

July 22, 2018

## Mission Moment

In Mark 6, it says “As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and He began teaching them many things.”

Sometimes, a buddy is all a child needs and that is the philosophy of ***The Village***, a growing United Methodist congregation in Tennessee.

***The Village*** believes in loving all children and families and the church recently launched the ***Village Kids Buddy Ministry*** to welcome, care for and support children who have special needs or different abilities and who might not participate in children’s ministry.

The church explains: “A buddy is someone who loves God, loves kids and is ready to offer extra support to any child who may need it. Buddies work one-on-one with special needs or disabled children so they may gain the full experience of Sunday morning worship, to be included and to be part of the church and worship alongside their peers.”

On ***Disability Awareness Sunday***, we celebrate the gifts and graces of people with disabilities and encourage full inclusion.

When Jesus said, “let the little children come to me,” He meant all of them. Jesus recognized the value of each child, and this special Sunday gives us an opportunity to do the same.