

DISCOVER *Us*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO 2026: GREETINGS FROM PASTOR WES



I don't think anyone could have ever predicted how "interesting" the year 2025 would be for our world, our nation and for us as a ministry. Stepping into the new role as the Senior Pastor in January 2025 was new but our ministry already embraced the team leadership philosophy so the transition wasn't a major shock to how we operated here at Discover Community Church. What was more of a jolt was the leadership change in our government and the ripple effect on the lives in this nation and our community.

DCC is filled with families that either work for the federal government or their work is adjacent such as health care and other critical support services. After Jan. 20, there were many rumors and reports on how our nation would change. Would there be a Reduction in Force (RIF) aka major layoffs for federal employees? How would the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) decisions impact the lives of the DCC families?

It was these types of questions that I believe lead to messages like, "What Would Jesus Do?", "Navigating Rough Waters", "Take Care", and "Unfailing Love". We looked to the Lord for strength, and we bonded as a community and shared resources and information. Our hangouts were vital moments for us. I'm also grateful that part of our DCC 2025 plan was to meet in-person on third Sundays because it was so timely for this season of our lives. It allowed us to bring together our Virginia and Maryland campuses and the love shared was incredible! We were able to take communion together and to begin the implementation of our Youth Discipleship program led by Pastor Jason and Tasha Johnson!

2025 was also one of our most memorable years concerning outreach. Minister Cornelius Berkeley did such a wonderful job positioning us as a ministry to support local area elementary schools. We provided over 100+ backpacks and school supplies and hosted our "Family Reunion" day and paid for lunch and smoothies while providing moon bounces, games and lots of bubbles for a foam party! We partnered with King Kris, standout football linebacker with Boston College, to provide 100 turkeys and side dishes for families in the greater Prince George's County Area! We had an amazing organization, The Black & Missing Foundation, step up to support our Thanksgiving giveaway. We gave away over 400+ toys. We hosted shoe collections and recycling events for the community as well. I know I can't name them all in this letter, but you can read (and see pictures) about all the amazing outreaches in our quarterly newsletter at www.comediscover.org which our amazing Communication Director, Lanette Richardson leads with a top-notch team.

WELCOME TO 2026: GREETINGS FROM PASTOR WES CONT.

This third year for Discover Community Church did not start off the way we planned. We battled against bad Christian representation, terrible policies and crushing decisions. Despite that, we continue to rise to support our community and carry the banner of Jesus Christ. One way we accomplished that was when we hosted our first Baptism service where (8) children from the ages of 5 - 16 were baptized! I may or may not have shed a tear or two, lol. If you haven't seen it, [you can watch it on our YouTube channel](#), and I would highly recommend it. It was so beautiful to hear their testimonies.

For 2026, we will maintain our third Sunday in-person services and look to possibly expand to the first Sundays in the second half of the year! We will continue our Youth Discipleship program and offer more orientations and Discover Curriculum courses. 2025 was a tough financial year for many DCC members but our giving remained the same. We plan to continue saving (currently +\$75K) for our own property that can best serve the needs of our community every day and not just on Sundays.

My prayer as we enter 2026 is that we have immense clarity to know what God is telling each family to do and to order our steps as a ministry in the midst of a very distracting world. As we learned in our last series, "Keep Digging", there is "water" that we will reach that will sustain our lives and the lives around us. No matter who tries to throw dirt on us in 2026, no matter how difficult or tired we may get, God has us and we will encourage each other when we don't feel like moving forward... THAT'S TOO DANG BAD... KEEP DIGGING 😊

Tarkia and I are so blessed to serve with such outstanding leadership and people here at Discover Community Church!

Peace & Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley', followed by a long horizontal line.

-Wes



A BEAUTIFUL MILESTONE: DISCOVER'S FIRST BAPTISM SERVICE

Some moments change lives forever. Oct. 11, 2025, was one of those moments. Discover Community Church celebrated our first Baptism Service — and it was a beautiful, emotional, joy-filled day.

From start to finish, a feeling of love and celebration was thick in the room. Family, friends and first-time guests gathered at First Baptist Church of District Heights (FBCDH), celebrating as eight youth declared their faith publicly. Baptized by Pastor Wes, Pastor Kev, and Reverend William S. Berkeley Jr., the energy and emotion were overwhelming — in the best way possible.

The entire service was overflowing with worship, laughter and tears. One parent noted how focused the youth were, “I haven’t seen them that engaged in the services before. Singing and clapping! They were really excited.”

The candidates:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Asa Berkeley | • Justus Johnson |
| • Sage Ferguson | • Kaleb Johnson |
| • Emerald Ferguson | • Mila Johnson |
| • Eden Johnson | • Zoë Johnson |

Each name represents a life changed and a loving community committed to walking beside them every step of the way.

This is just the beginning. We’re building something at Discover that’s generational and transformational this was a beautiful example of that.

Thank you to the staff at FBCDH and DCC friends and family for making this special day one to remember.



**WATCH THE BAPTISM
SERVICE HERE**



KING KRIS & FRIENDS: SPREADING THANKSGIVING LOVE



On Oct. 25, 2025, generosity was on full display at Carmody Hills Elementary School, where the King Kris and Friends Thanksgiving Giveaway brought hope, help and holiday cheer to local families. DCC's own Kristopher Jones (King Kris) wanted to bless families in the DMV for Thanksgiving and his supporters answered the call in a big way.

Through this powerful community effort, 100 Thanksgiving meals—complete with turkeys and traditional sides—were distributed to families in need. This giveaway was made possible through King Kris' partnership with DCC, Love's Truth, The Black & Missing Foundation, Oasis Fresh Foods, and DC Chi Pie. Each partner played a vital role in ensuring the day ran smoothly and each family was well taken care of. Your investment of time, funds and volunteers was vital to our success.

A special thank-you goes to DC Chi Pie who generously fed our volunteers with a delicious lunch, keeping everyone energized and ready to serve.



The heart of the day was our incredible team of 35 volunteers, who showed up ready to work, serve and support with joy. From organizing and packing meals to greeting families and managing distribution, their commitment and compassion were felt in every interaction.



We are extremely proud of Kristopher, and grateful for our partners, volunteers and everyone who contributed time, resources, and love to make this event a success. Because of you, 100 families gathered around their Thanksgiving tables with full plates and full hearts.

This is what community looks like—and we are honored to be a part of it.



A SEASON OF JOY: DCC VOLUNTEERS AT TOYS FOR TOTS

On Dec. 20, DCC youth and adults teamed up and volunteered at the Prince George's County Toys for Tots event, supporting this beloved holiday tradition that brings joy to children in need.

The Toys for Tots program, founded by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 1947, collects new, unwrapped toys each fall and distributes them as Christmas gifts to economically disadvantaged children in local communities. The mission is simple yet powerful: bring the joy of Christmas and deliver a message of hope through the gift of a new toy.

At the PG County event, DCC volunteers helped with toy distribution and community support, spreading festive cheer and making the season brighter for families throughout the area. Some of our DCC fam pulled double-duty, also representing their Greek-letter and mentoring organizations volunteering at the event. We are proud of our team for serving with heart and commitment, and grateful for the opportunity to partner with Toys for Tots in lifting up our community during the holidays.



KICKING OFF CHRISTMAS WITH DCC: OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Dec. 21, Discover Community Church gathered for a joyful end of the year Christmas celebration at the Oak Creek Golf and Tennis Club in Upper Marlboro, MD. Following our last in-person service of 2025, DCC family and friends headed to the party, which was filled with great food, fun games, laughter and plenty of fellowship to celebrate the season. We also took some time to acknowledge our amazing DCC youth and volunteers who help make DCC special.

In true DCC style, the celebration didn't stop there—many continued the fun with an unofficial after-party, making the night even more memorable. Truly, a time was had by all.

It was the perfect way to close out the year—surrounded by friends, family and so much love.

Thank you to all that attended and made the day special.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: CATCH UP ON DCC SERMONS

Catch up or rewatch your favorites on our YouTube channel using the play buttons below:



PART 1



PART 4



PART 2



PART 5



PART 3



**DCC YouTube
Channel**



NEW YEAR MONEY MOVES: SIMPLE TIPS TO START 2026 OFF STRONG

A new year is a great opportunity to reset—not just our calendars, but our finances too. The good news? You don't need a financial overhaul to make real progress. Small, consistent choices can make a big difference over time. Here are a few simple money moves anyone can use to kick off 2026 on the right foot.

Start by doing a quick check-in on your finances. Take 30 minutes to review your bank accounts, credit cards and monthly expenses. Awareness is the foundation of good money management.

Next, focus on saving—even if it's a small amount. Automating your savings helps you stay consistent without having to think about it. If you don't already have one, building a modest emergency fund can provide peace of mind and help you avoid debt when unexpected expenses come up.

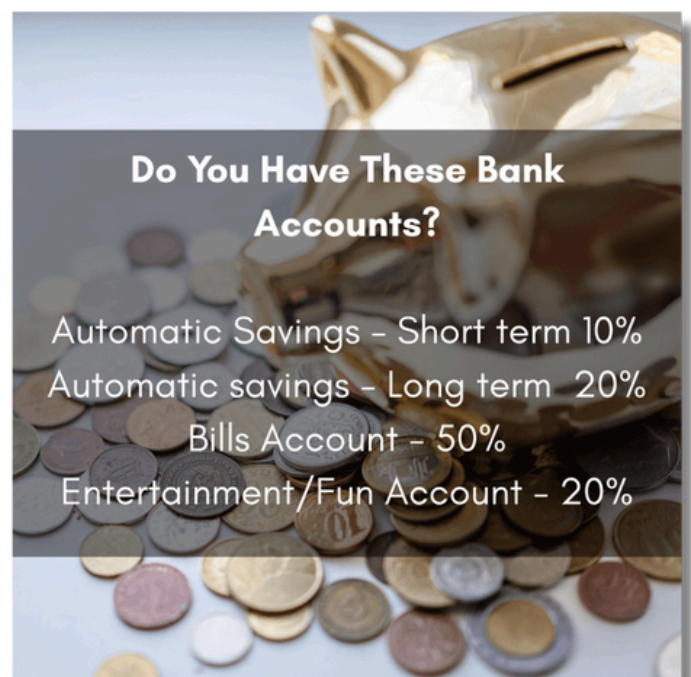
Cutting expenses doesn't have to be extreme. Canceling one unused subscription or choosing one "no-spend" day each week can free up extra cash without sacrificing your quality of life. For debt, prioritize paying down high-interest balances first—small extra payments can still make a meaningful impact.

If you're able, consider investing in your future. Contributing to a retirement plan or increasing your contribution slightly is a smart way to build long-term stability. And finally, set one clear financial goal for the year ahead. Whether it's paying off a credit card, saving a specific amount, or getting out of the paycheck-to-paycheck cycle, focus on progress—not perfection.

Starting 2026 with intention can help set the tone for the rest of the year. Small steps today can lead to lasting financial peace tomorrow.

QUICK RECAP

- Review your finances and know where your money is going
- Automate savings and build an emergency fund
- Cut one unnecessary expense and try a no-spend day
- Focus on paying down high-interest debt
- Invest when possible and set one clear money goal for 2026



DISCOVER SOMETHING DIFFERENT: HOW WE DO CHURCH

Watch Parties - 1st Sundays 11:00 a.m.

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.

DCC Live - 3rd Sundays 11:00 a.m.

Our live service experience with fellowship, music and an engaging sermon.

The Hang Out - 1st and 3rd Sundays

The Hang Out is an open forum for Watch Party and DCC Live 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 event 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!