



Greetings,

I want to introduce myself. My name is James Macarille. I am the Pastor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church in Saugerties, NY. Seven years ago we lost our son to the disease of drug addiction. As many who have gone through this, we struggled with what to do to help him. We waffled between tough love, pushing him and his disease away to embracing him, giving him money and trying to get him to rehab. I admit that we were blind to what he was using and how bad it had gotten. Unfortunately, his disease had too great a hold, and he succumbed to an overdose.

In the time since his passing we have talked with many who have gone through the same circumstances in their families. Again, I admit we had no understanding of how widespread this problem is. Many we talked to have said they did not know where to turn. They did not want to call a number in the phone book. Many said they were embarrassed by their loved one's disease and didn't know who to talk with. And many of these same people have said they would have liked to turn to their faith leaders but didn't know how to approach them with this issue.

We know this issue is not limited to any social group or faith group. The disease of addiction affects everyone. As faith leaders I hope and pray we can be a point of hope for those in our congregations and communities that struggle with addiction.

To that end we are asking your church to join us in making the Sunday of October 24, 2021, a day of prayer dedicated to this issue. We ask that you and your church offer prayers for the afflicted to see what is happening and to find the strength to seek help, prayers for the families and friends of the afflicted that they find continued strength and hope to help their loved one find help, and prayers of comfort, uplift and support for those like our family that have been left behind by the loss of a loved one to the tragedy of this disease.

Thank you for your time, your consideration and your prayers. If you have questions, concerns or comments please reach me at [jvmac2@aol.com](mailto:jvmac2@aol.com). Please put "Jared's Hope" as the subject.

God bless you,

Pastor James Macarille