



WELCOME TO

The Compassionate Way

we're so glad you're here!

Courageously Compassionate

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about advocacy. The Compassionate Way is a ministry that listens and speaks on behalf of the voices who have been silenced. We strive to accompany individuals who have been marginalized by society.

At airports there are signs that say, "If you see something, say something." If a person witnesses an activity that could threaten the safety and well-being of passengers, it is imperative that this is reported to the appropriate officials.

There are times when it would be easier, much easier, to remain silent and pretend that you are unaware of another person's rights being infringed upon. Courageously compassionate means that we are willing to stand in the gap for others.

This is what Jesus modeled repeatedly throughout his ministry. He willingly saw, heard, and valued those dismissed by society – those marginalized.



He exhibited courageous compassion with the woman caught in adultery, with the lepers who cried out to be healed, with Nicodemus who was despised by others, and the list goes on and on. He didn't let the opinion of others influence his actions. He put love into action on behalf of those who were looked down upon by society.

What does it look like to be courageously compassionate in your context? How is God inviting you to advocate for others? May you exhibit courageous compassion on behalf of the voices who have been silenced!

The phrase "to hear the voices of peoples long silenced" is from the PCUSA's Brief Statement of Faith.



Temperatures and Prices Dropping

The Compassionate Way seeks to bless as many people as possible. Thus, we attempt to purchase items when the prices are reduced or utilize store coupons. The new year brought many sales; items at one store were 90% off! I purchased 23 thermal pants/tops, 17 pairs of gloves, 26 headbands, 13 hooded scarves, 16 slipper socks, 9 kitchen towel sets (2 pack), 3 washcloth sets (4 packs), 4 sock sets (3 packs), and 1 fuzzy sock set (2 pack) all for \$190.00!

The temperatures were in the single digits the day I purchased these items. The gloves, thermal pants and tops, and some headbands were delivered immediately to Open Arms, a drop-in center for those experiencing homelessness.

The kitchen towel sets will be distributed to residents moving into Creekside Community, a ministry of My Neighbor to Love Coalition or to persons transitioning out of a recovery house into independent living.

At another store, I was able to purchase tumblers with reusable straws for 25 cents! These will be used in blessing baskets.

When you contribute to The Compassionate Way, please know that we make every effort for your dollars to be utilized well. It is our hope to extend compassion to as many people as possible.

Funding for The Compassionate Way



How is The Compassionate Way funded? This is a question that is frequently asked. The short answer is through extremely generous individuals! Some of these individuals are members of Lakes Area Presbyterian Church, others are members of congregations within Minnesota Valleys Presbytery, and still other donors are individuals who resonate with our vision and mission. Also, we have been blessed to receive grant funding from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., First Presbyterian Church of Madelia, Minnesota and the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls.

Nevertheless, for this ministry to become sustainable we need additional individuals to financially support this ministry. While we do our very best to minimize expenses, there are costs we are unable to reduce. One of our major expenses is to compensate our missionary leader, who is responsible for the daily operations of this ministry. She leads worship services and Bible studies, offers pastoral care, creates and facilitates compassionate connection circles, gathers supplies for blessings bags, baskets, boxes, and buckets and the compassion closet and distribute them, and oversees all administration details. Please prayerfully consider making a financial gift to The Compassionate Way.

We need your support. Please consider joining The Compassionate Way movement. Your gifts enable us to spread the Good News! You may give online by clicking <https://lpchurchbaxter.org/give-on-line-here/> or by Scanning the QR code with your phone



or mail a check to The Compassionate Way at 7761 Excelsior Rd., Baxter, MN 56425. Checks should be made out to Lakes Area Presbyterian Church - our fiscal agent.

Ministry Updates



The Board of Directors approved some important updates for The Compassionate Way. First, they endorsed the ministry's priorities:

1. Exalt – We exalt our compassionate God through worship.
2. Express – We express compassion through our interactions (deep listening) with others.
3. Exhibit – We exhibit compassion, love in action, through blessing baskets, bags, boxes, buckets and our compassion closet.
4. Educate – We create experiential education opportunities where individuals may encounter God, who is compassionate.
5. Equip – We equip individuals with tools that foster self-compassion and compassion for others.

As a new worshipping community, we believe these priorities are essential to our mission. We desire to foster a Christ-centered community of compassion.

Next, the Board agreed to expand our ministry outreach to Good Samaritan Society – Bethany assisted and independent living facility. Currently, there are 36 residents residing in this community.

Finally, we adopted the tagline “The Compassionate Way, A Church on Wheels.” Originally, our name included “A Church on Wheels.” More and more, this exemplifies our reality. We are thrilled to offer spiritual formation opportunities in multiple settings.

