

our fellowship that will be used to inform and help us develop an in-person event designed specifically for disciples with autism, would-be disciples with autism, spouses of people with autism and in general those who support a friend or family member with autism.

Although a specific date for “Belong” has yet to be set, we are looking at an event in 2026 in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area. Some early areas of interest include:

- Helping disciples with autism to be you, be included and be unafraid
- Studying the Bible with people with autism
- Meeting the emotional/spiritual needs of brothers and sisters with autism
- Social anxiety and autism
- A day in the life of the neurodivergent vs neuro-typical disciple of Jesus
- Supporting newly diagnosed adults with autism
- Sin vs syndrome
- Understanding autistic tendencies and common misconceptions

- Spouses of people with autism

In addition to ideas like these, we also want to build community and relationships through a variety of fun activities like:

- Enjoying a meal together
- Watching a movie together
- Smash Bros tournament
- Get to know you “speed dating”
- Bible Trivia

We welcome your feedback and even more your willingness to contribute to this event by volunteering to participate in a committee or however you’re called to support. Click here or scan the QR code to complete a brief survey and sign up to receive future updates about “Belong”.



LATEST STORIES ON www.DisciplesToday.org:

Go to www.DisciplesToday.org to read the latest News articles and to access the archives for all channels.

> **InsideOut 2025: Early Registration Ends Sunday, Sept 21**

September 16, 2025 • *Kathy Rosario – St. Louis, MO, USA*
We are excited to announce this year’s InsideOut Christian Counseling Conference on October 24–25, 2025. Early registration starts at only \$50 and ends on Sunday, September 21st. Click here to visit the website and register now. This year’s theme, “Carrying...

> **Christian Wellbeing Conference 2025**

September 21, 2025 • *Sandra Ezeilo – London, UK*
Registration is open for the 2025 hybrid Christian Wellbeing Conference to be held from October 3-4, sponsored by the East London Church of Christ and hosted by the Watford Church of Christ.

> **Minister’s Wellness Webinar: Exploring Ministry Graduate School & Specialized Training**

September 16, 2025 • *ICOC Minister’s Wellness Committee*
The ICOC Minister’s Wellness Committee recently hosted a webinar focused on exploring ministry graduate schools and specialized training, featuring a panel of experts who shared their educational...

> **Chicago Church to Host Young Professionals NYE Party**

September 15, 2025 • *TJ Harris – Chicago, IL, USA*
The Chicago Church of Christ is thrilled to invite you to an unforgettable New Year’s Eve party. Join us as we say goodbye to 2025 and welcome in 2026 with style. This year’s theme, “Midnight Masquerade,” promises...

Belong: Creating Community for Disciples with Autism

UPCOMING EVENTS

Climb Small Church Conference

Lansing, MI, USA
October 1-4, 2025

Milwaukee 40th Anniversary

Milwaukee, WI, USA
October 4-5, 2025

ICOC Delegates Meeting

Broward, FL, USA
October 22-24, 2025

InsideOut Counselors Conference

St. Louis, MO, USA
October 24-25, 2025

ICYFM

Indianapolis, IN, USA
November 7-9, 2025

Marriage Retreat Cruise

San Diego, CA, USA
April 4-11, 2026

Church Builders Conference

Boston, MA, USA
April 23-26, 2026

Conferencia de Las Americas

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Oct 15-18, 2026

September 23, 2025 • *Marty Chavez – Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, USA*

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” – Psalm 139:14

Are you a disciple with autism? Do you have a friend or loved one with autism who you support? Some of the most prominent people of our time have shared their gifts with the world through their unique perspectives as people with autism. From mathematicians to



actors and inventors to professional athletes, their contributions to science, entertainment, business and more have influenced and benefited our society in more ways than we’ll ever know. As the number of people with autism continues to increase through a combination of better diagnosis, changes in diagnostic criteria and an overall increased awareness, it’s important that we recognize that the number of disciples with autism also continues to increase, and does so to the glory of God!

Whether you are a disciple with autism or not, we here in the DFW Church want to shine a light on this growing population and help raise awareness, acceptance and ultimately develop a greater sense of belonging in the church for everyone. To that end, we are excited to announce “Belong,” a growing community within the church of people with autism and those who support them. As we are guided by the Holy Spirit, we are in the early stages of gathering information from across

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD