



FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Accessibility and Inclusion Training for Welcome Hosts

Faith United Methodist Church is a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network
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Faith UMC is part of the Greater Washington District of the [Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church](#)



Faith UMC

Accessibility Statement

Faith United Methodist Church seeks to welcome and include all people in the life of this congregation. Our building and gathering spaces are accessible to people who use wheelchairs and walkers. Physical accommodations include accessible entrances, seating, and restrooms, as well as an elevator. Large-print hymnals and Bibles, FM wireless assistive listening devices, sensory friendly items for children, and gluten-free communion elements are available during worship. At fellowship events, dietary requests made in support of specific health needs are welcomed.

As we grow in Christ's love, Faith UMC continues to take new steps forward to help ensure that all people can participate fully in this community of faith. If you or a family member requires accommodations not mentioned or would like to discuss any other accessibility needs, please let us know how we can best welcome you by contacting Jennifer Young, Faith Accessibility Coordinator, at young.jennifer@gmail.com or the church office at office@faithworkshere.com or 301-881-1881.

WHAT IS AIM?

Faith's Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM), was formed to work on ways to improve the accessibility of Faith's physical building and its programs to individuals with disabilities.



GOALS FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

1. Physical Accessibility:

Ensuring physical spaces are accessible:

Churches should have ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms, and clear pathways to allow individuals with mobility challenges to navigate the building easily.

2. Welcoming and Supportive Environment:

Fostering a sense of belonging:

Churches should create a welcoming and supportive environment where everyone feels valued and included.

Education and awareness programs can help church members understand and appreciate the diverse needs and abilities of all individuals.

3. Inclusive Practices and Programming:

Designing worship services for all:

Worship services should be designed to be inclusive, considering the needs of individuals with sensory sensitivities, visual impairments, or other disabilities.

Encourage participation in worship, service, small groups, and social activities, fostering connections and a sense of community.

RECENT ACCOMMODATIONS IMPLEMENTED BY THE AIM COMMITTEE

- Installed new signs inside the church that provided directions for the accessible bathrooms and the elevator and informed people of available accommodations.



RECENT ACCOMMODATIONS IMPLEMENTED BY THE AIM COMMITTEE

- Gathered all the accommodations available for worship (FM hearing devices, large print hymnals and bibles, magnifiers and headphones) in a bookshelf in the narthex with a sign advertising their location.



RECENT ACCOMMODATIONS
IMPLEMENTED BY THE AIM COMMITTEE

Included



DIGITALpaper.net

- Added sensory friendly items to children's table in worship and to Sunday School.

RECENT ACCOMMODATIONS
IMPLEMENTED BY THE AIM COMMITTEE

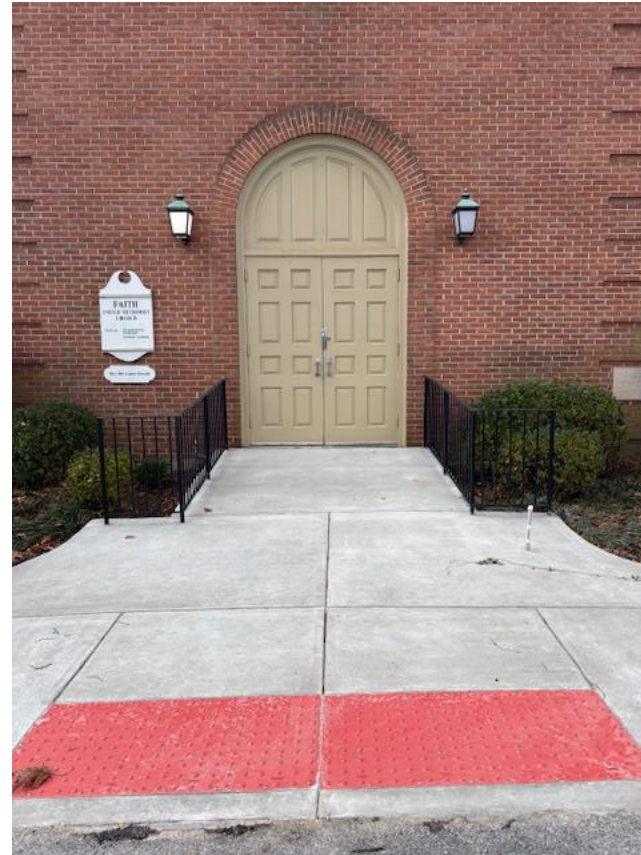
- Added a pew cut in the Sanctuary to provide more seating options for people using wheelchairs or walkers or who need additional space.



DOORKNOBS WITH LEVERS



WALKWAY
ACCESS:
RAMPS AND
TACTILE
PAVING



GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATION

Communicating appropriately and respectfully with and about people with disabilities supports disability inclusion.

People-first language promotes understanding, dignity, and respect and emphasizes the person instead of the disability.

Use these [tips](#) to communicate with and about people with disabilities.

Resource: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE TERMINOLOGY

- Instead of “Handicapped Accessible or Disabled”,

Use the appropriate alternatives such as “accessible bathrooms”, “accessible parking spots”, “disabled athletes”, or “athletes with disabilities”.

- Instead of “Wheelchair Bound”,

Use “Person who uses a wheelchair, person with an ambulatory disability”

- Instead of “Deaf-Mute / Deaf and Dumb”,

Use “Deaf”

DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE TERMINOLOGY, CONTINUED

- Instead of “Visually Impaired / Hearing Impaired”,

Use “Blind/Low Vision; Deaf/Hard of Hearing” (“Impaired” has a negative connotation)

- Instead of “Retarded / Mentally Retarded”,

Use “Cognitive, Intellectual, or Developmental Disabilities”

- Instead of “Special”,

Use “Person with disabilities” + Use “students with disabilities” instead of “special ed students”.

COMMON QUESTIONS RELATED TO ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

I. Physical Accommodations

Where is the elevator?

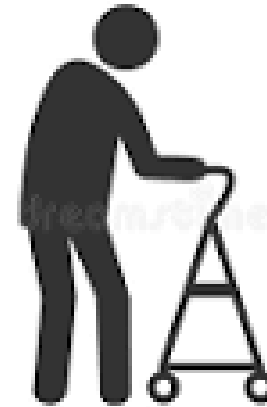
A: Direct guests to the elevator down the main hallway accessed at the front of the sanctuary

Is there an accessible bathroom?

A: Yes, the accessible bathrooms are at the end of the upstairs hallway and at the bottom of the stairs from the narthex.

Where can I easily sit in worship with my walker or wheelchair?

A: Direct guests to the pew cutouts or ask them if they have a preference for seating.



COMMON QUESTIONS RELATED TO ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

2. Hearing and Vision Accommodations

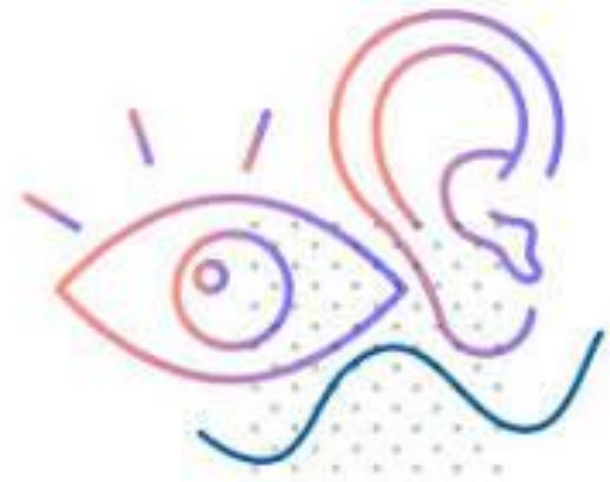
Do you have large print hymnals and Bibles?

A: Yes, we have large print hymnals and Bibles in the accommodations area in the narthex. We also have magnifiers in that area.

Do you have an FM system?

A: Yes, *the next slide includes the steps to use an FM system.*

The FM Systems are also located on the shelf with other accommodations.



STEPS TO USE AN FM SYSTEM

Get the FM receiver out of the box and turn it on.

The individual then wears the earpiece and can hear the service through an FM signal from our audio system.



COMMON QUESTIONS RELATED TO ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

3. Inclusion opportunities for families with children with special needs

Is the nursery or Sunday School prepared for my child's special needs?

A: Let visiting families know that their child's presence is valued, and that the church is committed to creating an inclusive environment. The children's Sunday School Team likes to work together with a family to help meet their child's specific needs.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM

Please let *Dawn Adair Johnson* or *Jan Spencer* know if a family has questions about accommodations for children's Sunday school.

Let families know:

-All children, regardless of their individual needs or potential for noise or wiggling, are welcome to join the service. There is a children's table at the front of the sanctuary and a Children's Message before the children are invited to go to Sunday School.

-We encourage children with learning differences or disabilities to participate in Sunday School. Our Sunday School teachers have been trained in providing a welcoming environment for all children and can make accommodations so that all children feel included.

RESOURCES



<https://www.umcdmc.org/>



Recent article:

<https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/upholding-the-values-of-dei/>

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or suggestions regarding Faith's accessibility and inclusion, you can contact Jennifer Young at young.jennifer@gmail.com