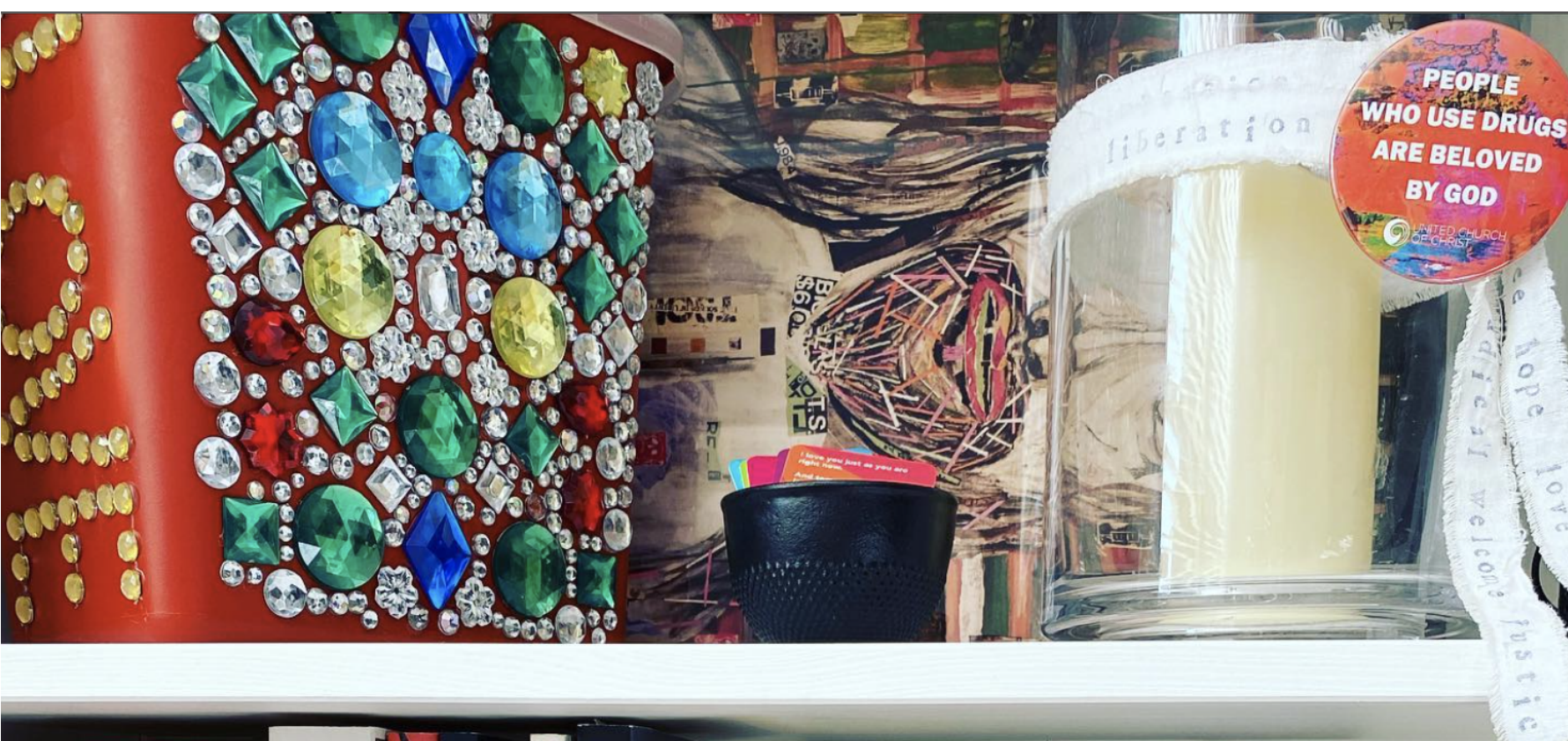




LIBERATION. LOVE. HARM REDUCTION.

www.faithinharmreduction.org

Welcome Letter



Welcome to the Faith in Harm Reduction Newsletter!

We are thrilled to be in conversation and building spiritual community and power with you!

We are looking forward to connecting you with the Faith in Harm Reduction network and our shared work to promote flourishing, justice, and community building with people who use drugs.

In each issue, we will highlight work that Faith in Harm Reduction members are leading in their communities and congregations, spotlight individual spiritual leaders, share spiritual, educational and other community building resources, as well as connect you with upcoming events and opportunities to take action on critical harm reduction issues.

And so we are launching this newsletter with one such action opportunity!

Faith in Harm Reduction has partnered with Clergy for a New Drug Policy to launch a [faith leaders sign on letter](#) to support the opening of Overdose Prevention Centers (OPCs) sometimes called supervised consumption sites or safer injection facilities.

120 OPCs operate in countries across the globe. They are an evidenced based harm-reduction strategy that saves lives, improves health, and promotes connection and access to care. OPCs provide people who use drugs with a safe and supervised environment to use in and provide critical services like overdose response, drug testing, access to sterile harm reduction supplies, as well as connection to social services and supports.

No one has ever died from an overdose in an OPC. They've been studied intensively and shown not to increase drug use or crime in the communities where they operate.

Tragically, they are still considered illegal under federal law. New York City opened the United State's first sanctioned OPCs last November, in a direct challenge to these unjust restrictions.

[Since opening, the two OPCs in NYC have saved over 250 beloved lives from a fatal overdose!](#)

At the beginning of May, Attorney General Merrick Garland will make a determination as to whether or not the federal government will move to close these centers or allow them to operate.

Will you make sure that AG Garland hears from faith leaders who support this important work?

[Add your name and voice today.](#)

In faith,

Rev. Erica M. Poellot

Spiritual Leader Spotlight



About us!

Faith in Harm Reduction is a national collective of faith and community leaders who mobilize spirit, community, and power in partnership with people who use drugs, and has organizational roots at National Harm Reduction Coalition and Judson Memorial Church-United Church of Christ. Faith in Harm Reduction is the only national collective dedicated to building capacity and mobilizing community at the intersection of harm reduction and faith-based organizing.

Born from conversations with communities of faith, harm reduction organizations, and unions of people who use drugs throughout the United States, Faith in Harm Reduction fills a unique role as connector, community mobilizer, and capacity builder, fostering innovative—and previously untapped—cross-sector collaborations to expand and strengthen harm reduction in principle, practice, and policy.

Faith in Harm Reduction fosters opportunities for the co-creation of spiritual community and relationship building in partnership with people who use drugs and other harm reduction community leaders. Through the hosting of events and a growing national network of Faith in Harm Reduction leaders who provide peer to peer support, information sharing, and spiritual care for the harm reduction movement, Faith in Harm Reduction strengthens spiritual resources for harm reduction and intersectional healing and justice movements.

Faith in Action

- Check out our Spirit of Harm Reduction Toolkit <https://harmreduction.org/issues/harm-reduction-basics/spirit-of-harm-reduction-a-toolkit-for-communities-of-faith-facing-overdose/>
- Sign on to the Overdose Prevention Center Faith Leader Sign On Letter https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScS-5c9hEAaVIGa3VYbXSgTKPUVwVsm8xJ49yBDIOKFEN5UFg/viewform?usp=sf_link
- Learn more about Safe Consumption Spaces in this one pager <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17nrZEM9zBz-B9v6wPy6EMlK4bZemN7wACCK4/edit>
- Watch our workshop at Ecumenical Advocacy Days Mobilizing Faith in Harm Reduction to End Overdose and the War on People Who Use Drugs. Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a yearly gathering of faith-based Christian organizers, activists and advocates to inspire thoughtful reflection on the current issues of our day and build capacity for taking action for social change toward justice. Get more info and watch the recording: <https://www.acevents.com/eu/checkout/eadvirtual2022/tickets/order>
- Register for the National Harm Reduction Conference <https://conference.harmreduction.org/registration/>
- Join us this Thursday! Rev. Traci Blackmon, Rev. Erica Poellot and Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention Ministries for a service of celebration of justice-seeking harm reduction love. People who use drugs are beloved by God, called into ministry, and are resurrecting hope and new life with communities impacted by substance use and overdose. Register here <https://ucc.zoom.us/j/91663443325?pwd=Kw6KQOgwSM2vb2cfGWLRRGg>
- Join Leadership Collective Member Olive Branch Ministry and North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein for a conversation called "A Faith-Based harm Reduction Approach to the Opioid Crisis." Representatives of Olive Branch Ministry will discuss how they are using evidenced-based harm reduction strategies to address the opioid epidemic, save lives, and make a difference in the communities they serve in Allegheny, Ashe, Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, McDowell, and Watauga Counties. We look forward to seeing you there! https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_BPnQ09mQTOmxJeMrEZOXQg

ENGAGING FAITH IN RECOVERY

MAY 11, 2022
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BUILDING
1200 N DUPONT HWY
DOVER, DE 19901

CEUs AVAILABLE

Supporting individuals and families suffering from Substance Use Disorder through faith.

Our Awesome Speakers:

Opening Remarks
BETHANY HALL-LONG
Lieutenant Governor of Delaware

Keynote Speaker
REV. ERICA POELLOT
*Director of Faith in Harm Reduction
National Harm Reduction Coalition
Minister of Harm Reduction and
Overdose Prevention Ministries
United Church of Christ*

SESSIONS

ADDITION: NOT JUST A MATTER OF WILLPOWER
*Scott Haga, MPAS, PA-C
Senior Consultant, HMA*

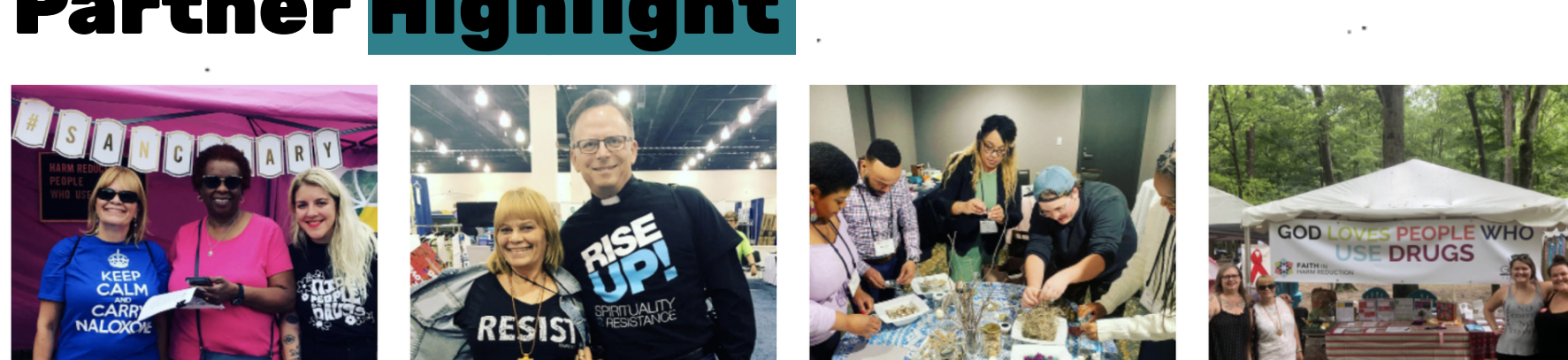
THE PATH TO RECOVERY
*Pamela Adams
Dir. of Spiritual Life and University
Chaplain
Delaware State University
Elliott Montgomery
Substance Abuse Counselor
State of Maryland*

OVERDOSE PREVENTION TRAINING AND NARCAN DISTRIBUTION

> REGISTER NOW

To learn more about our Faith Forward Collaborative please visit our web site at: www.faithforwardcollaborative.org

Partner Highlight



In each issue we will feature a partner organization and share their transformative work. If you know an organization we should highlight please reach out to us at elizabeth@nchurches.org

More about us!

Faith in Harm Reduction is co-creating a justice movement which connects people who use drugs, people who do sex work, and communities of faith through the development of harm reduction centered spiritual resources, ritual support, and spiritual care.

Faith in Harm Reduction has established itself as a national thought leader in ecumenical and interfaith circles on the subject of harm reduction and liberation with people who use drugs. We have succeeded in elevating our intersectional issue areas into public dialogue, media, and convenings across sectors at the federal, regional, and local levels, as well as inclusion of Faith in Harm Reduction panels/presentations at the major drug policy and harm reduction conferences and summits.

In the News

- Dispatches from the Overdose Crisis: A deep, angry lament- <https://www.columbiaslive.com/story/entertainment/human-interest/2022/03/10/dispatches-overdose-crisis-deep-angry-lament-chillicothe/9450183002/>
- Churches, health care align to offer trusted space for addiction treatment - https://www.citysider.com/hartford/article/Churches-health-care-align-to-offer-trusted-17035702-phil2fbcid=IwAR3aayoO6i1cBxHuv9ndyK5fiY6dYUDhez10iEF72qMj3gVl_kPjZB9AmuU
- This is not an opioid crisis. It's an overdose crisis: Gaston County sees high number of opiate overdoses - <https://www.gastongazette.com/restricted/?return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gastongazette.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2022%2F04%2F06%2Fgaston-county-nc-seeing-high-numbers-opiate-overdoses%2F6908937001%2F>

Wisdom Saying of the Month

You are not alone.

You are loved
for simply being.

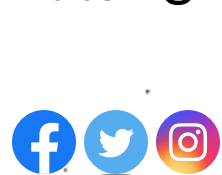
You are free
to be you with us.

This is safe space.

—Michelle Mathis,
Olive Branch Ministry

+ Share a prayer/spell/poem or spiritual practice with us. Let us know if we have permission to share your prayer/poem on our website or newsletter. <https://faithinharmreduction.org/prayer-submission>

Want to tell us more, contact us here at Elizabeth@nchurches.org or at <https://faithinharmreduction.org/>



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Changed your mind? [\(UnsubscribeLink\)](#)

You're receiving this e-mail because you're a colleague providing services, research, advocacy, or other supports for people who use drugs.

