



NOVEMBER 2025

WELCOME TO

The Compassionate Way

we're so glad you're here!

Connection and Compassion are for Everyone



You are invited to a special event centered on what truly brings us together — Connection and Compassion. We will gather around the table to share not only a delicious meal, but also the gift of meaningful conversation.

In an age where so many feel isolated or overlooked, this is a time to slow down, listen, and rediscover the joy of community. Together, we will reflect on how compassion — simple acts of kindness, understanding, and care — can transform hearts and strengthen relationships.

As we eat and engage in conversation, we'll be reminded that compassion is not limited to a select few; it is a gift and calling for everyone. Whether through a smile, a helping hand, or a word of encouragement, each of us has the power to make a difference. Come hungry for good food and open to sharing life with others. Connection and Compassion are for everyone — and that includes you.

We will meet on Thursday, November 20 at 5:00 p.m. at Lakes Area Presbyterian Church. Please **register** by Wednesday, November 19 - call or text Candace Adams at 320-905-5453! This will ensure that there is plenty of food.

*We are grateful for the generosity of
The Initiative Foundation for sponsoring this event.*



BEFORE

The Compassionate Workshop

Recently, I embarked on a new hobby: refinishing furniture. After watching numerous online videos showing the transformation of pieces, I felt a growing desire to try the process myself. It has quickly become a spiritual endeavor.

I intentionally select pieces that have been damaged and discarded. I see value where others may not. This practice has become a vivid reflection of the ministry of The Compassionate Way.

When a piece arrives, the first step is a deep cleaning, removing years of dirt and grime. The water and vinegar mixture quickly turns murky. Next comes stripping the paint or varnish to reach the original wood. Sanding is usually necessary, but caution is required. If the piece is made of pressed wood, too much sanding risks causing further harm. Although perfection might tempt us, some “wounds” need to remain.

It would certainly be easier to simply prime and paint over everything. Yet I intentionally preserve a portion of the wood grain—wounds and all. These pieces tell a story, not of perfection, but of resilience and courage. Their imperfections reveal the reality of neglect and misuse. Even after cleaning, stripping, sanding, staining, and varnishing, some evidence of the journey remains.

At times, a piece requires more than refinishing. It needs repair, and it is joined back together with wood glue. Glue does not dry instantly. The piece must be held tightly in a clamp. The clamp reminds me of God’s steady hold on us: gentle yet firm. God does not let go.

Too often, we expect people to be fine, urging them to erase their painful past and start anew. Although our pain and past do not need to define us, it does shape our story.

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When I first received Rahab's Table, it was clear that "she" had endured a difficult life. People had scribbled across her surface, leaving vivid marks behind. As I began to strip away the layers on the table, I found myself thinking about Rahab's story (Joshua 2-6). Rahab didn't allow the marks that had been placed on her to define herself. Instead, she stepped forward in courage, hiding the spies and forever altering her life and the lives of her family. She experienced redemption. God granted her a new beginning.

Rahab's Table is for anyone who has felt used, abused, or cast aside. "She" embodies the truth that God's beauty remains and that our God-given purpose cannot be taken away by the actions of others. God gently restores, patiently repairs, and steadfastly holds us together. May we embrace our own stories and those of others with the same grace, remembering that our ultimate identity rests in God alone.



RAHAB'S TABLE RESTORED

Would You Bless Someone Moving into Long-Term Housing by Sponsoring Rahab's Table?

All proceeds donated toward Rahab's Table will be go to The Compassionate Way! We look forward to donating it to someone.

If you are interested in sponsoring Rabab's Table, please send a check of any amount to Lakes Area Presbyterian Church at 7761 Excelsior Rd.; Baxter, MN 56425. Be sure to note on the memo line: The Compassionate Way Rahab's Table.