

# DISCOVER *Us*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Helping the community and the environment!

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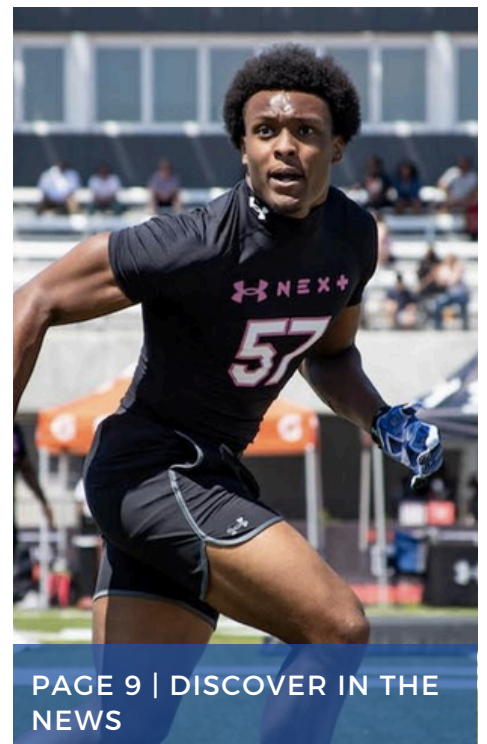
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## SERMON SERIES: CORE VALUES WRAP UP - LOVE-EDUCATION-EMPOWERMENT-UNITY



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

Our Core Values sermon series continued in July with dynamic messages from four more members of Team Discover.

### Love

On July 2, Minister Marlon Wilson shared on "Love." He started his sermon by sharing that everything we do at Discover Community Church will be done in love. How we lead, how we worship, how we serve and how we deal with people is centered in love. In Mark 12:28-3, Jesus emphasizes that the most important commandment is loving God and loving your neighbor. This matches our mission, which is to Love God, Love People and Make a Difference. It also aligns with our vision "to be a loving community engaged in the process of healing and hope for all." Minister Wilson did an excellent job ministering with so much passion and was an excellent representative of what Discover Community Church is all about.

### Education

Tasha Johnson shared our core value "Education". She did a phenomenal job of expressing our DCC stance on education. She shared that leaving room for questions to dig deeper when it comes to scripture and the things of God will help obtain a deeper understanding of the Bible and enhance our partnership with God. Tasha went on to talk about a teaching method she uses to make learning visible so that students will be able to teach the lesson to someone else.

She talked about how Jesus as the Master Teacher also used the same method by teaching using parables as a visual to teach lessons to the people. This method of teaching helps the learner take away something that can be used when church is over. Tasha used the best example in a favorite movie she loves, "Sister Act 2." She talked about how the students would come to class and do nothing. Tasha then asked a powerful question, "How many times have we gone to church and done nothing?" This really drove home the point that going to church and hearing a sermon is not enough. It's a must that we not just be hearers of the word, but we have to act on it.

### Empowerment

Our series continued on Sunday, July 16 as our Youth Pastor, Jason Johnson, shared about our core value, "Empowerment." He began by emphasizing the importance of sharing the valuable resources we have within us to empower others. Pastor Johnson reflected on one of his mentors and the many lessons he learned from his mentor that he has since implemented into his own life. Being a consistent example of character and a strong work ethic can be just as empowering as speaking positive words to people.

## SERMON SERIES: CORE VALUES WRAP UP CONT.

Pastor Johnson continued by sharing an example of empowerment in Exodus 4:14-16 as God continually empowered Moses throughout his doubts and negative self-talk. One key gift that God provided to Moses was Aaron. Aaron shared what he had to help Moses win and fulfill his purpose, which later allowed Moses to pass on his knowledge and empower Joshua to be the next leader (Deuteronomy 3:28). Pastor Johnson expressed how important it is that we “don’t Clarence Thomas it” and forget the people and systems that empowered us once we reach a certain level of success. It is our responsibility to find opportunities to pass on what we know and give others a helping hand just as someone did for us. Pastor Johnson closed with a beautiful example of the lasting impact that empowering others can have, by sharing a story about the lives that his father impacted in his community. The investments that his father made decades ago are still being mentioned, appreciated and making an impact.

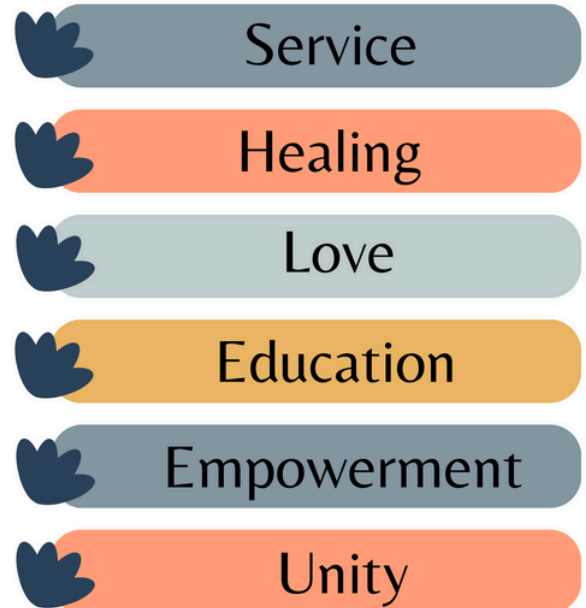
### Unity

Minister Michael Logan shared with us next about our core value, “Unity”. Minister Logan defined unity and a common mistake the modern church makes when it comes to it. “In our efforts to promote unity, we unintentionally equate oneness with sameness”. Minister Logan laid out his case by sharing some vital statistics on the Christian Church in 2023. One of the key things he shared is that although there is a new crop of people interested in the church, we are still losing many of them. He outlined several reasons why people are leaving including political polarization, having non-religious partners, and changing views about the relationship of morality and religion. All of these differences cause us to separate.

Minister Logan then referenced 1 Corinthians 12:4-27 and the many ways the Corinthian church mirrors our churches today. In the passage, Paul encourages the church to work together, break up their factions, repent of their rivalries and build up the faith of those who are weak. This is also what we should be doing as the modern church.

The passage goes on to explain that just like the human body has many parts, so does the church. Each part is different, but vital to help the body function as a whole. We are all different, all valuable, and not interchangeable. Once we understand that as a church, we can achieve true unity.

### Our Core Values





## SERVICE SUNDAY: DCC CLEANS THE DMV!

For our July service Sunday project, Discover got outside to impact our community and environment. Our “DCC Cleans the DMV” project challenged DCC family and friends to identify an area in their community that could benefit from some sprucing up and clean it up during the week of July 30 - Aug. 5. Participants formed teams of family and friends to collect trash and beautify an area of their choice. Throughout the week-long initiative, teams were encouraged to collect trash, recycle items, complete yard work and even help older neighbors with these tasks. This event was a great way to protect our environment while serving the community. Thank you to everyone who participated and made a difference!

Discover also made contributions to three of our non-profit community partners for Service Sunday. In Virginia, we donated to Lois Ann’s Hope House and Brisben Center. These two organizations provide temporary housing for families that are experiencing homelessness. We also donated to The Clarion Call in Maryland whose mission is “to close the literacy and achievement gap of underserved youth and children of the incarcerated so that they avoid incarceration, succeed in school and graduate fully prepared to lead productive lives.” Thanks to your generous contributions to Discover Community Church, we are able to make a difference for so many in our community.

*Some of our Discover Kids got out into their community and cleaned up a local playground.*





## DISCOVER

## ★ ★ ★ YOUR

## IMPACT

While the kids were on summer break, Discover was busy making sure one of our area schools started off strong. Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to answer the call and purchase supplies for the 500+ students at Spotswood Elementary School in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The school is now stocked with 48 headphones, 144 jump ropes, 20 mini footballs, 48 playground balls and 216 composition notebooks! Thank you for your contributions to the work Discover is doing in the community! Special thanks goes out to Tasha Johnson and Ericka Price for working together to make this happen for the students.

48

HEADPHONES

144

JUMP ROPES

20

MINI FOOTBALLS

48

PLAYGROUND  
BALLS

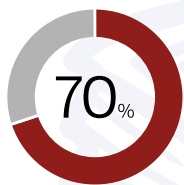
216

COMPOSITION  
NOTEBOOKS

## THE SUNDAY EXPERIENCE: WHERE THE MONEY GOES

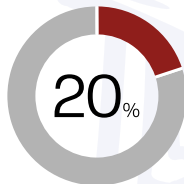
Due to your generosity, we are able to provide engaging programming and impactful community outreach programs. When you give to Discover Community Church, we want you to know exactly where your contributions are going. Here is a breakdown of the way we utilize your contributions:

When there is an average, the money is divided into 3 categories:



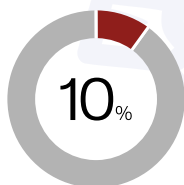
*Operations*

- Salaries
- Bills
- Ministry expenses



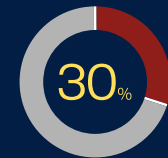
*Community*

- Business partners
- Non-profit partners
- People investment

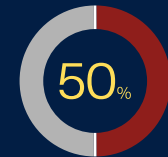


*Long-Term Savings*

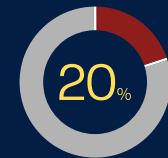
- Buildings
- Businesses



**LONG-TERM SAVINGS**



**PEOPLE INVESTMENT**



**COMMUNITY GIVING**



## THE FAMILY REUNION: FAM, FUN & AWARDS

On Sunday, Aug. 20, Discover held our Family Reunion in Fredericksburg, VA. It was a beautiful day filled with fellowship, family, great food, and fun. Attendees enjoyed a short service featuring the DCC praise team and a dynamic sermon from Pastor Kev. He shared the importance of the affirmation of diversity of thought and how it permeates the way we operate at Discover Community Church. The brilliant people that make up DCC and their unique talents, gifts and viewpoints make us special and allow us to produce quality decisions.

The day continued with our awards ceremony, a celebration of recent graduates and a few rock stars that are an integral part of the Discover family.

After the awards, attendees enjoyed food from Phil and Syl's Catering, games, a water balloon fight, moon bounce and great conversation. It is always special when both campuses are able to come together. Thank you to our gracious hosts, the Wilson family, the wonderful team who worked behind the scenes to pull this amazing day together and everyone who attended.





# THE FAMILY REUNION: FAM, FUN & AWARDS CONT.

## GRADUATES



### Asa Berkeley

- Promoted to 1st Grade
- Reading on a 3rd Grade level
- Received the highest grade for all his subjects
- Awarded the Fantastic Work Award



### Justus Johnson

- Promoted to Kindergarten



### Eden Johnson

- Promoted to 6th Grade (Middle School)
- Principal's Honor Roll (All A's) for 12 straight quarters (3rd-5th grade)



### Sydney Keith

- Promoted to 6th Grade
- Received a scholarship to attend her school
- Has great character in addition to good grades



### Zoe Price

- Graduated from Prince George's Community College with an AA in Business Administration with a Certificate in Real Property.
- Graduated with Double Honors



### Lanette Richardson

- Graduated from the University of Maryland Global Campus with her Master of Science in Strategic Communications
- Graduated with a 4.0 GPA
- Inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

# THE FAMILY REUNION: FAM, FUN & AWARDS CONT.

## EDUCATION AWARDS

Gifts were presented to two special college students to encourage them as they enter a new year of school, and get them off to a good start.



**Kevin Jones II**

- Senior at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) majoring in African American History



**Nahjah Wilson**

- Junior at Mary Washington University and earned a partial scholarship
- Vice President of the NAACP and recipient of the Unsung Leadership Award

## LOVE AWARDS

Tokens of love and self-care treatments were presented to members of the DCC family to show them that Discover loves them, sees them and will always be here for them. Recipients of this year's Love awards were Marlon & Nyesha Wilson, Rob & Ericka Price and Monica Lyles.



## EMPOWERMENT AWARD

Discover also presented a \$600 check to Phil and Syl's Foundation, the charitable arm of our Family Reunion caterer. The donation will aid in the Foundation's mission to give away 6,000 free meals to community members in 2023.

Be on the lookout for more information about our partnership with Phil and Syl's Foundation for their Thanksgiving outreach event.





## DISCOVER IN THE NEWS: KRISTOPHER JONES COMMITTS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Photo: Andrew Ivins, 24/7 Sports

The Discover family has had the opportunity to watch Pastor Kev and First Lady Krissy's youngest son, Kristopher, in his athletic journey throughout high school. We are excited to announce that Kristopher, four-star linebacker, officially committed to playing at the University of Georgia on July 30.

Kristopher had a tough choice deciding his next step upon graduating from Fairfax High School as he was recruited by top-rated programs including Florida, Michigan State, Auburn and Louisville.

Kristopher is ranked as the number 102 player of the 2024 recruiting class by [247Sports](#) while being the 10th ranked linebacker. In the commitment video below, Georgia head coach Kirby Smart was asked "Why Kristopher?" He responded by detailing Kristopher's physical attributes, but ended with what separates him were his strong academics (3.5 GPA) and character. The Discover family is so proud of Kristopher, and we know he will excel at the University of Georgia in academics and athletics. We will be rooting for you Kristopher! Go Georgia Bulldogs!

Check out the [Commitment Video](#) and Kris' recent [Fox 5 interview](#).

### How You Can Help

In late May of this year, Kris sustained a horrible injury to his toe resulting in severed ligaments. Kristopher now requires surgery that will be performed by leading athletic surgeon, Dr. Norman Waldrop in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Waldrop comes highly recommended and has taken care of countless athletes. As you can imagine, this is an expensive process. If you'd like to support Kristopher and family in this phase of his journey, there are three ways you can help:

1. Pray
2. Share Kris' story with friends and family
3. If you feel inclined to give, it would go a long way to offset the tremendous medical cost. The funds will be used towards the balance of surgery costs, deductibles, copays, travel, and lodging.

**Donations can be made [here](#).**

**Note:** The Jones family did not request that Discover share this via our newsletter or other online platforms. The team just wants to show our support! #Unity #Love #Empowerment #Healing

## PASTORS APPRECIATION MONTH: OUR PASTORS IN ONE WORD

In honor of Pastors Appreciation Month, we asked some of the Discover family to use just one word to describe our Pastors. Here is what you all said:

### PASTOR KEV



- Passionate x 2
- Safe
- Diligent
- Genuine
- Illuminating
- Reliable
- Loving
- Visionary
- Relatable x 2
- Resilient
- Kind
- Devoted
- Perceptive
- Consistent
- Compassionate

### PASTOR WES



- Enthusiastic
- Wild
- Dedicated
- Thoughtful
- Accountable
- Poised
- Fresh
- Focused
- Consistent x 2
- Funny
- Faithful
- Generous
- Caring
- Wise
- Passionate
- Inspiring



*We  
thank  
you!*



Pastor Kev and Pastor Wes, we want you both to know how much you mean to the Discover family. These are just a few words to describe the men you are and the amazing leadership you show. The leadership and compassion you consistently model for us and the sacrifices you've made have not gone unnoticed. We hope you know today and every day that you are loved, appreciated and we have your back. We don't play about our pastors!





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DCC IN THE COMMUNITY: FAITH & BLUE



Discover will be participating in a National Faith and Blue Weekend event on Saturday, Oct. 7 from noon - 4 p.m. at the District 3 Police Station at 7600 Barlowe Road, Landover, MD.

National Faith & Blue Weekend facilitates safer and stronger communities by engaging law enforcement officers and local connections of faith-based organizations. Come out and hear the DCC praise team and stop by our table to pick up a free Self-Care Sunday goodie bag.

## DCC IN THE COMMUNITY: WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

It's almost time for the 2023 Prince George's County Walk to End Alzheimer's. Join team Discover in raising funds to support Alzheimer's care, research, and education. We'd love for you to register for our team and help us meet our goal. If you are unable to make the walk, your donations to our team are greatly appreciated.



## WHAT'S NEXT >>>

### OCTOBER

#### Pastors Appreciation Month

**Oct 7**

Faith & Blue (Landover, MD)

**Oct 15**

Jersey Sunday/Watch Party

Last day to drop off candy donations for our Fall Outreach events.

**Oct 28**

Walk to End Alzheimer's (National Harbor)

Join Team Discover

**Oct 26**

Spotswood Elementary Trunk or Treat. Volunteers Needed.

### NOVEMBER

**Thanksgiving Outreach (Details coming soon!)**

**Nov 5**

Watch Party

**Nov 19**

Watch Party

### DECEMBER

**Dec 3**

Pastor's Mixer

Watch Party

**Dec 13-24**

12 Days of Christmas Gift Card Giveaway

**Dec 17**

Christmas Party/Brunch

## 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!