When planning for Disabilities Awareness Month, many congregations have requested resources for discussion groups, Sunday Schools, or monthly meditations. Following are a few thoughts for reflection and conversation:

- “A church is not just four walls. It is the body of Christ and the family of God.”
  *Who is the family of God?*

- “‘Valued’ is being seen as someone who brings gifts and talents, being seen as a contributor,” Ginny Thornburgh, director of an interfaith initiative for the American Association of People with Disabilities.
  *Do we let those of all abilities contribute in our church/congregation, in experiences of worship, study, service and leadership?*

- “We are called to be servants, and service is the highest possible joy.”
  *Do you provide the opportunities so that all may serve and experience this highest possible joy? Is your congregation aware of the ‘We Are Able workcamp?’*

- "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'" - Isaiah 40:3-5
  *To ‘make straight the paths’ is a call to remove the barriers that prevent us from worshiping together. What barriers – physical or attitudinal – need to be addressed in your congregation so that all may serve and be served?*

~~ Heddie Sumner  
*Midland Church of the Brethren*  
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