations; how to be supportive; religious approaches; planning ahead with documents/forms, finances, remembrances, burial decisions, and who makes decisions. In addition, one's legacy; levity, laughter, hope; dilemmas and decisions; hospice; assisted suicide; grief and coping.

**Role of participants:** Each participant will select a topic from a list provided by the moderator. After researching the topic (using the Roberts book, other suggested resources, and personal experiences), the participant will give a 20- to 30-minute presentation, which will be followed by discussion.

**Resources:** Required: *Meaning Making with Malignancy: A theologically trained sociologist reflects on living meaningfully with cancer*, by Keith A. Roberts, Covenant Books, 2018. Available at local bookstores and online.

Recommended: books by Atul Gawande, Elisabeth Kubler Ross, Rob Moll, Jessica Mitford, Michael Greger, and others.

Online: search terms such as "resources on death and dying," and "meaning of death."

**About the Moderator:** Jeanne Ballantine is a Professor Emerita of sociology, having taught in Ohio and internationally for over 40 years. She is the author of books and articles, some of which focus on the seminar's topic.

**Maximum number of participants:** 18

**Auditors accepted:** yes, up to 2