

What does this mean for parents?

“Some might see this as investing an hour so the parents of a special needs child can have an hour off but I challenge you to open your eyes to see it from a disabled child’s point of view. For my disabled daughters, it’s not about the 1 hour a week. It’s about the other 167 hours a week, hours which are multiplied because their parents were able to spend time with God and with other godly people.”

“We are very thankful that [our daughter] has the opportunity to have a buddy just for her in Sunday School. At our previous church, without a buddy [she] would most often wander to the back of the class and sit by herself playing, ignoring both the teachers and kids and distracting others. She is capable of participating but needs to be motivated to join in and stay focused on the lesson. It is such a blessing to see that she is now hearing the Bible lesson, answering questions, learning the songs, memorizing verses and being a part of the class. Thanks everybody!”

Whether you are a family interested in the services we offer or a volunteer interested in serving we’d love to hear from you. You can contact us at bccsdm@gmail.com or you can visit our table and a member of the disability ministry team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

The blessing of being a “buddy”

“I love being a Sunday School buddy because it gives me a chance each month to spend time with a child with special needs. I love to see each one grow and learn about the Lord. It is truly a lot of fun!”

*“Being a Sunday School buddy means to me:
Being a servant*

Growing in patience

Getting in on the fun

Getting to know kids at church

Not having a lot of responsibility

The joy of getting to know the child—learning what works best for them with the knowledge that the parents are able to attend service without worry, in part, because of me. It’s very important—It’s an honor and a privilege.”

The leadership of Bear Creek Church and the members of its Disability Ministry Team (GEMS) dream of becoming a church where persons with disabilities and their families are enthusiastically welcomed to worship and fellowship. We’re working to become the kind of congregation where physical and psychological barriers are eliminated and where everyone works together to make BCC a place of unconditional acceptance, and peace and safety for persons with disabilities and their loved ones.

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God’s Exceptional Miracles

The disability ministry of
Bear Creek Church
Medford, OR



That all people, regardless of disability, would have the opportunity to participate fully in the life of Christ’s church; being blessed, and blessing others, for the sake of God’s glory.

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. - 1 Peter 3:8

Sunday School Buddies

Volunteers, referred to as “buddies,” are teamed up with a child that needs some extra assistance in Sunday School and, if needed, the entire Church service. Because each child’s needs will vary we meet with the parents to discuss how we can best assist them.

“A buddy for my daughters in Sunday School; it’s far more than you might think. While others can go to Bible studies and church services whenever and wherever they please, my life is dictated by the needs of my disabled daughters. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year my life is caring for my daughters. I don’t get weekends off. I don’t get Christmas off. I don’t get to go home at the end of a hard day at work. One thing I do get, however, is an hour, a single precious hour every week thanks to someone who calls themselves a buddy.”



TOPSoccer

In the Spring and Fall, we run a TOPSoccer league. This is a laid-back, fun opportunity for children who might not make a typical soccer team. Kids have a blast playing games, running around, and being accepted by all. The volunteers also have fun keeping up with the kids and experiencing soccer with the surprising



We also send volunteers to work at events hosted by our local chapter of Joni and Friends.

The safety of persons with a disability is our top priority, because of this all our volunteers attend Bear Creek Church, fill out an application and are screened before being accepted to work as a buddy in Sunday School, respite mornings, and TOPSoccer, which has some additional State required checks. We have a strict “never be alone” policy that is in effect in all of our ministries, as well as other safety measures in place.

Respite Mornings

Three times a year we offer an opportunity for parents in the valley to get a small break. For several hours on a Saturday morning we open up the gym and children with disabilities, and their siblings, are left in our care while the parents get some much needed time alone. Each child attending is paired up with a volunteer and together they navigate the events of the morning, which includes: movies, games, crafts, music, toys and more. Pre-registration is required.

“It takes commitment but it’s worth it in the end. When you see that face look up at you and smile, or when they say those little things that make you laugh and their personalities shine. I just love that! I highly recommend it.”

