

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;
- ❖ will teach children, youth, and adults with special needs the truths of God's Word in ways they may understand;
- ❖ will show children, youth, and adults with special needs the love of the Lord Jesus Christ in practical ways;
- ❖ will allow parents/caregivers to worship and study God's Word, free from worry about their children;
- ❖ will be a support group 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. Both of 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 youth and 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; families should pre-register to attend.

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) Parents/caregivers are asked to attend class one or two weeks BEFORE their family member with special needs attends. This helps us all discern whether or not we are able to effectively minister to your family while continuing to meet the needs of those currently in the ministry.
- 3) Parents/caregivers are then asked to attend class for two weeks with their family member with special needs to help with the adjustment to class.

Need Additional Information?

- ❖ Visit our website at www.parksidechurch.com/specialneeds
- ❖ Contact our Faithful Friends ministry leader: Tracy Reid, 440.479.9093 or sterlingj6@yahoo.com

If you have additional questions about our special needs ministry, please contact Renee Pecek at 440.708.2113 or rpecek@parksidechurch.com. You can also download a copy of the appropriate registration form at 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: _____

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