

# Faithful Friends Special Needs Ministry

## Parkside Church

Welcome to Parkside Church and to our special needs ministry for older youth and adults called **Faithful Friends**. We pray that you will know the love of Christ in real ways as we care for your loved one.

**Our vision:** that every person at Parkside Church, regardless of abilities, intellect and skills would become a committed follower of Jesus Christ. Recognizing special needs ministry will look very different than a typical ministry for children, youth, and adults, we desire that our special needs ministry will:

- ❖ be a safe and loving place for children, youth, and adults with special needs
- ❖ teach children, youth, and adults with special needs the truths of God's Word in ways they may understand
- ❖ show children, youth, and adults with special needs the love of the Lord Jesus Christ in practical ways
- ❖ allow parents/caregivers to worship and study God's Word
- ❖ be a support for families with children, youth, and adults who have special needs

**Our History:** We began in 1992 with 2 teens with special needs and 2 helpers. These teens are now adults who attend the Faithful Friends class.

### **Our Current Special Needs Ministry:**

- 1) **Faithful Friends (FF):** designed as a 9:45am Sunday class for older youth and adults with special needs where we meet for prayer, fellowship, Bible lessons, and worship. A team of teachers and helpers attends regularly to interact and assist with adults with special needs. Special events occur during the year to facilitate opportunities for biblical friendship.
- 2) **Faithful Friends, Jr.** for children and youth with special needs who cannot attend a typical children's class. Our FF, Jr. staff works 1:1 with children & youth who attend. Currently, we offer a class at 9:45am & 11:15am
- 3) **Faithful Friends Teens** is our special needs ministry for teens and young adults. Currently we offer class at 11:15am; families should pre-register to attend any of our special needs class offerings.

### **Our Policies:**

- 1) In order to effectively serve those in our ministry, we ask that new families contact us before attending our special needs classes and complete our registration form. This allows us to better understand each person's needs and more effectively serve our families.
- 2) For Your family member's first week(s) we ask that one parent/caregiver attends WITH your family member. This helps us all discern how we can most effectively minister to your family while continuing to meet the needs of those currently in the ministry. This also helps the family member with special needs adjust to our classroom routine.

### **Need Additional Information?**

If you have additional questions about our special needs ministry, please contact Renee Pecek at 440.708.2113 or [rpecek@parksidechurch.com](mailto:rpecek@parksidechurch.com). You can also download a copy of the appropriate registration form at [www.parksidechurch.com/specialneeds](http://www.parksidechurch.com/specialneeds).

# Faithful Friends Registration

To help us better understand your family member's gifts, interests and challenges, please fill out the information below and return to Tracy Reid or the church office (ATTN: Julie Pelletier). Please use reverse side if additional space is needed. Thank you!

FF Attendee's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname? \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Grade Level if attending school \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's/Guardian's Name (First & Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's/Guardian's Name (First & Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Caregiver Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Specific Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Strengths/interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Difficulty with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any special challenges:

Food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Other allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical conditions/medications (for emergency purposes only; we do not administer medications):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Restroom habits: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information that would be helpful for the leaders of Faithful Friends to know (related to Special Needs Diagnosis, Main Mode(s) of Communication, Behavior Concerns, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*I grant permission for the above information to be given to the Faithful Friends leaders. I understand that this information will be kept in confidence by the staff. In case of emergency where I cannot be reached, I grant permission for staff to seek medical attention if needed. I authorize use of the above named Attendee's picture to be used (without name) in Parkside Church's media.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Caregiver/Self

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date