

COMMUNICATION

Some good ideas used by congregations to welcome persons with disabilities and their families in the area of communication:

- Worship services are presented verbally and visually, dramatically and musically for different learning styles.
- Sermons or entire worship services are recorded on audiotape or are available in large print.
- Amplifying sound system is in good order. Assistive listening devices are available for those with hearing difficulties.
- Lighting is surveyed to ensure that the wattage is high enough and that the placement of fixtures ensures maximum visibility.
- A TDD is in the church office so that a person without hearing can communicate by telephone.
- A comfortable way to offer suggestions for inclusion is created for people with disabilities and their families so they are not made to feel like “complainers”.
- Sign language interpreter is available for worship service on a regular basis.
- The words “Stand or sit as you are able” and “Kneel or sit as you are able” are used in worship aides to direct the congregation.
- The faith community consistently publicizes that persons with disabilities are intentionally included in worship, ministry, fellowship and study. Access symbols are used in print materials and signage.
- Transportation is personally offered to people in need and provided on a consistent basis. This availability is also communicated in bulletins and event announcements.