



February 14, 2021



**Church friends, you did it! As of the cut-off date in January, the OCWM contributions reached 92.7% of the budgeted goal for 2020. Congratulations and thank you to all who pushed to get their year-end commitments fulfilled to help us close this year in a much better place than we may have thought we would, due to the pandemic. Thank you to all who have faithfully and regularly sent in your support throughout the year! Blessings to you and your 2021 ministries!**

*~with gratitude, PSEC staff, Consistory, and Budget and Finance Team*

## From the PSEC Addiction and Recovery Task Force: Stigma

Stigma is a perceived negative attribute that causes someone to devalue or think less of the whole person. Much of our society views substance abuse disorders as shameful. This causes people with substance abuse and their families to hide addiction. Stigma can be as damaging as the addiction itself. Stigma produces isolation, shame, denial and hopelessness. Stigma is associated with poor health outcomes (e.g., depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, relapse).



There may well be people struggling in isolation with substance abuse in your congregation and you don't know it because they are afraid to tell anyone. Stigma can prevent people from seeking help for their condition. There may well be families struggling with the isolation that stigma can bring. They are afraid of being judged, feel overwhelmed and helpless.

You can do something about this. You can bring God's healing love to these families and individuals. There are resources for you to learn how to encourage your members to trust you with this issue. There are resources you can help them find that can change their lives.

See resources on the resource page for this taskforce on the PSEC website at:

<https://psec.org/addiction-and-recovery-task-force/>

Trust that God will bring those in need to you.

Join us for a Zoom chat on this subject, tomorrow, Feb. 15 at 11:00 am with Conference Minister Rev. Bill Worley. Contact Susan at the Conference office at [susan@psec.org](mailto:susan@psec.org), if you are interested in obtaining the link to join this meeting.