



ACTIVITY

Ideas

Did you know that going to church can be difficult for autistic persons and their families? The lighting, sounds, crowds and social expectations can be very overwhelming without proper support. There are many things that you can do to promote an autism-friendly environment, even in the midst of a global pandemic!



Activities During the Announcements

- Include information about autism in the church bulletin or newsletter.
- Share facts about autism during the announcements or sermon.
- Show a video about autism to the congregation.

Staff Development Activities

- Have a designated person that regularly connects with families impacted by disabilities at your church.
- Teach leadership, staff members and volunteers about autism.
- Send staff to a disability ministry conference near you.
- Hire on staff persons with disabilities.



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Activities for a Special Day

- Wear autism awareness t-shirts for during a service.
- Invite an autistic person to share their story with the congregation.
- Put up a display table with information about autism and local resources.
- Take up a special offering to assist autistic persons or to start a sensory room.
- Teach about autism awareness, acceptance and inclusion in children's church.
- Preach a sermon about God's love for persons with disabilities and their families.
- Proclaim a designated Sunday to be focused on autism each year.
- Have an autistic person to lead a portion of the worship service, such as the prayer, bible lesson, or musical selection.



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Community Activities

- Reach out to autistic persons and their families. Ask them how the church can help with their unmet needs.
- Do a service project with an organization that provides assistance for autistic persons.
- Give a financial contribution to an autism service organization.
- Have a respite care event for special needs parents and caregivers.
- Host an event for autistic persons and their families in your local community.

Long-Term Activities That Can Be Done Every Sunday

- Have noise canceling headphones available for those sensitive to sound levels.
- Have a separate room available for people to watch the service on TV. This is helpful for those who cannot sit in the service for a variety of reasons.
- Open a sensory room for persons that may get overwhelmed during service.
- Have a buddy system available as needed for disabled persons.
- Start a disability ministry!



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Socially Distanced Activities

- Host a virtual autism awareness event.
- Drop off care packages to the homes of special needs families in your community.
- Offer free socially distanced family photos for special needs families.
- Host a drive-in, sensory friendly movie at your place of worship.
- Provide families with supplies and host virtual art classes.
- Purchase groceries or provide meals for a disabled person.
- Host a Zoom story time for children with disabilities.
- Help tutor a child with disabilities via Zoom.
- Host a virtual small group with special needs families.