

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, SERVE THE WORLD  
**IN WAYNE & BEYOND**  
APRIL 2022

**LETTER FROM THE PASTOR**

**DETAILS FOR FAITH IN CONTEXT & EASTER SCHEDULE**

Dear Church family,

From April 7th through the 10th we will have the next installment of our Faith in Context: Confronting the Big Questions series. We hope to confront some of the hot and difficult issues that are relevant in the larger contexts where we live and do life. An issue that is growing rapidly has to do with gender dysphoria. In laymen's terms, this is when a person has strong and persistent unease that their physical gender wiring does not match their internal experience. One approach to hard questions is just to ignore them, but we do this to our detriment. How should a Christian respond? How should the Church of Jesus Christ respond? We are bringing in Dr. Mark Yarhouse from Wheaton College, who has given his life to studying sex and gender issues, to help us engage with these questions.

To set up this series, I will be preaching a sermon on where we stand as a church before Dr. Yarhouse's arrival (Sunday, April 3). I will be referencing words and phrases like gay, homosexual, lesbian, gender dysphoria, LGBTQ+, etc. in the sermon, but I will not be graphic in my language or discussion. I hope that this can prepare us to live out Christ in the complex and complicated world that is our home.

What shouldn't surprise anyone who knows Church of the Saviour is that we will line up with 2,000 years of historic, orthodox Christianity. We will line up with Jesus who loves people in whatever place He finds us but never leaves us to flail on our own. God is there, and He is not silent. The Bible speaks to hard issues, and we see the perfect model in Jesus, who brought both grace and truth. Historically, those who follow Jesus seem to fall to one side or the other. All grace without truth makes us like soft, soggy soap, but all truth without grace is like the sun baking the ground so that it becomes hard and cracked. Jesus, in John 1, tells us that He came with grace and truth. How should this shape both what we believe and how we live out our convictions? We will explore what we believe and teach as a church on Sunday, April 3. I hope you will join us, and, if you haven't come back in person (and if you are not immunocompromised), then we hope you will join us here in our sanctuary. There is no substitute for in-person, life-on-life fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

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# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

And now if I can turn the page to Easter, here is our schedule...

- Good Friday Communion Service, April 15 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Sunrise Service, April 17 at 6:30 a.m. in parking lot B by the prayer garden.
- Resurrection Sunday Services, April 17 at 9 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (modern) – There will also be Kid's Ministry classes for children.

This is a great time of year to invite friends, families, co-workers, and neighbors. Most people are very receptive to a warm invitation to join us for Easter and if a person picked only one Sunday to come to church, they couldn't pick a better one than the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity! Praise God that we serve a risen Savior who is in the world today!

UNTIL ALL HAVE HEARD,

*Kevin*

PASTOR

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## A NEW ADDITION TO THE COS FAMILY

As you may remember from the February newsletter, we are delighted to welcome Rachel Dierking as the new Executive Director of Operations and Communications (XDOC). Rachel joined the team on Monday, March 21, and will be introduced to the congregation at our worship services on Sunday, March 27. We're excited that she is here!

Please feel free to welcome her in person and/or over email at [RachelD@coswayne.org](mailto:RachelD@coswayne.org).

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Dear Church family,

Thank you, THANK YOU for welcoming Adam and me so warmly to the COS family. From the greeters that met us on our first visit, those who reached out and invited me to women's ministry events, the staff and volunteers who have invested many hours into my hiring and onboarding, and the many who have prayed for us, we are grateful for your love, and we're excited to join you as we Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World!

My first week has been a whirlwind of meeting with the teams, exploring the campus, and learning more about the ministries at COS. God is doing great things here, and I'm thrilled to be part of it.

I look forward to meeting you soon, in person or virtually!

With our love & gratitude,  
Rachel (& Adam) Dierking  
Executive Director of Operations & Communications



# FAITH IN CONTEXT

## **FAITH IN CONTEXT: MARK YARHOUSE APRIL 7 THROUGH APRIL 10**

Dr. Mark Yarhouse is a clinical psychologist and professor of Psychology at Wheaton College, specializing in conflicts tied to religious identity and sexual and gender identity. More information and registration details for these events can be found at [coswayne.org/faithincontext](https://coswayne.org/faithincontext).

**These events will not be live-streamed or recorded!**

If you have questions you hope to have answered, you can [submit them HERE!](#)

### **APRIL 7: ARE GENDER AND SEXUALITY OUR CORE IDENTITY?**

A Personal Journey of Gender, Sexuality, and Faith Moderated by Dr. Mark Yarhouse  
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. in COS Building A (sanctuary)

### **APRIL 8: HOW CAN WE SUPPORT OTHERS EXPERIENCING CONFLICTS WITH FAITH AND SEXUAL OR GENDER IDENTITY?**

For Professional Counselors and Ministry Leaders  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. COS Building F

## **MAIN EVENT**

### **APRIL 9: UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGING GENDER AND SEXUALITY EXPERIENCES AND FAITH:**

A Workshop for Students, Parents, Ministry Partners, and the Community.  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in COS Building A (sanctuary); [Register HERE!](#)

### **SATURDAY SCHEDULE:**

Session One "Sexual Identity": 9 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.  
Breakout Discussion One: 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
Session Two "Gender Identity": 11 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.  
Breakout Discussion Two: 12 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
Lunch: 12:45 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.  
Session Three "Christian response": 1:45 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.  
Breakout Discussion Three: 2:45 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.  
Collective Q&A and Closing Comments: 3:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.



### **APRIL 10: DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SEXUAL AND GENDER IDENTITY AND FAITH?**

Q&A for students

9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. in COS Room C200 for students.

# MISSIONS UPDATE

## A CALL TO PRAYER

**The 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World** is an international movement that began in 1993. It calls the Church to make a deliberate but respectful effort to learn about, pray for, and reach out to our world's Muslim neighbors. It coincides annually with the important Islamic month of religious observation — Ramadan, a time of the year when Muslims are much more deeply aware of spiritual matters. This year it is from April 2 through May 1.

We see an influx of people from Muslim lands into our communities. Many of them are refugees from troubled areas of the world; others are students or immigrant families seeking to better their lives through study and hard work. Most are very open to getting to know people in their new communities.

Unfortunately, when surveyed, few have ever been invited into Christian homes. We believe that this is a God-given opportunity for North Americans to demonstrate Christian love and hospitality by welcoming the stranger among us.

Therefore, the thematic prayer focus this year is "**Here and There**." We will look at what God is doing among particular people groups in their home countries as well as in their new home — North America.

This is the 31st time in the last 29 years (Muslims use a shorter lunar calendar year) that Christians around the world will join together to intentionally but respectfully **learn about, pray for, and engage** our world's Muslim neighbors — with Faith, Hope, and Love. And God has done incredible things as His people have prayed.

"We are amid the greatest turning of Muslims to Christ in 14 centuries of Muslim-Christian interaction. More than 80% of all the Muslim movements to Christ in history have occurred in the past two to three decades, a time that coincides with the modern prayer movement for Muslims. At the heart of this modern prayer movement is '30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.' Come, join us, and be a part of shaping salvation history!" David Garrison, author of [A Wind in the House of Islam](#).

Join the millions of Christians around the world, and churches and ministries from many denominations, who regularly participate in this largest ongoing prayer focus on the Muslim world. Pick up your prayer guide at one of the entrances or purchase a digital copy here from [WorldChristian.com](#) as COS joins with the global church to learn, pray, and engage with the work that God is doing!

\*from [30daysprayer.com](#) and [worldchristian.com](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

- **Sunday, April 3:** Missions Strategic Focus Area Prayer Gathering from 8 - 8:45 a.m. in A109/111
- **May 14-15:** Global Focus Weekend - Full details are coming in the next edition of the "Missions Newsletter" dropping on Friday, April 8!

# WORSHIP ARTS UPDATE

## SONG THEOLOGY

Two years ago, we put together a team to look at our process for selecting songs for the modern service. We gathered a team of staff, elders, and lay leaders to create both a list of values and a vetting system for the songs we introduce for corporate worship. Through this process, we had some great conversations about current popular movements (Bethel, Hillsong, Elevation, etc.), the challenge of evaluating metaphor, and the reality of singing God-honoring songs written by imperfect people.

Since then, the worship ministry leaders have been vetting new songs through this grid. Some great songs have become favorites in our repertoire, such as “Graves into Gardens,” “House of the Lord,” and “I Thank God.” It has been a great process that has helped establish a collaborative musical curriculum as we sing to and learn about God.

As an example, we recently evaluated the song, “Holy Water,” that was proposed to the worship team. “Holy Water” was written by the band, “We the Kingdom,” and is popular on Christian radio stations. It talks about how we experience the forgiveness and grace of God. The authors use beautiful imagery in the chorus to describe how God’s forgiveness might affect our senses: “like honey on my lips, like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water on my skin.”

The team initially discussed the title of the song, “Holy Water,” which raised some concern with its relationship to catholic mass. However, as we evaluated the song more closely, we found no red flags with its theology. The song uses water imagery to illustrate spiritual life and nourishment, cleansing and refreshment, and a sign of the covenant, which are all found in the Bible and in the hymns and songs that we sing each week.

We confirmed our conclusion with [thebereantest.com](http://thebereantest.com), a site that assesses song lyrics and grades them in several categories, including theology. While the site creators also wrestled with the title, they gave the song a strong theological endorsement after reviewing the lyrics.

As a result, we decided to introduce “Holy Water” to you this weekend.

As always, I would love to talk with you more about the songs we choose and how our services help you in your journey toward loving God. For those attending the 10:30 service, I hope this new song will aid you in your worship as we thank God for His boundless forgiveness and grace.

Jim Dougherty  
Pastor of Worship Arts



# WORSHIP ARTS UPDATE

## CHOIR INVITE

Were you there on March 13 for the modern service? Did you hear the joyous sounds of the 45 voice choir leading the singing? If so, I hope that you were inspired to lift your voice with them in the worship of our great God. He loves it when His people gather to worship in spirit and truth and lift their voices joyously in song. Remember, God cares that you sing, not how well you sing. If you can speak, you can sing, and each Sunday is an opportunity to grow in your singing freedom and ability.

If you were thinking about participating in the choir last time but for one reason or another didn't, I would encourage you to consider joining us for another special choir Sunday, May 1. Whether it means making a sacrifice in your schedule, intentionally carving out time for the rehearsals, or mustering up the courage to try something new that might seem intimidating, it will be time and energy well spent. This time we'll be singing for both the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services so that the whole church might be blessed and inspired by the choir's worship leading. The commitment level is a little bit larger this time, but it will be time well spent. Please consider setting aside the time to be part of our special choir and inspire our church to make a joyful, corporate noise unto the Lord on May 1.

Here are the details:

Tuesday, April 19 [Choir Only]

6:45 – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 28 [Choir & Band]

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 1

8 – 8:30 a.m. Warm-Up

If you would like to join us or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Andy at [andy@coswayne.org](mailto:andy@coswayne.org). Let's fill the loft to its full capacity on May 1. How cool would it be to have to create a second choir area on the stage to accommodate everyone?



# CARE MINISTRY UPDATE

## DIVORCECARE

DivorceCare is a support group for those going through the process of separation and divorce. Our next term begins on April 4 and continues for 13 consecutive weeks (sessions begin every April and September). For more information, call Darlene Comeau at 215-704-2691 or [email her](mailto:darlene@divorcecare.org). The cost is \$15 for the workbook, and you may join anytime during the 13 weeks. Register at [divorcecare.org](http://divorcecare.org).

A sailboat is powered by a force that cannot be seen: the wind. We cannot control its source or direction, but we can adjust the sails to give the boat momentum needed to navigate stormy seas to a haven. Divorce and separation can be likened to tumultuous seas and ferocious winds. Just as a sailor must utilize lines to adjust the sails, so must one going through divorce utilize resources that can get life on course and prevent a capsized.

DivorceCare is such a resource.



## CELEBRATE RECOVERY EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5:30 P.M.

Come join us for Celebrate Recovery in the sanctuary. We also hold Newcomers 101 or Open Share Groups for both men and women at 6:30 p.m. Any questions, please email [celebraterecovery@coswayne.org](mailto:celebraterecovery@coswayne.org).

## DOUBLE HOPE CANCER MINISTRY

If you have recovered from cancer, are a current patient with cancer, or are a caregiver to someone with cancer, we invite you to join Double Hope. We gather together each month to pray for one another, share experiences, and grapple with some difficult situations. We meet on-campus the second Monday of the month from 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. both in-person and via Zoom. For questions, please reach out to Wendy at [wendyterry226@gmail.com](mailto:wendyterry226@gmail.com).



# GIVING UPDATE

## FISCAL YTD FINANCIAL UPDATE

	<u>Ministry/Operations</u>	<u>Missions</u>
<b>GIVING TO DATE</b>	\$2,172,304	\$521,764
<b>BUDGET</b>	\$2,099,454	\$639,384
<b>OVER/(UNDER)</b>	\$72,850	<b>(-\$117,620)</b>



### 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](mailto:info@coswayne.org)