

## Into the Light: Christian Responses to Opioids

# Synod of the Trinity webinars to coincide with Redstone curriculum

For four consecutive Thursdays in May (9th through 30th) at 7 p.m., the Synod of the Trinity will host a webinar that will feature a discussion on the opioid epidemic that is a major issue in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. The conversation will revolve around a seven-session curriculum that was created by the Presbytery of Redstone's Addiction Ministry Network.

**Webinar**  
**Into the Light:**  
**Christian Responses to Opioids**  
**When:** Four Thursdays in May, 7 p.m. (May 9, 16, 23, 30)  
**How:** Zoom video conference allows you to join from your own home  
**Registration:** Email Synod Communications Coordinator Mike Givler ([mgivler@syntrinity.org](mailto:mgivler@syntrinity.org))

“We’re trying to establish the Biblical foundation of why Christ is calling our churches to reach out to people, particularly people recovering from substance use disorder,” said the Rev. Lee McDermott, a Redstone pastor who helped create the curriculum. “It tries to get churches to understand that dealing with people with an addiction is not any different than dealing with people with other health issues or diseases who need healing or people who are dealing with grief and loss.”



The webinars will focus on four of the sessions highlighted in the curriculum. They are:  
**May 9:** What is a Substance Use Disorder?  
**May 16:** Love and Enabling  
**May 23:** Healing and Recovery  
**May 30:** Engaging Our Congregation Within the Community

For more on the curriculum and what will be discussed on the webinar, visit [SynTrinity.org](http://SynTrinity.org). To be included in the webinar, email [mgivler@syntrinity.org](mailto:mgivler@syntrinity.org).

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## Continuing the Conversation

Synod's regional meetings to focus on hate groups in our communities

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 36 hate-related groups in Pennsylvania and 41 more in West Virginia and Ohio. They are a quantifiable presence in our Synod. But beyond the groups, hate behavior is growing across the country as it finds its way into public commentary and actions. It shows itself through these organized groups as well as through individuals – and even some in our pews.



This year's Synod of the Trinity Regional Connection for Partnership and Networking gatherings will focus on how we shine a light on these behaviors and raise awareness in our congregations that leads to engagement.

We have invited the leaders of our presbyteries to join us in this conversation, which will take place at four sites across the region. More information is available on the Synod website ([SynTrinity.org](http://SynTrinity.org)).

## Trip to Montgomery, AL, leaves Synod leaders changed

Synod of the Trinity Transitional Executive Susan Faye Wonderland and Synod Moderator John Bolt had the opportunity to travel to Montgomery, AL, recently at the invitation of synod executives of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They were part of an ongoing discussion about race within the denomination. What they experienced has changed them going forward.

To read their reflections, visit [SynTrinity.org](http://SynTrinity.org).

### Synod Features

Find these resources and many others on the Synod website:

- Church Safety
- Job Openings
- Events Calendar
- Financial Resources
- Ruling Elder Training
- Communications
- Tools & Resources
- Continuing Education

**Being More Together**

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