

SPRING 2026



PLACES OF WELCOME NEWSLETTER

The Pothier's

*"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."
-Philippians 2:5*

Dear Friends of Places of Welcome,

These days, it's easy to feel the pull toward division. The world often encourages us to draw lines, to separate ourselves from those who think, act, or believe differently. Yet as followers of Christ, we are called to something radically different—to reflect His love, humility, and unity in all we do (Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 2:6; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Romans 8:29).

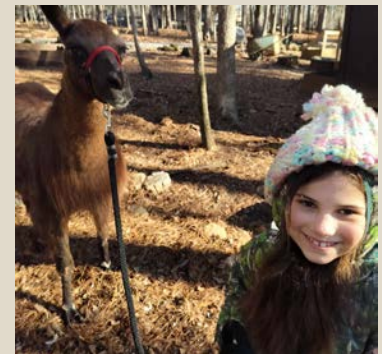
During our time leading the Jesus Kitchen at Rainbow Gatherings, we worked alongside volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives. One guiding principle we held was to avoid political conversations—not out of avoidance, but out of intention. We didn't want anything to create unnecessary division between us or become a barrier for those we were serving. Our hope has always been that no one would walk away from an opportunity to encounter Jesus because of differing opinions.

We share this to reaffirm our commitment: to pursue the mindset of Christ in how we live, love, and serve—loving God and loving our neighbors with open hearts.

In March, our family had the opportunity to attend a retreat at Lionhood, a place dedicated to helping missionaries rediscover their identity and purpose. It was a meaningful time of rest and renewal.

Ben gained deeper clarity around his gifts and how to use them in ministry. Teresa was able to reconnect with her creative side through watercolor painting.

The kids thrived—Eva enjoyed time with a close friend, Oliver spent hours building a dam in the stream, and we all shared in the joy of a peaceful walk through the woods...with llamas! It was a beautiful space to slow down, dream, and listen.



Prayer Requests

- Continue to pray for Minneapolis and St. Paul and our immigrant neighbors.
- Pray for those who think differently than you. May the Lord bless them,
- Pray for us as we seek wisdom on how to love well.
- Continue to pray with us against the hate and violence that is trying to take root in our nation, cities, and lives.
- Pray for wisdom as we pursue further education and for provision for the added financial responsibilities.
- Pray for guidance for our future as we continue to follow God's calling.

After our retreat, we were grateful for the opportunity to spend time traveling and connecting with dear friends and ministry partners across Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. It was a meaningful season of encouragement, shared stories, and deepened relationships.

Over the past year, we've sensed a growing need to be better equipped for the work God has called us to. Teresa began exploring graduate programs and, after navigating a few unexpected challenges, was accepted into the Master of Social Work program at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. We're grateful to share that she has already received two scholarships, covering nearly her first semester.

As we step into this new season of learning, we're focusing more intentionally on our pillar of education—growing in knowledge so we can serve more effectively, especially those on the margins. While we will continue hosting guests in the Duplex, part of our attention will shift toward this season of preparation.

We invite you to partner with us in this journey. Your prayers and financial support mean so much as we take these steps forward. Teresa will continue pursuing scholarships and grants, and if you feel led, we would be grateful for any support toward tuition and books.

Ben is also exploring opportunities in life coaching as another way to come alongside others in meaningful, transformative ways.

Recently, a guest who had been staying in our duplex for about five months moved on. Though longer than our usual stay, we felt it was important to extend that time. Ben met with them regularly throughout their stay, building a relationship and offering support along the way.

Your partnership makes this possible, and we are deeply grateful.

Thank you for standing with us — in hope and in steadfast love.

Thank you for walking with us, for your prayers, and for your continued support.



To learn more about supporting
Places of Welcome
please visit
www.theplacesofwelcome.org
or scan the QR code:



Thank you for your partnership and being on this journey with us!

Blessings,

Ben & Teresa Pothier

theplacesofwelcome@gmail.com