



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

March 1, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON ANNOUNCES
SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WORKSHOP**

[Akron, OH] On Saturday, March 27, 2021, from 10am-12pm, First Congregational Church of Akron (First Church) will be hosting a Suicide Awareness and Prevention Workshop on zoom. This event is free and open to the public, registration is required.

Suicide is ranked tenth in leading causes of death in the USA, according to a 2019 study done by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Suicidal thoughts and attempts are more frequent in individuals who are disconnected from family or community supports and often result from a combination of risk factors such as violence, abuse, and hopelessness, in addition to social isolation. While the topic of suicide is still stigmatized and not openly discussed, it is a reality that affects many individuals and families.

In an effort to help equip individuals and families with the knowledge and skills necessary to intervene with those at risk for suicide, we invite you to join Rev. Antigóné Pearson and Rev. Andrew Courtney for a Suicide Awareness and Prevention workshop. The event will be hosted on zoom by First Church and details for the event can be found at www.akronfcc.org/suicide.

Rev. Antigóné Pearson serves as Associate Minister at First Church of Akron and is also a United States Army Reserve Chaplain. Rev. Andrew Courtney, who has served multiple parishes, now serves as an Ohio Army National Guard Chaplain. Both are ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ.

First Church is an Open and Affirming congregation, dually affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Its mission is to share Christ's light and welcoming, open and loving message with all people. The church welcomes and affirms people of every race, age, nationality, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, family circumstance, socio-economic status, physical and mental ability, or spiritual background. The church invites all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join in Sunday worship (9:30 and 11:00 AM), community life, and service. To learn more, visit the website at www.akronfcc.org or call 330.253.5109.

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