



MARCH 2025

# WELCOME TO The Compassionate Way

*we're so glad you're here!*

## Grow and Bloom

When I was a junior in high school, I attended a Christian conference called "Grow for It." It was then that I sensed God was calling me to ministry – to share the Good News of God's love with others. Over the years, my calling has unfolded in a variety of ways; however, there has been a consistent desire to accompany individuals as they heal, grow, and bloom.

As the dark and cold days of winter will soon give way to springtime, I yearn to see new growth. Over the winter months, I keep some plants in our "heated" garage. Recently, I have neglected my plants. Unbeknownst to me, the other day I watered them and discovered that one of my plants that hadn't bloomed for several years was putting on blossoms. I was so excited, and I realized that this growth had nothing to do with my care.

Thankfully, as I accompany individuals through The Compassionate Way their growth has nothing to do with me. It is the Holy Spirit who brings about spiritual growth in a person's life. I am merely fortunate enough to witness these amazing transformations.

One of the places where I encounter significant transformations is at Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge. I have been blessed to meet so many amazing and courageous women at that facility. Each one has a unique story. But what they have in common is a desire to heal, grow, and bloom. They want to flourish. It is my prayer that God utilizes our Compassionate Connection Circles to encourage them, and they feel and experience God's love.



# Spreading Love

Throughout the month of February, compassion was extended through random acts of love. A delightful group of individuals gathered at Good Samaritan Society-Woodland assisted and independent living and prepared blessing bags for individuals at Breath of Life. (Breath of Life provides an encouraging, caring, Christian atmosphere for dependent adults in a safe environment. As a day service provider, they offer caregivers respite.) One of their staff recommended appropriate items for these wonderful individuals. Each person received a bag filled with a tumbler, sugar-free candy, hot chocolate packets, word search books, a mini packet of tissues, and hand sanitizer. The bags were delivered during Valentine's week.

Women at Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge, Agape Manor, and Good News Recovery House received mini stackable storage containers with the following message: "No Matter How You Stack It, God Loves You!" The storage containers were donated by friends of The Compassionate Way.



# Prayer Points

- Please pray for the residents residing at Good Samaritan Society – Bethany as we embark on forming new relationship with them.
- Please pray for our friends at My Neighbor to Love Coalition, as they prepare a 12-plex for new residents! We are grateful to God for this wonderful organization who is providing long-term solutions to end homelessness in Baxter and Brainerd.
- Please pray for those who are lonely and feel as though no one cares about them. May they encounter someone who will shower them with God's compassion.
- Please pray for men and women who are receiving treatment and are away from their families.
- Please pray for caregivers, who are exhausted from the demands of providing for a loved one. Also, pray for agencies who offer caregivers respite and support (Breath of Life).
- Please pray for staff at nonprofit organizations who provide critical services to those who are marginalized. There are so many amazing individuals who extend compassion to those who are often overlooked or forgotten.



Please consider joining The Compassionate Way movement. This ministry is possible due to the financial gifts of individuals committed to our mission and vision. Your gifts enable us to spread the Good News! You may give online by clicking <https://lpchurchbaxter.org/give-online-here/> 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.

**[HTTPS://THE-COMPASSIONATE-WAY.ORG/](https://the-compassionate-way.org/)**