

What and Who Is a Buddy?

Buddy Ministry Invites Participation in the Life of FBCW

Our buddy ministry provides someone with a disability a one-on-one support person so they can better participate in the worship, discipleship, fellowship, and mission of the local church.

A buddy is a means of facilitating access and removing barriers that might otherwise keep someone from participating in church life. Buddies provide individualized support that is as unique as the individual they are serving. How a buddy serves may vary, but what a buddy provides is straightforward.

What Does a Buddy Provide?

Discipleship

A buddy proves in word and deed that people with disabilities are loved by Christ and essential to the body of Christ—they reflect Christ's heart for people of all abilities! And more than that, they provide access to teaching, worship, and fellowship: a vital part of any believer's walk. Buddies also allow parents, caregivers, and siblings to relax and be disciples themselves. Instead of having to stay with their child (or worry about being called every couple of minutes), parents can trust their child is being loved and cared for. A buddy serves the whole family.

Friendship

Whether a buddy is a peer or an older adult depends on the needs of the person with the disability. Though a peer buddy more easily provides friendship, an older adult will still provide access to peers. Friendship isn't automatic, but a buddy provides the opportunity for someone with a disability to spend time with their peers. The buddy models how to act around people with disabilities and can be a bridge to further relationships.

Safety

Certainly, physical safety is a major consideration. But buddies also provide a safety net for people who might be ignored and marginalized. A buddy serves as an advocate and bridge, bringing people with disabilities from the fringes into the center of church life. If someone is out of sight, they're out of mind. A buddy helps the person with a disability become a part of church life and avoid the danger of being forgotten.

What Does it Mean to be a Buddy?

Being a buddy requires understanding what a buddy is meant to accomplish. A buddy is not a babysitter, a therapist, or a doctor. A buddy allows someone with a disability to participate in church life. A buddy's motivation is nothing less than fulfilling the Great Commission: to make disciples of all nations!

Want to know more? Email goandtell@fbcwoodbridge.org