

BUDDY PROGRAM

For children who are able to participate in a regular Sunday School class or Children's Church (J.A.M.), but need some extra assistance, Bethany has the Buddy Program.

In the Buddy Program, a child with special needs is paired with a caring and trained volunteer to shepherd them during Sunday School and/or during Children's Church.

GETTING STARTED

To get your child started in the Ministry of Bridges, please contact Charla Powell, the Ministry of Bridges coordinator. She will introduce you to the program and will assist in scheduling a parent orientation.

You are welcome to observe our program prior to having a parent orientation, but we ask you to remain with your child until you and the orientation leader have agreed upon your child's placement (i.e. Buddy Program or Bridges Classroom)

To contact Charla Powell, please e-mail cpowell@bethany-umc.com or call 873-1230 ext 15.

RESPIRE CARE

Respite Night offers an evening out for parents and caregivers of children with special needs. Their siblings, ages birth to 12, are also welcomed. It is held on the third Friday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Children will enjoy activities, crafts, music and games lead by trained and loving volunteers. A lite snack will be provided. For children whom require special diets, parents are asked to provide a labeled snack.

Pre-registration is required for adequate planning and staffing. The pre-registration deadline is ten days prior to respite night. Additionally, caregivers are asked to stay for the first 30 minutes of their child(ren)'s first visit to assist us in getting to know their child(ren) and how to best meet their needs.

To learn more or to register your child(ren), contact us at 873-1230 x 15 or e-mail us at bridges@bethany-umc.com.



Bethany United Methodist Church
118 West Third South St.
Summerville, SC 29483

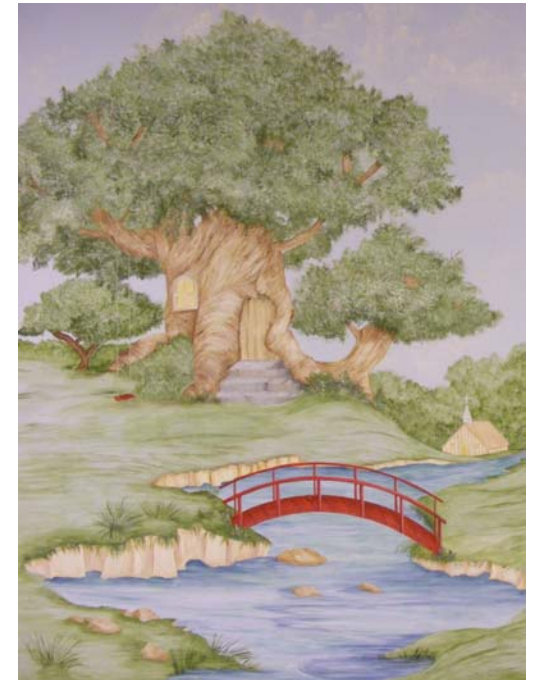
843-873-1230

www.bethany-umc.com
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MINISTRY OF BRIDGES

*Bethany United Methodist Church
Summerville, SC*



*Serving Children with Special
Needs & their families*

MINISTRY OF BRIDGES

A MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MISSION

In response to Jesus' words in Mark 9:36-37, Bethany United Methodist Church started a special needs ministry to embrace and serve children with special needs and their families. The mission of this "Ministry of Bridges" is to make the love and acceptance of Jesus Christ, the encouragement and support of Christian fellowship, and the joy and spiritual fulfillment of worship inclusive and accessible to children with special needs and their families.

"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me, but Him who sent Me." Mark 9:36-37

PARENT ORIENTATION

Parent orientation is an informal one-on-one meeting. It is intended to welcome and familiarize families with children who have special needs to Bethany's Ministry of Bridges.

During this time, a nurturing and trained orientation leader will:

- Describe the various services that the ministry offers.
- Become acquainted with the child with special needs, including his/her
 - unique personality
 - strengths and preferences
 - cognitive needs
 - emotional & behavioral needs
 - physical needs
 - medical precautions & requirements
 - other suggested modifications & accommodations

Together, you and the orientation leader will decide the best place for your child to receive quality care and learning - either the Buddy program or Bridges classroom.

Through parent orientation and observation of our programs, we hope that parents are assured that their child will be cared for in a loving and safe manner that will meet their child's needs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bethany believes that all children are special gifts from God. Thus, we praise Him for each one and how each has been uniquely created. We are also called to assist parents in shepherding His children and teaching them about His wonderful and perfect love. Sunday School is a special time in which we can begin to answer this call.

Bridges Classroom

Located just outside of the elevators on the second floor in room 230, this Sunday School class is designed for children who need more individual attention & a smaller classroom size as they learn the Good News of Jesus Christ. The class includes music, a Bible story, creative crafts and snack.

A pager is given to each child's parent, so that they may be contacted if necessary.

"He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in His arms, holding them close to His heart." Isaiah 40:11