

SPRING

2026

NEWSLETTER

connection
ministries

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**I will keep my eyes always on the Lord, with Him at my right hand,
I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8**

UNSHAKABLE COMMUNITY

by Pam Crowder

**FAITH
FOCUS
FOUNDATION**



Connection Ministries is preparing for this summer’s Friendship Gatherings, and the anticipation is building. While the T-shirt color is still being finalized, we’re excited to announce this year’s theme: UNSHAKABLE—a focus on living with steady faith and building our lives on God’s unshakable foundation. We will begin by studying the courage of the three young Hebrew men in the fiery furnace, a reminder that God alone is the true King of Kings.

Our Friendship Groups have reflected this same unshakable spirit. One group walked through the loss of two friends and a family member. Through their grief, the friendship group surrounded the families with love and support. Friends and volunteers created a hand-made memory book with special messages and pictures for each family.

Another group continues to stay connected with a leader and friend with a disability who moved out of state. Though it was hard to say goodbye, they have maintained their relationships through Zoom, phone calls, and emails. Both are a beautiful display of Jesus’ love and unshakable community.

Ready, Set, Go... to a Summer Gathering!

Join us for this summer’s Friendship Gathering as we put Jesus’ words into action and continue building an unshakable community of faith. Whatever storms we face, we can stand firm on Jesus Christ—our sure foundation.

We’ll start day one by asking our friends with disabilities what makes them “shake in their boots”—thunderstorms, roller coasters, or maybe even registering for the Gathering (hopefully not the last one!). To make things easier this year, Connection Ministries has improved the registration process. Though it is still in the works, you can begin registering online now. Registration gives us essential information—dietary needs, updated contacts, emergency details, and required release forms—so we can ensure everyone’s safety. Please take five minutes to complete it and help us care well for every participant.

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Scan QR code to register



“Equipping Christian Churches to minister with adults with intellectual disabilities.”

2026 Summer Friendship Gathering Dates

King of Glory Lutheran

Tuesday - Thursday, June 9-11

Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday - Thursday, June 16-18

Christ the Savior Lutheran

Monday - Wednesday June 29-
July 1

Messiah Lutheran Church

Tuesday - Thursday, July 7-9

Outlook/Brandywine Churches

@ Outlook Tuesday - Thursday,
July 14-16

Grace/Second Reformed

Presbyterian Churches @ Grace
Tuesday - Thursday, July 21-23

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Monday

Wednesday, July 20-22

Cornerstone Lutheran/College

Park Churches @ Cornerstone
Tuesday - Thursday, July 28-30

WAYS TO PRAY

In our recent mailing, we shared four ways you can make a difference this year: **Pray, Volunteer, Give,** and **Share**. In this newsletter, we're focusing on PRAY. ***"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).***

God moves powerfully when His people pray.

- Ask God to raise up leaders and friends for the two new groups launching this spring and fall.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all preparation for the Summer Friendship Gathering—**UNSHAKABLE.**



BUILDING THE BENCH

"Put me in, coach!" Ready to step off the bench? Connection Ministries is hosting two Leadership Training events designed for new volunteers and for seasoned companions who want to refresh their leadership skills, teaching techniques, and share creative ideas for enhancing their Friendship groups. **This training is open to everyone**—those interested in Bible teaching leading worship, crafts, service projects, small groups, prayer or just being a better companion with our friends.

We'll explore how our friends learn best, effective teaching methods, and how to communicate in ways that are relatable and clear. You'll also learn how to pray with a friend, share Jesus with them, and more.

Dinner and giveaways are included. We encourage you to take this opportunity to strengthen your volunteer team and grow in ministry with our friends with disabilities. **Save the date for September 3rd or 8th** with more details to come.



WAYS TO GIVE

We've recently received a few questions about the different ways to give, and we want to ensure you feel confident in understanding all the opportunities available. The enclosed information provides a clear summary of the various donation avenues you can take.

Another way to give is through a **business donation**. If you or someone you know has a business who would like to be a sponsor for the Summer Friendship Gathering T-shirts please contact Tracy Cornforth ED at tracy.cornforth@connection-ministries.org.

Thank you for your faithful generosity and helping our friends with disabilities grow in their walk with Jesus and in community with one another.