



BELONG

NAVIGATING DISABILITIES
OVER A LIFETIME



HIGHLAND PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Introduction to Belong

We are delighted to welcome you to HPUMC Belong Disability Ministry!

Belong serves individuals of every age and ability, fostering inclusive spaces to connect, grow, learn, and find joy. We also walk alongside families and provide resources and opportunities for support.

For more than 25 years, Belong has cultivated a thriving community of participants with disabilities, their loved ones, and volunteers here at Highland Park United Methodist Church. Our ability to provide meaningful programming and sustain a vibrant community is made possible through the generosity of our supporters, our volunteers, and the commitment of our staff.



Our Vision

Belong Disability Ministry serves individuals with disabilities and their families by providing free adaptive programming, access to resources, meaningful employment opportunities, and an engaging worship community where everyone belongs.

Our Story

Since 2000, HPUMC has provided resources, experiences, and welcoming spaces at zero cost to individuals with disabilities, as well as their families and friends.

Our experienced staff and trained volunteers work together to provide a diverse and inclusive environment that strives to meet its community's spiritual, physical, and relational needs.



Scan here to see
Belong's history



“Belong helps me accomplish what other participants accomplish with my vision impairment. I attend Explorers every month, act in the Spotlight Musical Theater program, and participate in many Day Classes, including Adaptive Tennis, Pickleball, Arts & Crafts, and DJing (one of my all-time favorites). I’m also able to play the piano in the Tolleson building, which is one of my passions. God bless the other participants, the Belong volunteers, and the Belong Disability Ministry.”

- Kevin Jackson

“The Belong Disability Ministry has meant and continues to mean so much to our family. We have been the grateful recipients of so many volunteers’ time and affection. The Walk Sunday School program provides my son a safe space to worship, play, learn, and be surrounded by many friends and peers. Beyond Sunday mornings, Belong has blessed us through the Night OWLS and Sibshop® programs. Night OWLS has allowed a night of respite for me and a night of fun for my three children. Sibshop® has allowed my daughters to find community with other siblings of children with special needs. The Belong Ministry blesses all four of us in different ways. We adore it and thank God for our church family, who saw a need to create it before we walked through the doors.”

- Jessica Barnett



Job Coaching & Employment Program

CHANCE'S CAFE

Chance's Cafe serves up delicious coffees, sweets, and more, always with a smile. The cafe is staffed by people with disabilities and is proud to be an inclusive employment opportunity. Whether you're an employee, a customer, or a volunteer, you belong at Chance's Cafe. We look forward to seeing you!



Order sweet treats or event catering from Chance's today!



In Loving Memory

Chance's Cafe, a ministry of Highland Park United Methodist Church, is named in honor of Chance Urschel, a beloved Belong participant who shared God's love through his kindness and service. His heart for helping others continues to inspire us, and his legacy lives on through Chance's Cafe.



Belong Programming

Worship Programs

The Walk

Weekly, Sundays

9:30-10:30 am, First Floor Classrooms

All ages

A Sunday School program where individuals can grow in their faith while enjoying fellowship together. Our classes are designed for all ages, interests, and abilities.

Kingdom Singers

Weekly, Sundays

(Rehearsal) 10:40-11:10 am, Third Floor

(Lead Worship) 11:15 am-Noon,

Celebration Hall

All ages

An all-inclusive choir for anyone who loves worshiping and rejoicing in the Lord! The Kingdom Singers rehearse just before worship at The Feast.

The Feast

Weekly, Sundays

11:15 am-Noon, Celebration Hall

All ages

A joyful Sunday morning worship service led by and with members of the disability community. Each week we celebrate the Lord with our families and friends through singing, Scripture, Holy Communion, prayer, reflection, and abundant joy. Everyone is welcome!

Explorers

Monthly, Tuesdays

6-7:30 pm

Ages 13+

A social evening with spiritual enrichment for teens and adults. The evening includes a shared dinner, interactive devotional time, and adaptive small groups with activities led by experienced teachers. Explorers is a place to build friendships, strengthen social skills, and deepen faith.

Respite Programs

Night OWLS

(Out With Loving Sitters)

Monthly, Fridays (during the school year)

6:30-9:30 pm

Infants to age 13

Children with disabilities and their siblings

A respite program for families throughout the DFW area that is open to children with disabilities and their siblings. Each child is paired with a trained volunteer for an evening full of fun activities and special events. Nurses are also present to assist with any medical needs.

Sibshop®

Quarterly, Sundays

1-3:30 pm

Ages 6-13

Siblings of participants

A workshop designed for brothers and sisters of children with disabilities. Kids enjoy games, crafts, and meaningful conversations in a supportive setting. Sibshop provides a safe, fun place for siblings to share experiences and explore the unique joys and challenges of their family role.

OWLS Family Camp

Weekend, Mid-October

Camp John Marc | Meridian, Texas

Night OWLS families

A weekend retreat where Night OWLS families can experience God's creation and get to know other families who are walking a similar path. Parents enjoy fellowship, siblings share their unique perspectives, and children with disabilities make friends while exploring camp adventures like fishing, archery, arts & crafts, the challenge course, and more.

Enrichment and Education Programs

Day Classes

Weekly, Tuesdays & Thursdays

1-4 pm

Ages 18+

A welcoming space for adults with disabilities to learn new skills and build friendships! Day Classes cover a wide variety of subjects and activities, including art, athletics, self-care, music, and much more.

Skill Building

Weekly, Wednesdays

2-4 pm

Ages 18+

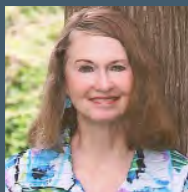
Skill-building programming focuses on independent living skills, empowering adults with disabilities to gain confidence and greater independence in their daily lives. Classes cover practical topics such as self-care, internet safety, communication, and personal organization. Each session is designed to equip participants with tools they can use at home, at work, and in the community.

Belong's day programs also partner with our Spotlight Academy of the Arts to offer stage skills, stagecraft, and other opportunities for participants.

Unless noted otherwise, all Belong programming is held at the Tolleson Family Activity Center. The schedule is subject to change, and our most up-to-date information can be found online and in our newsletters.

Spotlight Academy of the Arts

Spotlight Academy of the Arts was born from the vision of HPUMC member Sue Ringle. We honor Sue's lasting legacy and her unwavering commitment to building a space where all can shine and share their God-given gifts.



Spotlight: Musical Theater

September-February

Performances in Spring

Weekly Rehearsals, Saturdays

9-11 am, HPUMC Mockingbird Campus

Teens 16+ and adults

A cast of teens and adults with disabilities comes together to create, rehearse, and perform a completely original musical production. Guided by a professional artistic team, actors explore themes, characters, and storylines they wish to share with the audience.

Spotlight: Short Film

March-June, Premiere in early Fall

Ages 16+

A cast of teens and adults collaborates with a professional artistic team and volunteers to write, film, and premiere an original short film.





Resources & More

Our Resource Center is here to support individuals with disabilities and their loved ones at any stage of life. Belong can connect you with local and regional services and provide guidance on a wide range of topics, including:

- **Parent and self-advocacy**
- **Respite**
- **Government Assistance Programs (SSI, Medicaid Waivers, etc.)**
- **Housing**
- **Post-Secondary Transition**
- **Early Intervention Programs**
- **Employment**
- **Emotional and spiritual support**
- **Future planning**

You do not need to be a church member (or have any faith affiliation) to access our resources and services. All meetings are confidential.

If you know someone with early-stage Alzheimer's or dementia, Journey Ministry at HPUMC offers respite and other weekly resources to help provide a safe refuge.

Please visit hpumc.org/journey to learn more.

Enroll as a Participant

Visit hpumc.org/belong and complete the enrollment form that applies to you.

Ways to Support Belong



Volunteer with Belong

Join our vibrant volunteer community! Support participants, assist with programs, and enjoy fellowship with others who are passionate about serving the disability community. To get started, complete the serving application found at hpumc.org/belong or by scanning the QR code below.

If you have any additional questions, please email our Volunteer Coordinator. We look forward to seeing you!

Give to Belong

None of this would be possible without your support. Because of the direct and hidden costs that impact families with a member that has a disability, Belong intentionally has chosen not to charge any fees for its programs. Your generosity is supporting excellent, participant-first worship and programming in a place where those with all abilities belong.





Questions?

Visit www.hpumc.org/belong for more info.



Tolleson Family Activity Center

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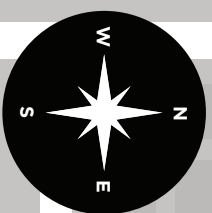
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Highland Park UMC

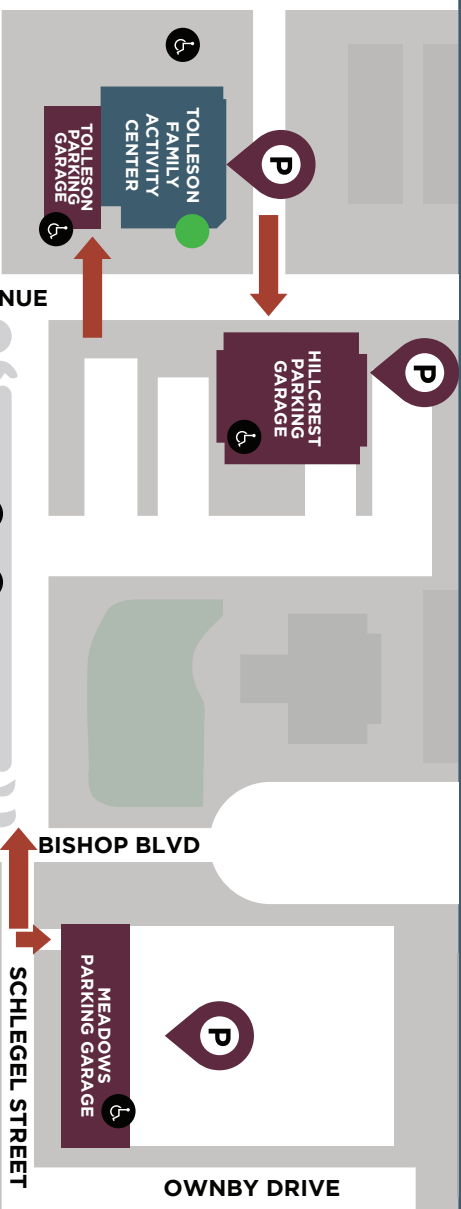


These parking areas are not always available during off-hours (i.e., Saturdays). Please visit hpumc.org/parking for information about parking during these times.



HIGHLAND PARK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

MOCKINGBIRD LANE



HILLCREST AVENUE

BISHOP BLVD

OWNBY DRIVE

SCHLEGEL STREET

TOLLESON
FAMILY
ACTIVITY
CENTER

HILLCREST
PARKING
GARAGE

MEADOWS
PARKING
GARAGE

PARKING KEY

- PARKING
- HANDICAP PARKING
- PARKING ENTRANCE
- MAIN ENTRANCE