



PSEC Addiction & Recovery Taskforce Report for 2022 PSEC Annual Spring Meeting

The mission of the PSEC Addiction & Recovery Taskforce is to share God's love with people suffering from the destructive disease of addiction and their affected family members and friends.

Our goal is to decrease stigma surrounding addiction by broadening individual knowledge, awareness, and understanding while providing support, resources, and other vital information about this disease to ministers and congregations.

Highlights of actions and activities since the 2021 Fall meeting:

- The taskforce has partnered with a national organization called the Phoenix Foundation. The intent is to help build a sober, active community by providing a pilot program for churches to offer low impact, recreational activities at their buildings for people affected with the disease of addiction, as well as anyone else who would like to participate.
 - Some activities could include card games, gardening, yoga, music jam sessions and book clubs.
 - Trinity United Church of Christ in Telford has begun this program, starting on May 22nd.
 - Grant funding is in-process, so churches should not have to incur expenses to put on these activities.
 - All churches are encouraged to contact Rev. Dr. Deborah Clemens at deborahrahnclemens@gmail.com for additional information.
- The Naloxone (Narcan) Project was successful in providing Narcan kits to all PSEC UCC churches. Additional kits may be obtained by filling out a simple form on the NextDistro Website, provided by Prevention Point Pittsburg. Website: <https://nextdistro.org/naloxone>
- Speaking events are continually available to be held both in-person and/or virtually at no cost. These sessions allow for attendees to hear personal experiences, learn about the psychological and physical aspects of the disease, and much more. Question and answer periods are provided at the end of each session.
 - On May 11th, we held a Continuing Education event titled 'Changing the way the Church views addiction' at St. James UCC in Limerick. More events will be added throughout the year.
- The taskforce webpage has been refreshed with additional content. This is a great place to check out information from understanding addiction to personal stories and resources. Member contact information is also available. Website: <https://psec.org/addiction-and-recovery-task-force/>
- The PSEC eNews will see continuing articles, including prevention focused pieces, as well as a series on 12 Step recovery programs.
- Do you have a heart for this vital mission? You don't have to have any experience to help out. We need additional members in order to broaden and support the work of our mission. If God has put this on your heart, please contact any member of the taskforce. Help us to share God's love!

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens, Chair of the PSEC Addiction & Recovery Taskforce.
Any questions may be directed to any of the taskforce members.

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