

# Resources for Students with Special Needs

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**See information on additional Faith Based and Secular Website Resources at the end of this file.**

## **UCC Resources:**

"Any Body, Every Body, Christ's Body: A Congregational Guide for Becoming Accessible to All" (2016)  
<http://uccdm.org/A2A/anybody.pdf>

### **UCC Mental Health Network**

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of congregations. Learn More: <http://mhn-ucc.blogspot.com/p/congregational-toolkits.html>

### **UCC Disabilities Ministries**

**All are Welcome!** The United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, (UCCDM) envisions a world in which all people are included in the fullness of life because they are created in the image of God. To make this end, the UCCDM supports all settings of the UCC including but not limited to: local congregations, Associations, Conferences, camps, and National settings, as they seek to include people with disabilities in all aspects of the Church’s life and ministry.

Learn More: <http://www.uccdm.org>

### **Red Fish Theology | Parables - A How-to Guide for Offering a Radically Inclusive Worship Service with the Special Needs Community**

A community of people with special needs deserve an option for a totally inclusive service where they are welcome to be themselves completely - without apology. Wayzata Community Church, United Church of Christ, in Wayzata, Minnesota identified and created an opportunity for that option. This guide shows you how you can re-create this radically inclusive worship service for those with special needs in your community.

Learn More/Order : <https://www.uccresources.com/>

## **Other Resources:**

Free Download from Cokesbury providing help for working with **Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students**. [Guidelines for Working with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children in Sunday School with Other Hearing Children](#) (2003), *The Reverend Peggy Johnson, Christ Church of the Deaf, Baltimore, Maryland.*

The Winter 2012 issue of *Lifelong Faith* was devoted to the theme of "**Faith Formation & People with Special Needs.**"

[http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/lifelong\\_faith\\_journal\\_6.4\\_winter\\_2012.pdf](http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/lifelong_faith_journal_6.4_winter_2012.pdf)

7/22/2015, from the Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ

**SPOTLIGHT: Open and Affirming Means Open to Everyone, Even Those With Special Needs**

<http://www.macucc.org/newsdetail/1520405>

<http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/special-needs.html>

<http://childrensministry.com/leadership/special-needs-ministry/>

<http://www.lifeway.com/n/Ministries/Special-Needs>

## **Worship and Curriculum Resources:**



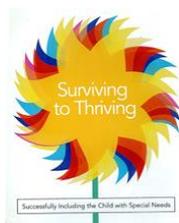
***Leading A Special Needs Ministry: A Practical Guide to Including Children and Loving Families***

Author: Amy Fenton Lee

Publisher: B&H Publishing Group, Updated Edition September 2016

Learn More/Order: <http://www.bhpublishinggroup.com/products/leading-a-special-needs-ministry>

This book serves as a practical "how-to" handbook for the family ministry team working to welcome one or 100 children with special needs. Easily referenced guidance is offered for expressing care for parents who are learning that their child has a diagnosis all the way to developing programs, policies and education for volunteers working with children with disabilities. Example ministry documents are provided throughout this resource guide.



***Surviving to Thriving: Successfully Including the Child with Special Needs (DVD)***

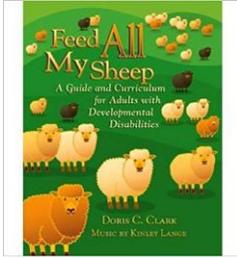
Author: Amy Fenton Lee

Publisher: Orange

Learn More/Order: <https://theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com/2012/05/07/new-special-needs-ministry-resource-volunteer-training-dvd/>

The success of a child is closely tied to the success of a volunteer. We'll equip volunteers with tips and tactics for keeping the most challenging child engaged. You'll learn easy and effective communication techniques, behavior and management strategies, and activity adaptations that can make any children's ministry environment a meaningful experience for everyone involved.

\*Resources listed in this section have been successfully utilized and recommended by local church(es) in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ.



### Feed All My Sheep: A Guide and Curriculum for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Presbyterian

Author: Doris Clark

Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press (2000)

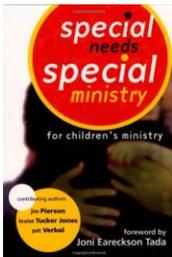
Learn More/Order: <https://www.amazon.com/Feed-All-Sheep-Developmental-Disabilities/dp/0664501133>

This book provides a curriculum for teaching adults and older youth with disabilities about the church. Doris Clark offers experienced and comprehensive advice about how to set up church classes geared to the requirements of adults with special needs and how to integrate them into the church community.

### Faith Development and Confirmation Curriculum for Teens and Adults with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (UMC)

This faith development and confirmation series, from the United Methodist Church, engages and prepares people of all abilities to participate in worship and church life. This series is intended for classes for teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It can also be used to supplement materials in typical student classes which are written at a functional reading level.

Learn more and/or download materials FREE at: <https://www.umdisabilityministries.org/curriculum/>



### Special Needs, Special Ministry

Author: Joni Eareckson Tada

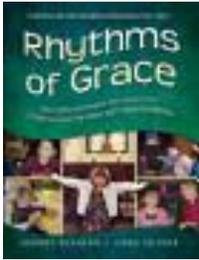
Publisher: Group Publishing, Inc. (2004)

Learn More/Order:

<https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0764425471/ministrytoolsres>

Jesus told us to reach out to everyone-and that includes children with special needs and their families. Here are true, inspirational stories from families who share the struggles and successes of parenting children with special needs. Special Needs-Special Ministry is a practical, real-world guide to help you! Learn from the successes and failures of churches with special-needs programs; launch or further develop a special-needs ministry; and gain insight from experts in the field: Pat Verbal (a gifted leader, speaker, teacher, and founder of Ministry to Today's Child), Louise Tucker Jones (award-winning author and inspirational speaker) and more!

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**Rhythms of Grace: A worship and faith-formation curriculum resource for children with autism**

Methodology: hybrid worship and faith formation program

Author: Audrey Scanlan, Linda Snyder

Publisher: Morehouse Education Resources (2010)

ISBN: 1606740555

Learn More/Order: <http://rhythms-of-grace.org/index.html>

(click on the links section at the top of the page for more information on ordering)

Rhythms of Grace is a non-profit organization which offers a unique, innovative and cutting-edge program resource designed to meet the spiritual needs of children and families living with autism-spectrum disorders. Participant families gather monthly with program leaders and volunteers for sessions that are a hybrid of worship and faith formation. Rhythms of Grace helps children and their families feel at the center of a worship/formation experience that is specific to their needs and circumstances, rather than merely at the margins of even a conventionally inclusive program of worship or faith formation.

**A Special Grace:** <http://www.aspecialgrace.com>

A Special Grace is a ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, currently based at Church of the Epiphany in Walpole, MA. They offer Sensory-Friendly worship and advocacy for families on the Autism Spectrum. Their website provides a wealth of information and free downloadable materials.

**Participate:**

Rhythms of Grace "Worship and Faith Formation for Children and Families with Special Needs."

First Saturday of Every Month at 2:00 p.m.

**St. Christopher's Episcopal Church**

**187 East Road Hampstead, NH**

603-329-4674

Church website: <http://www.st-christophers-nh.org/services.html>

Learn More on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NH-Rhythms-of-Grace-426895930709212/>

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## **Faith Based Websites:**

### **CLC Network, Christian Learning Center**

"Everyone Welcome" is a sign that often greets church-goers on a Sunday morning. This sign of invitation indicates that each person entering the doors would be a welcome guest in that church community. For adults and children with disabilities, however, this sign is often not true. Most churches understand God's call stated in I Corinthians 12:27: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Churches want to create a welcome for each person, but they often don't know how. The CLC Network Church Services Division can come alongside your church community as you build that one body together in Christ. This website lists the trainings, products, and services we offer to support your church in building inclusive and interdependent church community.

Learn More: <https://clcnetwork.org/for-churches/> and be sure to check out the free download of the G.L.U.E (Giving, Loving, Understanding, and Encouraging) Training Manual and DVD, <https://clcnetwork.org/informational/free-g-l-u-e-download/>

### **The Inclusive Church** (no recent activity on the site, but older posts are still relevant and valuable)

A website with a wealth of resources including: blogs, conferences, training opportunities, ideas and best practices to help churches successfully include children with special needs.

Learn More: <http://theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com/>

### **Pathways to Promise: Ministry and Mental Illness**

An interfaith cooperative providing assistance and serving as a resource center which offers liturgical and educational materials, program models, caring ministry with people experiencing a mental illness and their families. The resources are used by people at all levels of faith group structures from local congregations to regional and national staff.

Learn More: <http://pathways2promise.org>

### **Mental Health Ministries**

Mental Health Ministries was founded in 2001. Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder was appointed by the bishop of the [California-Pacific Conference](#) of the [United Methodist Church](#) as the Coordinator of Mental Health Ministries.

Mental Health Ministries has evolved into an ecumenical and interfaith outreach. It works with faith communities, advocacy groups, community organizations and mental health professionals. Mental Health Ministries provides resources for faith communities that can be adapted to each congregation based on the needs and makeup of the worshipping community.

Learn More: <http://mentalhealthministries.net>

### **Naomi Mitchum (United Methodist)**

Naomi writes about inviting and welcoming persons with disabilities to enrich the congregation. As God's children, they are gifts to us and we to them. Persons with disabilities include those persons who are blind, autistic, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility impaired, or who have cerebral palsy, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, the many intellectual disabilities and other impairments.

Learn More: <http://www.naomimitchum.com/>

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## **Secular Websites:**

### **I am Norm**

An initiative designed by young people to promote the acceptance, respect, and full inclusion of youth with disabilities in schools and communities. Our work is driven by a Youth Inclusion Taskforce and supported by a coalition of youth-serving partner organizations.

Learn More: <http://iamnorm.com/>

### **National Inclusion Project**

Our mission: To bridge the gap that exists between young people with disabilities and the world around them. We partner with communities and inclusive programs creating awareness about the possibilities that inclusion can bring.

Learn More: <http://inclusionproject.org/>

They also sponsor a Recreational Program, Let's All Play, at:  
<http://www.inclusionproject.org/for-programs/lets-all-play/>

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