

# DISCOVER *Us*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## DISCOVER IN THE COMMUNITY: PATUXENT ELEMENTARY

Read more about our budding partnership with a local Maryland school.

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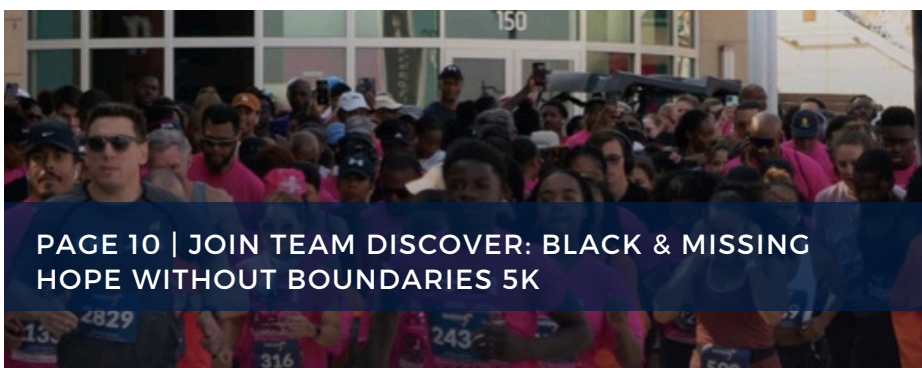
## SUNDAY SERVICE + COMMUNITY SERVICE: EASTER 2024

Discover celebrated this special day with a joint service and Service Sunday project.

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## WHAT'S NEXT: UPCOMING EVENTS

Find out how you can be a part of what's happening at Discover Community Church.

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# KICKING OFF 2024: LEADERSHIP RETREAT

All roads led to the mountains of Bluemont, Virginia from Jan. 12-14 for the 2024 Discover Leadership Retreat. The leadership team reserves this special time each year to discuss lessons learned, review best practices and look ahead to the year in front of us. The action-packed weekend is filled with planning sessions, presentations, candid conversations and reflection, with lots of laughs mixed in.

The weekend kicked off on Friday night with dinner and games led by Tasha Johnson to have a little fun before diving into work. This year's agenda included:

**Year in Review (Lanette Richardson)** - Our Director of Communications kicked things off and walked the team through all of the initiatives we took on in 2023. The presentation was a great overview of the time, talent and teamwork Discover invested in 2023 and highlighted the impact we are making in our community.

**Strengths & Opportunities (Aisha Berkeley)** - The 2023 Recap was the perfect segue into our Director of Administration's presentation focusing on our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as a ministry. With the 2023 initiatives fresh on our minds, the team was able to assess what worked, didn't work and how we can improve our service to the community. It was an eye-opening presentation that encouraged the team to ask the tough questions and refine our processes and expectations to make the best use of our resources going forward.

**Fiscal Health (Ericka Price)** - Our CFO, gave the team a deep dive into our financial health as a ministry. This look under the hood informs our upcoming initiatives and is a valuable exercise to ensure the leadership team remains on track with our spending and budgets.

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# KICKING OFF 2024: LEADERSHIP RETREAT CONT.



**2024 Calendar Review (Cornelius Berkeley)** - Discover's Director of Engagement walked the team through all of the planned 2024 events, outreaches, and service projects to prepare for another year of service to the community. Some of the events include the Black and Missing Hope Without Boundaries 5K, student celebration events at Patuxent Elementary School, Walk to End Alzheimer's and a college planning seminar.



**Social Justice Gospel (Pastor Mike Richardson)** - Discover's Pastor of Training and Education led an inspiring discussion on the ways the gospel should inform our response on social justice issues as individuals and as a ministry.

**MD/VA Breakout** - The leadership team broke off into groups based on their campus, to discuss campus-specific plans and concerns. We are one body, but each campus and surrounding community has unique needs that the leadership team wants to ensure we are addressing.



**Youth Outlook (Pastor Jason Johnson)** - Discover's Youth Pastor laid out the goals and plans for the youth ministry for 2024. There will be a variety of lessons and activities to keep our youth engaged, foster connections between campuses and encourage their passions.  
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## KICKING OFF 2024: LEADERSHIP RETREAT CONT.

**Facility Planning (Pastor Wesley Johnson)** - DCC has big plans for the future, and part of that vision is eventually moving into our own facility. Pastor Wes discussed the possibilities and what it would take to get Discover there.

**Next Steps (Pastor Kevin Jones)** - After a productive weekend of forecasting, evaluating DCC's processes, sharing ideas and discussing lessons learned, the team needed actionable steps to keep the momentum going. Pastor Kev led our next steps discussion designed to ensure everyone left the retreat clear about the path forward. One big takeaway from this discussion was establishing quarterly leadership team meetings. Although the team meets regularly, the quarterly meetings are longer working sessions focused on strategic planning. The leadership team held the first quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 24.

**Love Therapy (Jamila Logan)** - The team ended the weekend on a high note showing each other (and themselves) love with an exercise led by Jamila Logan. The exercise served as a great reminder that we are seen, loved and appreciated.

Thank you to all of the facilitators and the team behind the scenes that made this retreat a huge success!

WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT WHERE WE'RE HEADED?  
COME TO OUR CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING ON  
THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH!

## DISCOVER IN THE COMMUNITY: PATUXENT ELEMENTARY MOVIE DAY

Discover celebrated another successful partnership event with Patuxent Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Patuxent had a movie day for the students on February 23 and showed the 2016 movie, Trolls.

DCC provided juice boxes, water and chips for over 250 students who were rewarded for their participation in school, good behavior and excellent attendance. Patuxent uses these events as an incentive to create better engagement from the kids. During the movie, students sang and danced along to the music and had a great time. Our volunteers were excited to be there and thankful DCC was able to play a role in their happiness.

Additionally, DCC's CFO Ericka Price and Director of Engagement, Cornelius Berkeley, met with Patuxent's Professional School Counselor Bria Williams to obtain information on how DCC can help the school in the future. It was an excellent meeting. Stay tuned to learn about more events and opportunities to help Patuxent Elementary in the future.





## DISCOVER IN THE COMMUNITY: PATUXENT ELEMENTARY KARAOKE & DANCE PARTY

DCC volunteered at Patuxent Elementary School in Upper Marlboro on March 22 for their celebration of students who had perfect attendance and good behavior for the month of March. Patuxent had two events going on at the same time. In one room the students had a karaoke party where students could participate and sing their favorite song. Patuxent administration gave out awards to all the students who participated. DCC volunteer, Ann Brown supervised the awards and one of our DCC youth, Ava Berkeley recorded the names of the participants and the songs they wanted to perform. It was so much fun!

Over in the gym, students who had good behavior had a dance party. They danced and ran around the gym. DCC volunteers Cornelius Berkeley and Donna Rawlings worked the celebration in the gym. The last 20 minutes of the dance was filled with line dances including The Electric Slide. The hit line dance of the day was Beyoncé's new country song, "Texas Hold 'Em."

Donna Rawlings got her groove on dancing and enjoying the students having a good time. It was an amazing experience filled with joy. Next month on April 24, DCC will volunteer to help with Patuxent's sports day event. We can't wait to join the fun!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: PATUXENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Discover is partnering with Patuxent Elementary School to help execute several student celebration events throughout the school year. These events will take place during the school day, and we need volunteers to help make it happen. If you are available and interested in volunteering at one of the upcoming Patuxent events, please reach out to our Director of Engagement, Cornelius Berkeley, at [cornelius.berkeley@comediscover.org](mailto:cornelius.berkeley@comediscover.org) for more details. We are requesting volunteers for the following dates:

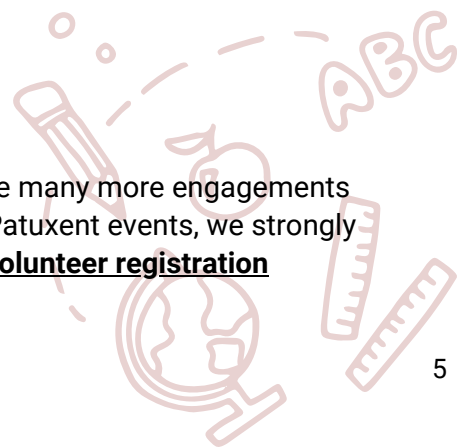
### Wednesday April 24, 2024 - Sports Day

Volunteers needed during two time slots: 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. to assist with activities.

### Friday, May 24, 2024 - Career Day

Volunteers needed to speak and share with students about their career.

Our goal is to continue this partnership for the long haul and there will be many more engagements with Patuxent. If you are interested in being a regular DCC volunteer at Patuxent events, we strongly encourage you to complete the Prince Georges County Public Schools [volunteer registration process](#).



# SERMON SERIES: NOT WHAT I HAD PLANNED

If you missed this series, you can click the image below to view the messages on our YouTube channel.



Pastor Kev shared a three-part sermon series in February and March, **"Not What I Had Planned."** In week one's message, *What About Mary?* Pastor Kev examined the story of Lazarus from Mary's perspective to pose a difficult question: How do we continue to follow God in the midst of life's greatest difficulties?

The sermon explained that we will all be Marys at some point in life and disappointed or even angry with the way things are going. The good news is that it's ok to be emotionally honest with God. DCC is creating a safe space for Marys (people with more questions than answers).

Week two's message, *Did the Father Really Say?* explored how we can end up in a place in life where we believe things God never promised. We become upset with the Father when he doesn't do what someone (not God) said he'd do.

Pastor Kev explained the differences between the new and old covenants:

In the old covenant, people used their circumstances as a litmus test to see where they stood with God.

God made promises to ancient Israel based on what they did (or did not do). God says: "If you do this, I will do this."

In the new covenant (Luke 22:20), we should not look to our circumstances, we should look at an event. Because of God's love for us, He sent his son as a sacrifice for us. God says: "Because of you, I did."

Pastor Kev cautioned us that not every instance ends in victory. There are times when life will leave you broke, busted and disgusted. However, don't overlook the grace and mercy you receive during difficult times. We can still find the promises in the new covenant because those include us. In life's most difficult moments, we should come boldly to the throne of grace and ask to receive.

Finally, in week three, Pastor Kev used the story of John the Baptist (Matthew 11:11) to illustrate the tough reality that sometimes God will do it, and sometimes he won't. As difficult as that is to accept, we are encouraged to not look at our circumstances as proof of God's love. We must look at the events of the cross and understand that God still loves us and is there for us even if what's happening is not what you had planned.

## Scripture References:

John 11:11-20  
 Luke 22:20  
 Hebrews 9:15  
 Hebrews 11:32-40  
 Hebrews 12:1  
 Hebrews 14:16  
 Matthew 11:11  
 Mark 6:18-20  
 Matthew 4:12-13



## SUNDAY SERVICE + COMMUNITY SERVICE: EASTER 2024

On March 31, DCC held a joint Easter service in Waldorf, MD. DCC celebrated with fellowship, food, music and fun. The day kicked off with mingling and refreshments, then the service began with a warm welcome and #SelfieSunday moment from DCC Maryland campus member, Calvin Tyson.

Next, Discover's praise team kicked it up a notch with a praise song led by our own Pastor Kev! Things settled down for a live Mindful Moment with Pastor Mike Richardson. Everyone was focused after the Mindful Moment, and the praise team returned with two worship songs to set the tone for Pastor Kev's sermon. Pastor Kev's sermons always have that special mix of wisdom, relatability and a bit of humor that just hits right and Easter Sunday was no different.

After the message, we transitioned into The Hang Out. The Hang Out is a time to discuss the sermon, current events, and ask questions. As usual, it was a lively discussion filled with laughs and food for thought.

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## SUNDAY SERVICE + COMMUNITY SERVICE: EASTER 2024 CONT.

Easter was also DCC's Service Sunday and we hosted a community service project to give back to the community. Attendees donated essential items including canned goods, dry goods, and toiletries for the SERVE food pantry in Stafford, VA. Everyone that participated contributed to a cause that directly supports people in need, providing food and supplies, along with hope and a message that they're not alone. That collective effort, with everyone chipping in, set the perfect tone for the day.

After service, DCC family and friends mingled, took photos, enjoyed each other's company while the kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt. Easter at Discover was a reminder that at DCC, we are about more than just coming together; we're about reaching out and lifting up those around us. It was a beautiful mix of faith, community, and collective action. Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us and contributed to making this special day a success.





DON'T  
MISS IT

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR DISCOVER: CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING



Are you curious about what's in store next for Discover? Well, mark your calendars for our church business meeting happening on **Thursday, April 11, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** At this virtual gathering, our leadership will fill you in on all the details on the direction of the ministry, including a recap of our recent retreat and our exciting plans for 2024 and beyond. **Register and let us know you're coming [here](#).**

## MOTHER'S DAY OUTREACH: AMAZING MOTHERS

We are celebrating amazing mothers in our community again this year and we need your help! Do you know an amazing mother who goes above and beyond for her family? Consider nominating her for our Amazing Mothers outreach. The Maryland nominees will have a chance to win a 30-minute massage from [Navah Physical Therapy](#) on May 11 and Virginia nominees will have a chance to win a spa pedicure courtesy of [Nail Fetish Lounge](#) on May 3.

To nominate an amazing mother, complete [this form](#) and tell us why she deserves this special treat. **Please submit your nominations no later than April 12, 2024.**



## LET'S CELEBRATE: 2ND ANNIVERSARY BOWLING PARTY



We've worked hard, now it's time to play! Both campuses are meeting up at **AMF Waldorf Lanes from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 19** for an afternoon of bowling, food and fun to celebrate our 2nd church anniversary. Bring your A-game and get ready for a great time!

Admission is \$20 per person (kids & adults) and will cover your admission, shoe rental, two hours of bowling, food and soft drinks.

**The registration deadline is May 10!** We look forward to celebrating with you! [Register here](#).

# BLACK & MISSING FOUNDATION: HOPE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES 5K

BLACK &amp; MISSING FOUNDATION



Registration is open for this year's Black & Missing Hope Without Boundaries 5K Run/Walk and we'd love for you to join Team Discover. Discover Community Church is a sponsor for this event, and it will kick off at **8 a.m. on Saturday, June 1 at National Harbor.**

Black & Missing is seeking volunteers (ages 12+) for the race. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the application [here](#).



The Hope Without Boundaries 5K Run/Walk is the largest fundraising event held by the Black and Missing Foundation to help bring awareness and exposure to the hundreds of thousands of reported missing persons of color across the country. Proceeds from the event will go towards funding for families of the missing, flyer distribution, financial support, victim recovery and burial service assistance. Go to [this link](#) to register for Team Discover today.

## WHAT'S NEXT >>>



### APRIL

**April 7**  
Watch Party

**April 11**  
Church Business Meeting  
(Online)

**April 12**  
Amazing Mothers  
Nomination Deadline

**April 21**  
Watch Party

**April 24**  
Patuxent Elementary Event  
*Volunteers Needed*

### MAY

**May 5**  
Watch Party

**May 12**  
Mother's Day

**May 15**  
2nd Church Anniversary

**May 19**  
2nd Anniversary Bowling Party  
*No Watch Parties in MD or VA*

**May 24**  
Patuxent Elementary Event  
*Volunteers Needed*

### JUNE

**June 1**  
Black & Missing Hope Without Boundaries 5K

**June 2**  
Watch Party

**June 8**  
Amazing Fathers  
Nomination Deadline  
*Details coming soon!*

**June 16**  
Father's Day &  
Watch Party

**June 29**  
College Planning  
Seminar with Thrivent  
(Online)  
*Details coming soon!*

**June 30**  
VA Service Sunday -  
Brisben Center  
*Details coming soon!*

### JULY

**July 7**  
Watch Party

**July 21**  
Watch Party



## DISCOVER SOMETHING DIFFERENT: HOW WE DO CHURCH

### Watch Parties - 1st and 3rd Sundays

A Watch Party is an in-person gathering to view the stream of Discover's Sunday service with other Discover family and friends. Gatherings are hosted in Maryland and Virginia on Sundays at 11 a.m. and are followed by The Hang Out. Light refreshments are served.

### The Hang Out - 1st and 3rd Sundays

The Hang Out is an open forum for Watch Party attendees to discuss the sermon, current events, and hear from each other. These discussions are often very lively, informative and insightful. It's a great addition to the Sunday experience.

### Self-Care Sunday - 2nd and 4th Sundays

Self-Care Sundays allow us a chance to decompress, unwind and refuel. We take a break from service and encourage everyone to hang out with family & friends, do brunch, catch a movie, relax and more. The goal is to take a day off and spend time doing whatever fills your cup.

### Service Sunday - 5th Sundays

The Discover family collaborates on community service projects every 5th Sunday to give back and make an impact in our surrounding communities. We also have a lot of fun in the process. Participating students can earn community service hours on Service Sundays.

## Stay Connected

We hope you enjoyed our quarterly newsletter and the opportunities to connect with Discover Community Church through our Watch Parties and outreach events. We encourage you to stay connected to hear more about where we are headed and how you can be a part of it. There are several ways you can stay in touch:



### Digital Connection Form

If you want to stay connected, this is the first move you should make. Completing this form ensures you are in our database and part of our mailing list for updates, future newsletters and Discover news and events.



### Our Website

This is the hub for Discover Community Church. Join our live stream, register for Watch Parties, give online, find registration links, view past services, and find out more about our story here.



### YouTube

Visit our YouTube page to watch our past services and other special content.



### Social Media

Get connected for photos, videos, upcoming events, and more!