

Parent/Guardian Policies

- We encourage you to fill out a Family Survey form and meet with the ministry coordinator prior to coming so that we'll be prepared to welcome your child into our programs. If it is not filled out prior to coming, we will do our best to support you.
- Information disclosed in the Family Survey will only be shared with the ministry coordinator, curriculum coordinator, the individual's 1-on-1 buddy and teacher. The importance of information being confidential is impressed on all volunteers.
- If an individual with disability requires assistance with bathroom needs, a parent needs to be present during those times. If the parents would like the volunteer to assist in bathroom needs, they need to check with the volunteer to see if they are comfortable with the added responsibility of assisting the individual in the bathroom. Written permission would then need to be submitted to God's Champions coordinator to allow volunteers to assist the individual.

Who do I contact if I want more information or to become a part of God's Champions?

Michele Whitenight - Coordinator of God's Champions

Email: dewmrw@yahoo.com

Cell Phone number: (570) 854-4069

God's Champions

Special Needs Ministry



For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:13-16

Michele Whitenight – Ministry Coordinator
Shelly Messner - Special Needs Curriculum Coordinator
Lisa Houser - Sunday School Superintendent

What is God's Champions?

God's Champions is a ministry here at Danville First Baptist Church for children with special needs ranging from toddler to senior high. As the program grows we will include all special needs individuals.

God's Champions' goals are to:

- SUPPORT - Individuals worship God and learn about Jesus in a way that is understandable and meaningful to them. We strive to provide a safe, loving, and acceptable atmosphere for the individual and their family.
- EDUCATE - God's Champions ministry also provides education to teachers, congregation, and children of the church about special needs and how to best support them.
- OUTREACH - We would like to eventually reach out to the special need community and families and provide programs like respite care, day out for moms, dads and siblings. We want to reach out to families affected by special needs to show God's love to them.

Mission Statement

God's Champions aims to support inclusion within the life of the church for the individual with special needs and their family to help facilitate a growing love, knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Beliefs

1. Every human being is an image-bearer of God
Genesis 1:26
2. Every human being is sinful and equally in need of Jesus
Romans 3:22-24
3. Every member of God's Kingdom possesses indispensable gifts
1 Corinthians 12:15-27

Values:

1. Every person would know that God loves them
2. Every person would grow in their love for God and love for others
3. Danville First Baptist Church would be a safe environment for all

How does the ministry work?

When the ministry is notified that your child with special needs is coming or planning to come to church and that you'd like to be part of the ministry you'll be given an in-depth intake form called a Family Survey. This information is confidential and will only be given to individuals who are involved with the child (teachers and buddies). We value confidentiality and take it very seriously.

The coordinator will then contact you to ask any additional questions and give you the opportunity to ask any questions of your own. If you would like to, you can come see the classroom and tour the church prior to coming.

From the information on the Family Survey, we will work with teachers to help adapt lessons and activities to better teach your child. Buddies are given to those who need more individualized help with the goal being to keep your child in the classroom with their classmates.

Volunteers

All volunteers have had child abuse background checks and have gone through our Child Safe Church course. The volunteers have also had training about autism, how to deal with different behaviors, and ways to teach children with special needs. Our volunteers go through training at least once a year.