

## **No-cost steps to become more accessible and welcoming**

### **1. Worship**

- Make sermon manuscripts available before worship so those who are hard of hearing can follow along.
- Provide large-print bulletins and song sheets for people with visual impairments.

### **2. Parking**

- Offer valet parking for people with disabilities and older church members, especially during inclement weather.
- Provide ample accessible parking, and keep accessible parking and entrances clear of snow, clean, smooth, and well lit.
- Organize transportation.

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### **3. Allergies, chemical sensitivities**

- Offer gluten-free bread and grape juice for those who need alternatives to regular bread and wine during communion.

- Encourage your congregation to become a scent-free zone to help people with asthma, emphysema, or others who have chemical sensitivities.
- Label foods at potlucks, especially those containing peanuts and tree nuts.

#### **4. Indoor mobility**

- Provide pew cutouts in a variety of locations for people using wheelchairs or walkers.
- Remove sections from two rows of pews to allow ample space for power wheelchairs to maneuver.

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#### **5. Respect**

- Talk with people with disabilities and with their families. They know their needs and gifts best!
- Ask what accommodations would help them participate more fully and offer their gifts in service to others.

***What is your church doing to be a place where people with disabilities know they belong?***

