

**FROM PRAYER TO ACTION:
The Opioid Epidemic in Dayton**

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions ... You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete” (James 2:14, 21-22; NLT).

We have invested ourselves in prayer for the opioid epidemic in our city over the last thirty days. Our desire as a pastoral team is to provide you with meaningful steps to put your faith into action. We are exploring a number of initiatives that you will hear more about soon; please consider how you can join us by taking action in order to *make one simple change ... small changes taken together will make a difference!*

Below is a list of resources to help you get started NOW on becoming more informed about how to help your faith community prevent and address substance abuse issues.

1. Add Samaritan CrisisCare 937-224-4646 to your cell phone: Samaritan CrisisCare is a 24/7 hotline providing information and referral to local substance use and mental health treatment options.
2. Be knowledgeable about treatment options: Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) maintains a list of local treatment options and online screening tools for substance use and mental health at www.mcadamhs.org under MyMontgomeryCounty.
3. Be Informed - Ask Your Physician: If your physician is recommending a pain reliever for you or a family member, ASK if it is an opiate based medication, ASK if there is a non-opiate alternative.
4. Complete a Mental Health First Aid training: This 8-hour course will equip you on how to start a conversation with a family member, friend or co-worker when you recognize they may be experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. To attend please contact Jennifer Cox at jcox@mcadamhs.org or 937-443-0416 (our staff will complete this training on Tuesday, September 19).
5. Sign up for Know! Tips for Faith Leaders and Communities: Cedarville University School of Pharmacy in Cedarville, Ohio and Drug Free Action Alliance have partnered to create Know! Tips for Faith Leaders and Communities, combining the family-oriented, prevention-focused message of Know! Parent Tips with verses from the Bible. Know! Tips can be passed out or emailed to members of your congregation. Access the Know! Tips for Faith Leaders and Communities by going to <https://preventionactionalliance.org/about/programs/know/>
6. Carry Naloxone (Narcan): Project Dawn (Death Avoided with Naloxone) in Montgomery County offers FREE weekly naloxone overdose education and distribution every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., 601 Edwin C. Moses Blvd, Floor F, CrisisCare entrance, Dayton, OH 45417. Please arrive 15 minutes early to register. Project Dawn will schedule trainings during evenings and weekends at the request of businesses, faith based organizations, service groups, and other community groups. Call 937-734-8333 for scheduling. In Greene County, Project Dawn training is offered by TCN. Training covers:
 - Recognizing the signs and symptoms of overdose
 - Distinguishing between different types of overdose
 - Performing rescue breathing
 - Calling emergency medical services
 - Administering intranasal Naloxone

How can you receive training? We are currently offering training on an as needed basis. If you are a Greene County resident, agency, or community group please call or email: Chris Pinkelman, 937-376-8760, cpinkelman@tcn.org; or Lynn Oliver, 937- 376-8729, loliver@tcn.org (our staff will complete this training on Tuesday, August 8).

7. Remove unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals from your house in the Spring and Fall. 70% of teens report diverting medications from family and friends' medicine cabinets for non-prescribed use or abuse, Unwanted or expired pills or patches can be properly disposed of in a Drug Drop Off box. Citizens are encouraged to package their unwanted medications in a clear plastic bag. A list of locations is available on www.mcadamhs.org. You may also utilize a Medication Disposal System pouch—these are available at most Kroger Pharmacy and Good Will stores in the greater Dayton area.
8. Use Medication Lock Boxes: Purchase a lock box for your homes and/or anyone you are a caregiver for to safely store and secure access to prescribed medications.
9. Celebrate Recovery: A Christ-centered recovery process for anyone with hurts, hang-ups, or habits which have interfered with their relationship with God or others. We offer Celebration Place for children (nursery-5th grade), The Landing for teens (6th-12th grades), and recovery groups for adults. We begin with a meal at 5:45pm every Wednesday at our Riverdale Community Site, 1222 N. Main St. in Dayton. We are looking for people to serve on our Food Team and Veterans to begin a Welcome Home group. Questions? Contact Eugen & Karen Waugh by phone at 937-867-5142 or via email at daytonvineyardcr@gmail.com.
10. Faith-based Toolkit: Published by Prevention First in Cincinnati, the Toolkit is not a curriculum and does not need to be implemented from beginning to end. It is a collection of things people have found helpful in bringing prevention into the faith community. The Toolkit was designed to give you: important background information that will help you feel more comfortable with bringing prevention into your faith community, tools to choose from to teach or implement the information, and resources to learn more or take the concepts further. Learn more at <http://www.drugfreecincinnati.org/media/Building%20Prevention%20with%20Faith%20Sample%20Chapter.pdf>
11. Need to talk with someone? Contact Kevin R. Hoffman, Congregational Care Pastor, Vineyard Church; email khoffman@daytonvineyard.com or text/phone 937-520-8496.
12. Attend upcoming community events:
 - Friday-Saturday, August 11-12 Hope Over Heroin @ 7:00pm, Mote Park, 635 Gordon Street, Piqua, Miami County, OH; website - www.hopeoverheroin.com
 - Saturday, August 26 8:30am-1:00pm, Community Engagement Conference, *Building a Stronger Community Together*, Vineyard Church, 4051 Indian Ripple Rd., Beavercreek. A FREE safety conference sponsored by the Miami Valley Crime Prevention Association (MVCPA). Please register online at www.mvcpa.info
 - Sunday, August 27 3:00-6:00pm, FOA Rally 4 Recovery, co-sponsored by Families of Addicts (FOA) & Mahajan Therapeutics; Courthouse Square, Third & Main Streets, Dayton, OH; website - www.FOafamilies.org; email - info@FOafamilies.org
 - Thursday, August 31 6:00-7:00pm, Generation Rx: Prevention Workshop for Parents and Caregivers, hosted by *Strong Dayton*, 713 W. Grand Ave., Dayton, OH 45406. We can prevent prescription drug misuse by advocating for safe medication practices in our homes and in communities. Here is a link to an overview of the program: <http://genrx.origobrading.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/generationrx2pageflyeroverview.pdf>

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13, NLT).