

DISCOVER *Us*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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SERMON SERIES: THE FRIEND ZONE

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



Pastor Kev concluded an amazing sermon series, The Friend Zone on October 1. The series featured three parts, The Epidemic, All By Myself and The Friendship Challenge. The Epidemic examined how many of us are isolated, insulated, and independent and how that impacts us mentally and socially. All By Myself explored the ways in which we are celebrated for our independence from birth and how it conditions us to think that doing things alone as we grow is the only way. Doing life all by ourselves can lead us to living out our lives on an island without meaningful connections.

The Friendship Challenge encouraged us to make a genuine effort to surround ourselves with people who have different beliefs and not be so quick to dismiss disagreement with hate. The series was eye-opening, challenging and inspiring. Check out the entire series on our [YouTube channel](#).

PASTORS APPRECIATION: JERSEY SUNDAY

Discover celebrated our dynamic pastors all month long, but set aside Sunday, October 15 for our first Jersey Sunday to honor them in style. The Discover family came to watch parties dressed in Washington Commanders gear (Team Pastor Kev), Dallas Cowboys gear (Team Pastor Wes) or football gear from their favorite team to celebrate our football-loving leaders. Each pastor (Pastor Kev, Pastor Wes, Pastor Jason, and Pastor Mike) were presented with a letter and gift of appreciation for their sacrifice, hard work and leadership. Discover Community Church is proud to serve alongside these dynamic, humble and thoughtful leaders each day. We love each of you and your work does not go unnoticed. It is always an honor to celebrate you.



DISCOVER IN THE COMMUNITY: NATIONAL FAITH AND BLUE WEEKEND

Discover was excited to partner with the Prince George's County District III Police Station in Landover, MD as a sponsor for their National Faith and Blue Weekend event on Saturday, October 7. National Faith and Blue Weekend was created to build a bridge between the community and law enforcement by leveraging their relationships with trusted faith-based organizations. The event featured several valuable community resources, vendors, food, and games.



The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

As a sponsor, Discover contributed financially to the event and hosted a table. The team shared information about our church and gave away Self-Care Sunday goodie bags designed to encourage relaxation, pampering, and mindfulness. Every hour, a lucky visitor who filled out our connection card was treated with a gift card as an extra thank you. Our praise team also lent their talents to this special event and sang three songs to help kick things off. The team connected with other sponsors and attendees who are doing great work in the community, like The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. You can find out more about them below.



SERVICE SUNDAY: FALL OUTREACH EVENTS

Discover partnered with Love's Truth Ministry and got out into the community to spread some fall cheer at three local elementary schools in October. Candy donations were collected during the months of September and October to help us provide a sweet treat to students in our community. We packed over 600 bags of candy in Maryland and collected candy in Virginia for some very special elementary school students.



Patuxent Elementary School - The team's first stop was Patuxent Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, MD on Friday, October 27 where they passed out goodie bags filled with candy to students.



The "Candy Crew" with Patuxent Principal, Dr. HeNina Bunch and Professional School Counselor, Ms. Bria Williams.



DCC member and Patuxent Elementary alum, Calvin Tyson with DCC's Director of Engagement Cornelius Berkeley.

SERVICE SUNDAY: FALL OUTREACH EVENTS CONT.



Spotswood Elementary School - Discover's VA campus crew volunteered at Spotswood's Trunk or Treat event on Thursday October 26. The team assisted with event logistics, games, and also donated candy to the event.



Carmody Hills Elementary School - Finally, the Maryland candy crew stopped by Carmody Hills Elementary in Capitol Heights, MD on October 30 to give away more candy goodie bags during their costume parade.



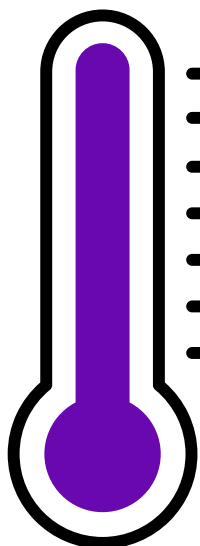
The Discover family had a wonderful time at each event connecting with the students and providing a sweet reward for all of their hard work in school. Thank you to everyone who donated time, candy, and funds to these efforts.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Team Discover assembled again in October for the 2023 Prince George's County Walk to End Alzheimer's at the National Harbor. The event is held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, and is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Team Discover raised funds leading up to the event and participated in the walk on Saturday, October 28. Thanks to the team's hard work and your generous donations, Team Discover raised a total of \$1,085 to support this great cause. Thank you to all participants and we hope to see you again for the 2024 walk!



Team Discover!



— **\$1,085**
— **Raised!**

**WALK TO END
ALZHEIMER'S**
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

SERMON SERIES: BACK TO REAL

Pastor Wes closed out the year with a powerful sermon series, "Back to Real." The series explored how we can become an authentic community that serves each other humbly in love. Pastor Wes taught us how to recognize what is artificial vs. real and the value of caring enough to dedicate our precious time to breathing life into our surrounding community. The process of getting back to real is not easy because we live in a society that values and even celebrates the artificial over the real. Galatians 5:13-26 challenges us not to use our "freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love" and outlines what we should be doing (and not doing) to accomplish this.



This challenge can have a great impact in our community and beyond if we truly commit to making things better and spreading oxygen and life to our community. It was an impactful series that called us to action and inspired us to continue our God-given mission to love God, love people, and make a difference. Check out the entire series on our [YouTube Channel](#).

PATUXENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 2ND QUARTER CELEBRATION



Patuxent Professional School Counselor, Ms. Bria Williams with DCC Volunteers, CFO Ericka Price and Pastor Wesley Johnson.



After our successful October candy donation outreach, we were contacted by Patuxent Elementary to be a part of their celebration honoring students who performed well in the second quarter of school. The scholars were treated to an afternoon of fun and Discover provided music and games for the event. Our volunteers had a great time running the games and celebrating the students. The joy in the room was contagious as the students enjoyed this much-deserved reward. We are very excited about this blossoming community connection with Patuxent and look forward to seeing how this partnership grows in 2024.

THE HOLIDAY GIVEBACK: THANKSGIVING OUTREACH

Discover got out into the community on Wednesday, November 22 for The Holiday Giveback in partnership with Phil and Syl's Foundation. Phil and Syl's Foundation set out on a mission to serve over 400 free meals to the community and Discover was honored to be a part of this great effort as a co-sponsor and team of volunteers. The Holiday Giveback was held at the Marvin Gaye Rec Center in Washington, D.C. where the community was treated to a delicious Thanksgiving meal which included baked and fried turkey, baked chicken, ham, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, green beans, and more. We were excited to see some of our DCC youth volunteering for this event too. It was a wonderful time of giving, community connection and fun! We look forward to partnering with Phil and Syl's Foundation for more great community-focused events in the future.



DISCOVER HOLIDAY FUN: CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

On Sunday, December 17, all roads led to Waldorf, MD and the Colonial Charles Community Clubhouse for our Joint Christmas Brunch. Both the Maryland and Virginia campuses came together for a time of celebration, fellowship, fun, and reflection on a year filled with impactful service. Guests were treated to a delicious brunch spread, a white elephant gift exchange, and games including a generational dance challenge and The Song Game. Participants also enjoyed looking back on 2023 with a photo slideshow, encouraged each other with a love exercise and celebrated our youth with a special surprise game truck.



DISCOVER HOLIDAY FUN: CHRISTMAS BRUNCH CONT.

The brunch was also the perfect opportunity to honor a few dedicated members of the Discover team who work so hard behind the scenes to execute our services, programs and outreach events. We highlighted Cornelius Berkeley, our Director of Engagement for all his hard work and dedication to Discover. As Director of Engagement, Cornelius is responsible for making connections with community organizations and spearheading our Service Sunday community service events. This role requires a lot of planning, creativity, and a love for people. Cornelius fits this role perfectly and the Discover family is grateful for his enthusiastic service.

The brunch was a beautiful day filled with appreciation, love, and family. Thank you to the event organizers and a BIG shout out to the Price family who worked non-stop to provide delicious food for the event. You are all appreciated!



DISCOVER HOLIDAY FUN: 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY



Discover kicked the Christmas season off with our 2nd 12 Days of Christmas Gift Card Giveaway. The contest ran from December 1-12 and this year we featured gift cards from black-owned businesses in the DMV area. Participants had to register to play then answer a daily question of the day to enter the drawing for that day. Daily questions centered around holiday plans, DCC trivia, and more. Gift cards to the following black-owned businesses were given away:

- [1799 Prime Steak & Seafood](#)
- [Goodie's Frozen Custard & Treats](#)
- [Hen Quarter](#)
- [LHFT Bag Company](#)
- [Manumission Tour Company](#)
- [Navah Physical Therapy](#)
- [Orleans Bistro & Grill](#)
- [Ruby's Southern Comfort Kitchen](#)

We had a great time treating our supporters to these gift cards to brighten their holiday season. Thank you to everyone that worked so hard behind the scenes to bring this special vision to life.

WHAT'S NEXT >>>

JANUARY

Jan 1
New Year's Day

Jan 7
Watch Party - **Online Only**

Jan 12-14
Leadership Retreat

Jan 21
Watch Party

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

Feb 4
Watch Party

Feb 18
Watch Party

MARCH

Mar 3
Watch Party

Mar 17
Watch Party

March 31
Service Sunday!

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!