

# Masterpiece

*Alliance* Church Network

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Equipping the Church to Become a Place of Belonging for ALL

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[www.masterpiecealliance.org](http://www.masterpiecealliance.org)  PO Box 2924, Salem, VA 24153  540-389-2610



# Masterpiece Alliance's Vision and Mission

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## The Current Reality:

- Having a disability or having a child with a disability often leads to living isolated in society's margins. This reality of isolation also exists within the church, where families impacted by disability too often report not feeling a sense of belonging.

## Our Vision - Our Preferred Reality:

- People with disabilities and their families find belonging and purpose in meaningful community.

## Our Mission - Our Plan to Implement Our Vision:

- **MA Community:** An inclusive community for people of ALL abilities
- **MA Church Network:** Support and equip the local church to proactively become places of belonging while creating roles of purpose for people with disabilities and their families



# A Vision for the Future

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Masterpiece Alliance's long-term vision is that:

**God will turn the  
Roanoke Valley into an**

**EPICENTER**

**of disability ministry and services**



# What could an EPICENTER look like?

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- Day support
- Respite care
- Event center
- Conferences
- Wedding venue
- Friendship homes
- Jobs and coaching
- Accessible recreation
- Business partnerships
- Retirement community
- Parent/Family Support
- Education and Training
- Community engagement
- Mixed living neighborhoods



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Active, engaged,  
and intentional  
Partner Churches  
of Belonging



# Participating Churches and Organizations

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1. **ABA of Southwest Virginia**
2. **Basilica of St. Andrew**
3. Bedrock Church - Forest
4. **Blue Ridge Christian Camp**
5. **The Bridge Church**
6. Calvary Chapel Roanoke
7. Catawba Valley Baptist
8. **Cave Spring Baptist**
9. Central United Methodist
10. **Christ Our Redeemer**
11. **Christ the King**
12. Cburg First Church of God
13. **Champions4Parents**
14. **Church of the Holy Spirit**
15. Cloverdale Church of the Brethren
16. College Lutheran Church
17. Community Advent Church
18. **Covenant Presbyterian**
19. **Covenant REC**
20. **Edgewood Christian**
21. **Fellowship Community**
22. First Christian - Salem
23. **Franklin County Parent Resource Center**
24. FREE Foundation
25. Grandin Court Baptist
26. **The Hill Church**
27. Hollins Road Church of the Brethren
28. HopeTree Family Services
29. Iglesia La Roca
30. Joni and Friends
31. Living Well
32. **Masterpiece Alliance Staff**
33. **Melrose Baptist**
34. **Messiah Lutheran**
35. **New Hope Roanoke**
36. **North Roanoke Baptist**
37. Orchard Hills
38. **Our Lady of Nazareth**
39. **Parkway Church on the Mountain**
40. **Penn Forest Worship Center**
41. Rainbow Forest Baptist
42. Roanoke Valley Capernaum
43. **Restoration Church**
44. Salem Baptist
45. **Salem/North Roanoke Young Life**
46. **Shenandoah District of the Wesleyan Church**
47. **St. John Lutheran**
48. Summerdean Church of the Brethren
49. **Thomas Road Baptist Church**
50. Victory Restoration Church
51. **Walking on Water**
52. **Westminster Presbyterian**



# The Body of Christ Needs Everyone

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## **The Model of Jesus: Always Pursuing Those In Life's Margins**

Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**Luke 14:12-14**



# the 5 stages

changing attitudes

A RESOURCE OF ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES

## STAGE 1: IGNORANCE

Weaknesses and disabilities are a sign that God either does not care or is not able to fix the situation. In fact, they may be a result of sin or a lack of faith. God is not involved in the life of someone with a disability, because He can't use people who are so broken. I do not know people with disabilities, nor do I know anything about disabilities. I have no interest in getting to know them or to know more about their life.

## STAGE 2: PITY

I feel sorry for people with disabilities. It's too bad, really. I am blessed by God and I can help others. I am grateful that my friends and family members are not disabled. People with weaknesses and disabilities obviously need someone like me to help them and give them meaning, due to their troubles. I really don't see any meaning or purpose to their lives.

## STAGE 3: CARE

Like me, people with disabilities were created in God's image. By that virtue alone they have value. I hope that someone will take the time to show them God's love, and I will happily support such an effort. In fact, I think we need to find ways to help those people. Maybe we should do something to help, like with Special Olympics or with a nearby group home.

## STAGE 4: FRIENDSHIP

I have come to know and spend time with a friend who has a disability. This person has value in God's sight, but also in mine, and I know that my life is better for having known this person, and as much as I have helped her, she has also blessed me. In fact, I now like to initiate relationships with people who have disabilities. God brings many different people into my life, including people with disabilities, and we all benefit as we grow in friendship with each other.

## STAGE 5: CO-LABORERS

If God has called each of us to serve and praise Him with every fiber of our beings, then He has done the same for our brothers and sisters in Christ with disabilities. I think ministry should not just be to people with disabilities, but with or alongside people who have disabilities. Together, we will encourage and equip each other, with and without disabilities, into every good work to respond to God's call on our lives. We can all give and we can all receive.

Ephesians  
2:10 Churches  
of Belonging

AWARENESS

ACCESS

INCLUSION

BELONGING



VISIT THE WHEATON CENTER  
FOR FAITH AND DISABILITY  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND RESOURCES.



Elim

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DAN VANDER PLAATS, WITH THANKS TO ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES,  
DISABILITY CONCERNS CRC AND RCA, ENGAGING DISABILITY, JONI  
AND FRIENDS, AND WHEATON COLLEGE

## MACN #1

9/28/23

**Speakers: Scott and KJ  
Masterpiece Alliance**  
Belonging and Kingdom Roles

Resource:

[Editable Self Audit Tool:  
Who do we have?](#)

## MACN #2

11/8/23

**Speaker: Brad Mowry  
Young Life Capernaum**  
Barriers to Belonging

Resource:

[Editable Survey:  
What barriers exist?](#)

## MACN #3

1/25/24

**Speaker: Dr. Alan McLucas  
Virginia Tech**  
Behavior & The Kingdom

Resource:

[Autism Links, ABA/behaviorism, Behavioral  
Basics & Church, Inclusive Churches](#)

## MACN #4

3/13/25

**Speaker: Ryan Wolfe  
Ability Ministry**  
Start with Who You Have

Resource:

[Ability Ministry.com](#)

## MACN #5

5/16/24

**Speaker: Group Sharing**  
Stories of Success

Resource:

Let's grab coffee and talk about how MA can  
serve your church!

## MACN #6

10/11/24

**Speaker: Christine Boyle  
Invited In Ministry**  
A Family's Story & What the Church  
Can Learn from Disney

Resource:

Assessments from #1 & #2

## MACN #7

1/16/25

**Speaker: Meekins Family  
Champions 4 Parents**  
How the Church Can Support  
Parents

Resource:

Assessments from #1 & #2  
[Champions4Parents.com](#)

## MACN #8

2/22/25

**WORKSHOP**  
**The Church and  
Disabilities: Equipping  
God's Masterpieces**

## MACN #9

3/13/25

**Speaker: Erik Carter  
Baylor University**  
Components of Belonging

Resource:

[Components of Belonging](#)

## MACN #10

5/15/25

**Speaker: Group Sharing**  
Practices of Belonging

## MACN #11

9/18/25

**Speaker: Brad Mowry  
FCA All Abilities**  
Chronic Sorrow

## MACN #12

11/20/25

**Speakers: Tracy Terrill  
and Brian Canright  
Shepherds College**  
On and For Purpose

Resource:

[Appropriate Independence](#)

## MACN #13

2/19/26

**Speaker: Lauren Hickman  
Wonderfully Made**  
Next Steps for Churches

Resource:

[Disability Ministry Resources](#)

## MACN #14

3/12/26

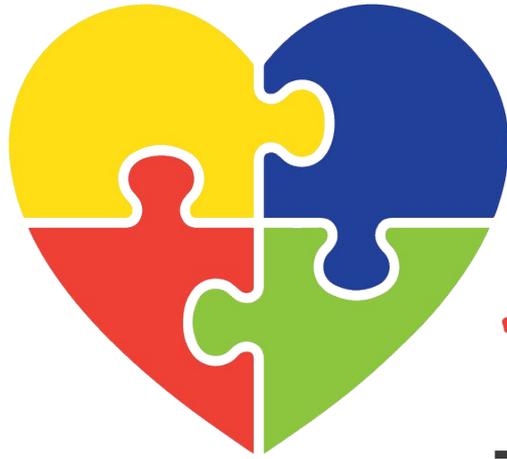
**Speaker: Catherine Boyle  
Key Ministry**  
Mental Health & The Church

# Lauren Hickman

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- Master's Degree in Special Education
- Lead teacher, Hope Allen Center for Exceptional Children
- Director, Wonderfully Made Ministry at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Hickory, North Carolina.
- Enjoys partnering with schools and churches to support individuals with disabilities and their families by focusing on helping churches develop sustaining disability ministries by practical trainings and inclusive classroom design





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# Your Homework/Take Home Resource

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Lauren has graciously shared a [Google Drive folder](#) with Disability Ministry Resources for churches. Be sure to check them out, and let her know if you have questions. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oVYERgEh2qheuRpfPSRhFQGMBuealcE5>

Lauren's email is: [lauren.hickman@tcshickory.org](mailto:lauren.hickman@tcshickory.org)



# Save the Date

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## MACN #14

Thursday, 3/12/26

**Speaker:**

**Catherine Boyle, Key Ministry**  
Mental Health & the Church

*Who else from your church should attend?*



# Lead Pastors can attend free!

Great  
worship.  
Inspired  
Teaching.  
Practical  
Guidance.  
Beautiful  
Fellowship.



Take  
advantage of  
having this  
amazing  
resource so  
close by!

[DisabilityAndTheChurch.com](https://DisabilityAndTheChurch.com)



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# Partnering with Masterpiece Alliance

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## ● Short Term Ideas

- Build a relationship with the MA staff person in your area
- MA as Resource for Church Growth:
  - Bring people to MACN events and include us in your disability conversations
  - Invite MA staff to speak at a church function - sermon, Sunday School, etc
- MA as a Tool for Missional Living:
  - Work with our staff to recruit a team to be MA Volunteer Leaders
    - Attend MA Clubs (2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6:00-7:30)
    - Attend the quarterly Leader Dinner
    - Invite Community members to church once relationships have been built
  - Work with our staff to recruit people to be drivers
- Host an MA Club at your church and serve pizza
- Add MA to your missions budget

## ● Long Term Considerations

- Shared staff - a new part-time hire for you becomes a part-time for us as well
- **Become a service provider in the Epicenter - ex. Day Support**
- Connect us to others who can be part of the Epicenter Vision



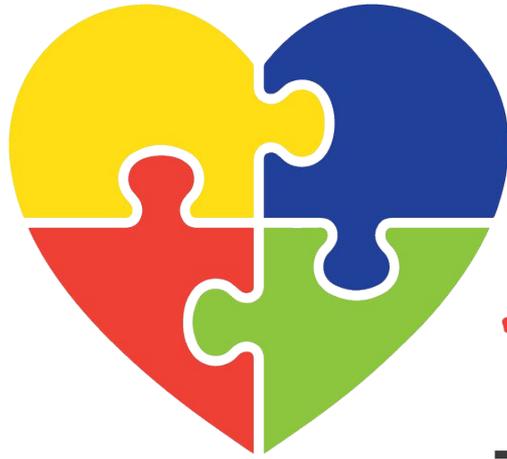
# WE NEED YOUR CHURCH: Summer Day Camp

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*5th Annual Day Camp - in partnership with Capernaum - is a GREAT way to partner with MA and a practical and accessible vehicle for your church to live missionally!*

- **Qualifications:** You have to be nice.
- **Dates:** Tues, June 16 - Thurs, June 18
- **Location:** Church of the Holy Spirit
- **Times:** 2:30-7:30 each day
- **MA needs:**
  - **#1 - Adult buddies - all 3 days**
  - **#2 - Behind the Scenes - ideally 3 days**
  - **#3 - Food Service Team - 10 people/1 night**
  - **#4 - Camp sponsorship (\$500)**
- These are the BEST 3 DAYS OF THE SUMMER and worthy of a schedule adjustment!





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