

First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive, mission oriented, and intellectually vibrant faith community. We believe Christ has called us to reach out to all people, especially those with special needs, by leading in creative ministries of education and music.

Disability Inclusion Ministries have been expressed in the following ways:

1. An Inclusion Coordinator who works with families of children with disabilities to include the children in Sunday School and worship.
2. Dr. Ernest Krug, who served as Director of the Center for Human Development and Chief of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics at William Beaumont Hospital has worked closely with us in all areas of ministry. He is also an ordained Presbyterian minister and serves as Pastoral Resource (Pastoral Associate when we have a head of staff).
3. We've remodeled two bathrooms so they are wheelchair accessible.
4. Our new sanctuary has a pulpit that can be used from a wheelchair, and a lift in the chancel area makes the chancel accessible as well. Our moveable chairs help to create spaces for wheelchairs on a moment's notice.
5. Large print hymnals and worship bulletins are available each week. Bulletins are sent by email to members who are visually impaired.
6. An elevator and lifts to all levels of the church
7. Worship leadership is shared with people of all abilities as they read scripture, light Advent candles, sing in the choir, give moments for mission, etc.
8. Our VBS program includes children with disabilities
9. We host an inclusion conference once a year
10. We have held two access awareness Sundays
11. Our Spiritual Health and Inclusion Committee focuses on inclusion issues for people of all abilities.
12. Variety FAR, a therapeutic performing arts conservatory is provided with free space in our building for classes and office space. Several church members also serve on their board of directors. Students sometimes share in worship leadership through music and dance.
13. FPC hosts at least one free dinner a year for families of FAR to come and eat with members of the church.
14. The church has partnered with Variety FAR and a nearby needy school district to provide therapy and tutoring for children of all abilities.
15. Camp Skyline offers several weeks of camp for both children and adults with special needs
16. We are creating an art gallery for the purpose of displaying the artwork of people of all abilities.
17. We received the first ever James Goodpasture award for ministry with special populations from Union Theological Seminary-Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 2005.
18. Four members of our Spiritual Health and Inclusion Committee attended a conference at Stony Point (at their own expense) to participate in a Partnering Congregation conference in disability inclusion. The committee has since developed four goals and is working toward achieving them. (See attached sheet.)
19. Our Disability Inclusion Ministry has been selected as one of eight exceptional ministry initiatives to be shared as case studies in the book-in-process, *Keeping our Promises*. Here is what they had to say about our ministry:

From the many applications that we read, we have selected eight churches that we feel have particularly compelling stories to tell, and we are happy to report that the application from First Presbyterian is one that we have selected and would like to use as the basis for a case study. The stories told by First Presbyterian Church and others like it are inspiring and instructive. They are stories that beg to be told to a larger audience. In so doing, we trust that the work begun in your congregation will continue to bear fruit in ways we can only imagine.