

**Boston College**  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY  
**Continuing Education Encore Events**



## Boston College

Fourth, what we heard from families is that an important aspect of belonging was being known. And as Christians, we're called to welcome the stranger, of course. But the stranger is not supposed to remain a stranger. And it's becoming easier and easier on Sunday morning to navigate the same space and never really come to know people. So that's a bigger problem in our society. But people with disabilities are particularly at risk of not being known personally, of being known about, but not known personally.

So whether people are known was part of what belonging, was addressed by these families. But that's not what they parked on. What they parked on was how their son and daughter was known. Because so many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are known first and foremost by their labels, not by their names, and by their deficits, not by their strengths and their gifts. And the disability service system does this extraordinarily well in terms of knowing people or viewing

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