

Background.

In 2013, recognizing the central role that faith and spirituality play in the lives of many domestic violence survivors, the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force launched an Interfaith Initiative on Domestic Violence. In 2018, after years of reflection, outreach and training in the community, Task Force members became aware of the need for one on one spiritual support for survivors, many of whom both rely on their spirituality for strength, and are separated from their faith community or spiritual practice as a result of abuse. As a result the Task Force, in collaboration with Growing a New Heart, launched this program.

To learn more about the Program, contact the Task Force at wrvdvtaskforce@gmail.com



Ware River Valley
Domestic Violence Task Force



GROWING
A NEW
HEART

Program Partners.

United Church of Ware, Ware
Trinity Episcopal Church, Ware
Tri-Parish Community Church,
Hardwick-Gilbertville, New Braintree
Saint Paul's Church, Palmer
Behavioral Health Network at Valley
Human Services, Ware
Growing a New Heart
Ware River Valley Domestic Violence
Task Force www.waredvtaskforce.org
www.wrvdvtaskforce@gmail.com or
413-758-0605

**Chaplains are either ordained or sponsored
by an ordained faith leader from a faith
community listed above.*

Funding for this program is provided in part by a grant provided to the towns of Ware, Warren and Hardwick by the MA DHCD CDGB program. Brochure developed in 2020.

Ware River Valley Chaplaincy Program

Serving the communities of the Quaboag Hills



An Interfaith Initiative
of the
Ware River Valley
Domestic Violence
Task Force
www.waredvtaskforce.org
and

Growing a New Heart
www.growinganewheart.org

About the Chaplaincy Program

Our Mission is to support the spiritual well-being of survivors of domestic violence in the Quaboag Valley by providing trained lay and ordained domestic violence chaplains. Our chaplains provide spiritual support to survivors regardless of their individual faith or spiritual tradition.

The Program – How It Works. Trained chaplains are available to meet with you in person, and/or are available to communicate with you by phone or text. Chaplains might help you reconnect with your own spiritual strength, tradition or practice, or may simply offer you insights and support after listening to your story. If requested, chaplains can also offer prayers. Above all, chaplains are trained to follow your lead, to honor the faith or spiritual practice of your choosing, and to maintain safety and confidentiality.

Chaplains receive 25 hours of training on domestic violence prior to joining the Program and on-going peer supervision, training and consultation

as part of the Program. This Program is not ‘confessional’ in nature. If confessional services are requested, an appropriate referral will be made.

Chaplains are available to meet with a survivor up to 6 times. After three meetings with a chaplain, survivors are encouraged to also work with a domestic violence advocate. Chaplains meet regularly with advocates, and are available to meet with a survivor and advocate together.

Our Chaplains . . .

- Work only with the survivor, referring people who use violence for outside help
- Work with, respect and support people of any faith or religion, and do not attempt to convert anyone to a different faith
- Acknowledge that while many faith texts and teachings provide strength, others can be misused or taken out of context to support abusive behavior
- Provide services in a way that follows the lead of the person receiving support, and in a way that supports their direct relationship with the Divine however they define it
- Honor and support people of any race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation or ability

To Be Connected With a Chaplain contact one of the chaplains listed below or have a chaplain contact you. To contact a chaplain directly call or email one of the chaplains listed below.

Current Chaplains.

Mother Mary Rosendale, 970-640-6461

Pastor Deb Shepard, 413-478-0731,
debasheps@aol.com,

Peggy Baxter, United Church of Ware,
413-813-8627, m.baxter2010@comcast.net,

Pat James, Saint Paul’s Church, Palmer,
413 -726- 8661, trishljam@aol.com

To Have A Chaplain Contact You contact the Task Force or our partners at Behavioral Health Network. You can reach the Task Force at 413-758-0605, wrvdvtaskforce@gmail.com or www.waredvtaskforce.org. You can reach the Domestic Violence Program at BHN at 413-750-8053 or 413-967-6241 Ext: 122.
