

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, & SERVE THE WORLD IN WAYNE & BEYOND

NOVEMBER 2023

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Open House – On Sunday, November 5, we will host our annual Open House. This is an intentional opportunity for us to invite our friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and acquaintances to experience a Sunday at COS. Though some people aren't super open to invitations, MOST people are! So, **we have invitation cards throughout the Lobby and Welcome Center**, so grab one and look for an opportunity, but before that, pray – "God lead me to reach out and invite someone to church, in the Name of Jesus, give me the compassion and courage I need to do this. Lead and empower me Holy Spirit!"

Welcoming Each Other – I want to encourage you to please continue to reach out to those seated around you after the worship service ends. The three minutes immediately following the worship service provide some of the most meaningful times to reach out and welcome others. You can say something like, **"Hello, I'm Kevin, and I'm not sure we have met. How long you have been coming to COS?"** This comes across much better than, "Are you new to COS?" Especially when you find they have been here since 1982! Welcoming someone to our church community can have a powerful impact.

Remember that we will "fall back" on Sunday, November 5, so we get an extra hour of sleep that Sunday.

Until all have heard,

Pastor Kevin

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GIVING TUESDAY

Our culture has designated the Tuesday after Thanksgiving as *Giving Tuesday* to encourage people to give generously after all the shopping-focused days. This year it is November 28. A link to give will be available soon.

On *Giving Tuesday*, COS will be using the money donated to support one of the many exciting Global impact stories coming from work among an unreached people group in the Balkans. Christi A. serves as a Special Education teacher training families, teachers, and professionals who care for and work with children with disabilities. In the country where she serves, schools are poorly equipped to serve children with special needs, and practices lag behind. One highly effective approach to sharing the love and hope of Jesus is through a project Christi initiated to provide, in the coming months, extensive training to national teachers and professionals who work with children with disabilities. In the past, training in this area has built crucial relationships with communities that are otherwise closed off from Christians, opening the door for the Gospel to transform the lives of children, families, and communities.

MINISTRY UPDATES

STAFF UPDATES

We are excited to announce some changes to our staff team. First, two promotions: a) Cindy Casey is now the Director of Operations/Finances and her new office is B106 - she will supervise our Campus Manager and Business Manager. And b) Craig Tanis is now our Campus Manager overseeing grounds, housekeeping, and maintenance. Congratulations Cindy and Craig. Second, two new hires: a) Business Manager, Jill Curcuruto; and b) IT Director, Gregg Alderfer. IT will report to our Business Manager, Jill. We praise God for providing us with these two exceptional, talented, and experienced professionals to fill these two vital roles.

Since Jill and Gregg are new to our staff team, here is some additional information.

Jill Curcuruto and her family have spent the past 8 years planting The Table, a church of communities in the City of Philadelphia. Jill's husband Gino is the lead pastor at The Table and together they have 4 children. Ella and Selah currently attend college at Eastern University and Timothy and Nathanael are in High School at Phil-Mont Christian Academy. Jill has most recently served at Missio Seminary as assistant to the President and Director of Community Engagement. Before her role at Missio, she spent several years teaching at Christian schools in Philadelphia. A former landscape designer, Jill continues to enjoy gardening and loves the opportunity to meet her neighbors as part of the Pastorius Community Garden.



Gregory Alderfer will join our staff team on Monday, October 30 as our IT Director. We originally thought we would need to outsource the IT function with an offsite tech provider. But our prayer and dream was always to hire someone who could be a part of our staff and church family. We also strongly desired to have someone available to help with technical issues that might pop up on Sundays. God has abundantly answered our prayers and provided Gregg. The IT function of our church is vital and we are delighted to have Gregg joining. Greg brings over 20 years of IT experience and during these last 5 years has served at Missio Seminary.

EXPERIENCE ALPHA - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | 12:00 PM

If you are new or haven't been to Alpha, we invite you to join us in the gym (F100) for lunch to better understand what Alpha is and why it is a safe place to attend or invite your friend. This event is free and includes lunch. Visit coswayne.org/alpha for more information and to register.



MINISTRIES UPDATES

GLOBAL OUTREACH UPDATE

I am thrilled to be completing my sixth month serving as Global Outreach Director at COS! One of the most exciting privileges is working with our outreach to strategic diaspora groups. These provide ample opportunities to share Christ with the unreached and give our church family a vision for the strategy God is leading us into as a church.

- For the 6th year, COS members geared up to bless international students from some of the least reached areas of the world. Over 50 COS volunteers served over 55 students (mostly from Villanova and Penn State Great Valley) through hospitality over a fellowship meal and generous household item donations from across the church family.
- One Afghan refugee resettlement team continues to actively resettle a family, a very full commitment to meeting practical and holistic needs in the aftermath of trauma and ongoing turmoil in their home country. Two teams that have completed the resettlement process continue to serve and strengthen their relationships with families, witnessing God move extraordinarily.
- Conversational English classes, led by 17 tireless volunteers, provide ESL instruction to adults from 11 language backgrounds.

I have had the pleasure and privilege of getting to know our staff, members, and global partners, learning more about our rich legacy of missions, and becoming more hopeful than ever of working toward "a church discipleship process that is so ingrained with 'to the nations' that it shapes everything we do from the cradle to the grave." Communication is a crucial task I am tackling by updating our [website](#), social media presence on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), as well as other Global Outreach-focused communication so the church body can rejoice in knowing the wonderful impact God is having through COS around the world.

We are so happy to announce that Rachel Kamm has begun to serve as the Missions Leadership Team's new Chair. Rachel was raised in the Philippines by missionaries, currently teaches at Delaware County Christian School, and co-leads a Sunday class with her husband, Joel. Rachel brings a heart and a mind geared to care for global partners and catalyze Gospel work in line with COS' GO Strategy. We look forward to how God will lead the MLT and Global Outreach at COS into the coming year!

UPDATE: PROJECT MERRY CHRISTMAS COS LAUNCHING NOVEMBER 19

This Christmas you will have an opportunity to bless Church of the Saviour with a Christmas gift.

We would like to make our Welcome Center and Lobby a warm destination for gathering, fellowship, and life-on-life relationship building on Sunday mornings. This will be done through individual gifts of preselected furniture and décor, and refurbishing some of our current furniture and space. A webpage will go live on Sunday, November 19 where you will be able to go and purchase an item to enhance our space.

Our team has put together a plan to refresh our spaces and modestly but attractively redesign the Corner Café in the Welcome Center. We are planning to create five new seating areas with three in the Welcome Center and two in the Front Lobby. As well as sprucing up the Reception Room and surrounding areas. So, please look for more information going forward, and prayerfully consider participating in our Merry Christmas COS Project.

MINISTRY UPDATES

CARE CORNER

Our Celebrate Recovery Ministry meets each week at 5:30 pm on Wednesday for those who want to deal with their “hurts, hang-ups, and habits”. That’s a characterization of recovery that is used in CR to recognize it is a process that is ongoing and takes time and work. It also acknowledges that the things we are in recovery from are impacted by things that have happened to us. Trauma, loss, and the overall brokenness of life prompt us to find ways to cope and find relief. Shame and perceived aloneness are repetitive. And, because of the journey of our lives, our brokenness is usually impacted and caused by a failure in relationships—early childhood experiences through the journey of life with disappointment are repeated along the way.

Last week, October 18, our CR ministry celebrated the “step study” graduation of a group of men and women who have met and worked together for about a year on some of the deep, hurtful, brokenness of their lives. As several of them shared their testimony, the growing awareness and vulnerability of what they shared was very moving. They were willing to risk sharing it for all who were there to hear, which included our CR attendees along with family and friends they had invited. They chose to face their shame publicly.

One of the striking things was the mention of the need for “forgiveness” as part of their 12-step program. Forgiveness needed to be given and received in some very deep issues where tears surfaced as they were shared that evening.

I don’t believe it was a coincidence that Pastor Drew preached an important sermon this past Sunday on [“The Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor”](#). I have heard several stories of people who were impacted by it and are now looking for help to deal with how to give and receive forgiveness. The link to the sermon is being shared with others, some of whom don’t attend COS.

Celebrate Recovery is here for you if you would like to engage in a 12-step process of recovery in our walk of faith. Please consider joining us on Wednesday, at 5:30 pm, in the sanctuary. You are invited to dig in to do the hard work of your spiritual journey.

FALL FEST - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 | 1-4 PM

Fall Fest is a great opportunity to invite your neighbors and their kids to COS. Last year we had about 400 people from our community join in on the fun. We look forward to seeing you all in your costumes tomorrow!



YTD FINANCIAL UPDATE

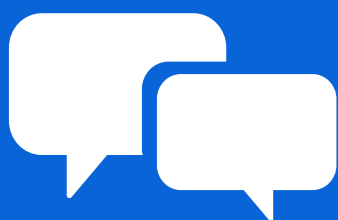
GIVING UPDATE

Overseeing a church budget is a daily exercise in faith. Believing that all good things come from God, we trust that He will provide for our needs and guide us to wisely utilize His resources to make Jesus's disciples in Wayne and beyond. Our goals and budgets are held loosely, with faith placed in His plan.

Join us in praying for our Ministry/Operations and Missions budgets, particularly as contributions to Missions are currently below target. Together, we can trust in God's greater plan for our church.

| | <u>Ministry/Ops</u> | <u>Missions</u> | <u>Love-in-Action</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| GIVING TO DATE | \$843,466 | \$130,515 | \$21,715 |
| BUDGET | \$739,949 | \$170,905 | \$15,856* |
| OVER/(UNDER) | \$103,517 | (\$40,390) | \$5,859 |

LOVE-IN-ACTION is a fund managed by the deacons to provide financial aid for people in our church and community who are suffering. *Aid provided from 7/1/23 - 9/30/23.



Text Messaging

Text **"JOIN COS"** to **833-744-9334** to receive alerts or important messages from COS.

Questions & Feedback

We welcome and encourage all inquiries: info@coswayne.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media by searching "Church of the Saviour" on Facebook and Instagram!