

Experiencing the World through a Chronic Illness Lens: Insights from the cystic fibrosis community and a chaplaincy perspective



Date and Time:

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Location:

MAIDLOW EDUCATIONAL CENTER (In-person only event)
700 Cooper Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602



For More Information:

Contact Kristen Schultz at kristen.schultz@chs-mi.com

Accreditation: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University and Covenant HealthCare. Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Designation: Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Disclosures: The planner(s) and speaker(s) have no relevant financial relationship with ineligible companies to disclose.

Program Description:

Speaker: James E. Menkhaus, PhD, Doctor of Philosophy in Theology
Drawing on findings from his recent book, *The Roses Speak*, Dr. Menkhaus will share insights from more than 100 interviews with individuals living with cystic fibrosis from around the world. This presentation will examine key themes that emerged from the research and explore how these findings apply to the care of patients with other chronic illnesses.

Topics will include the challenges of discussing long-term terminal prognoses, the lasting psychological impact of chronic illness, and practical approaches for incorporating WE CARE values into patient-provider conversations. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of individuals with chronic disease and strategies for delivering compassionate, patient-centered care.

1.0 CME Credit Available

Target Audience:

Clinicians (MDs, DOs, NPs, PAs, and RNs), residents, medical students, and respiratory clinicians.

Educational Objectives:

- Understand the changing landscape of cystic fibrosis care and the implications it has for patients.
- Demonstrate the use of the Covenant HealthCare WE CARE values to incorporate the patient's perspective during goals of care discussions.
- Analyze the complexity of the long-term psychological effects of chronic illness.

Speaker Biography:

Dr. James (Jimmy) Menkhaus completed his chaplain residency at Covenant HealthCare (2023-2024). He holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Duquesne University and currently teaches at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, OH. His recent book, *The Roses Speak: A Chronic Illness Journey* explores the reality of living and dying with chronic illness. Encompassing 100 voices from ten countries, this book offers insights into the psychological, sociological, and spiritual aspects of illness. These interviews are supplemented by the author's reflections on living with cystic fibrosis. He is excited to return to Covenant HealthCare to share his insight and experience.

