



October 3, 2021

From the PSEC Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Faith-based resources

There are many resources for congregations interested in working on addiction and recovery. A good website for information in Pennsylvania is pastop.org. They publish a short Faith-based organization toolkit. The Addiction and Recovery taskforce has received enough copies of the toolkit for all congregations in PSEC. You can access one immediately on the pastop.org website.

Faith-based organization are seen as champions of community care. We are seen as a resource for those in need far beyond our own congregational members. As such, PASTop is reaching out to us to help. To quote from their website:

"The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA) recognizes that drug and alcohol prevention programs have been working in collaboration with faith-based organizations (FBOS) effectively in many parts of Pennsylvania. The purpose of this tool kit is to provide faith-based leaders with consistent, accurate information to assist members of their congregations who may be dealing with substance misuse, treatment, and recovery."

Sections of the toolkit deal with state and local resources, what you need to know, programs that can help and what you congregation can do.

World Communion Sunday

Who knew the pandemic would last this long. Or that it would be a source of profound confusion and divisiveness-- not to mention death. This is World Communion Sunday, we come to the altar and communion table, and are reminded that we are not alone. God is with us. And this day reminds us that the tears of our brothers and sisters around our Associations, congregations, Conference, and the globe find solace in the Spirit of the risen Christ.

Theologian Leslie Weatherhead who preached in London during the days when German bombs fell all over England wrote in one of his sermons, "I can only record this simple testimony. Like all men, I love and prefer the sunny uplands of experience when health, happiness and success abound, but I have learned more about God, life, and myself in the darkness of fear and failure than I have ever learned in the sunshine. There are such things as the treasure of darkness. The darkness, thank God, passes, but what one learns in the darkness, one possesses forever."

When Robert Louis Stevenson was nearing the end of his life his wife came in one morning and said, "I suppose in spite of all your trouble you will tell me again that it is a beautiful day." Robert answered, "Yes, my dear. I refuse to let that row of medicine bottles be the circumference of my horizon."

As you communion today with friends around the world, take to heart the words of the sage of old, "this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Good words to remember as we come to the table.

Bill
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