

Seminar to focus on end-of-life patient care

Family Hospice and Palliative Care will host Spiritual Care at the End of Life: Beyond Bedside Prayers, a one-day conference offering education and guidance for nurses, social workers and any professional dealing with end-of-life patient care.

This event, which offers two free Continuing Education Units for social workers and registered nurses, takes place 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18 at Family Hospice and Palliative Care's Center for Compassionate Care in Mt. Lebanon. The program is being presented in cooperation with Presbyterian SeniorCare.

Spiritual Care at the End of Life: Beyond Bedside Prayers will feature instruction on the full spectrum of pastoral care

services, including ways to identify the spiritual care needs of patients and their loved ones and how to best address those needs collectively and individually.

The conference will be presented by David Wierzchowski, M.Div., Spiritual Care Specialist at Family Hospice and Palliative Care.

"Many health care professionals and social workers seem to under-utilize spiritual care when it comes to patients with life-limiting illness," said Wierzchowski. "Our goal is to help attendees not only facilitate pastoral care, but understand its full scope and meaning."

Wierzchowski noted that one focus of the conference will be

helping attendees develop an approach to collaboration between spiritual care staff and other health care disciplines.

"The connection among all sides should be seamless when it comes to end-of-life care. The role of spiritual care specialists cannot be underestimated," he said.

To register for this free event, call 412-572-8747 by Feb. 11.

For questions or more information, contact Eric Horwith, MSW, LSW, Family Hospice Community Liaison, at 412-651-5853.