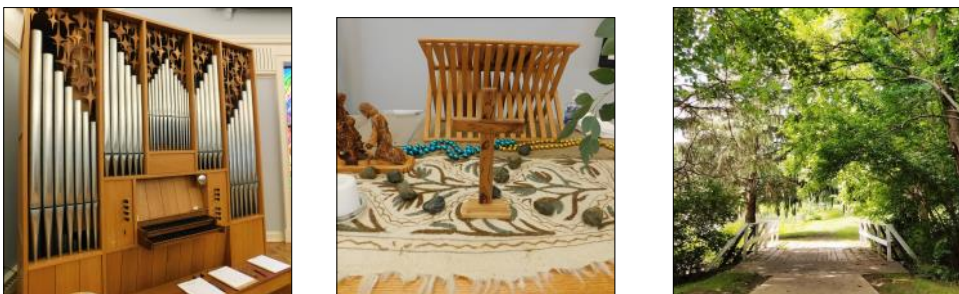


**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

**FROM THE WRITING LAB**



Let me welcome all of you, including six new and one graduating students, to the 2020 Summer 2-Week Term of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

I have recently revisited one of the sermons by Dr. Martin Luther King, titled “A Knock at Midnight.” According to King, “It is . . . midnight in the world today. The darkness is so deep that we hardly see which way to turn.” It is midnight in people’s inner lives as well as in the moral and social order. And, in the midst of despair over injustices, violence, and moral breakdown, people knock on the door of the church looking for the bread—the bread of faith, hope, and love, and the bread of peace and justice.

Sadly, however, people have been “left disappointed at midnight” many times, as they were “ignored altogether, or told to wait until later.” The church is so occupied with its own affairs that it often fails to have concern for those in need. Yet, despite their disappointment, many keep knocking on the door of the church, believing “deep down within that the bread of life is [still] within the church.”

This sermon, “A Knock at Midnight,” was preached in the early 1960’s, more than a half century ago. Yet things do not seem to have changed much. We are at midnight and the darkness is so deep around us as recently demonstrated by the systemic racism still prevailing in this country. The question we have to grapple with is about the role of the church: What is the church and what is the church for? Are we to remain “an irrelevant social club with no moral or spiritual authority” or to become an instrument of change believing that God is still at work within this world to transform it? Dr. King says, “midnight is a confusing hour, and one in which it is difficult to be faithful; but the relevancy and power of the church will be measured by its capacity to meet the needs of those who come at midnight,” looking for bread and light.

Let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the COSSO faculty for their willingness to adapt their class to an online format and to the staff for their commitment to provide needed support. I hope that all of us—students, faculty, and staff—would be patient and generous to each other while adjusting to new ways of teaching and learning.

May God’s grace, guidance, and strength be with you in these challenging times.

Peace,

*Joon-Sik Park*

**Dr. Joon-Sik Park**  
Director of the Course of Study School of Ohio  
E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism



Metaphorical language is a powerful tool to aid communication, to beautify a boring text, or to make an abstract idea tangible. We use metaphorical language every day, and we encounter it in a plethora of texts. When used effectively, they can express sentiments and concepts that would otherwise be impossible to communicate. The Bible relies heavily on metaphorical language to express the ineffable, the unspeakable, and the ways higher than our own. “As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after thee,” the psalmist writes. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that every major religion’s sacred scripture is replete with metaphorical language. In academic writing, we also make use of metaphorical language to simplify complex concepts and connections. One important thing to remember in academic writing is that our first priority is clarity of communication. For this reason, we often think of academic writing as poetry’s opposite, because while a poet may relish the multiple interpretations a reader may extract from the poem, the academic wishes to be understood exactly in the way they mean. That does not mean we cannot use poetic forms or metaphors in our academic writing. It just means that we need to explain what we mean literally if our choice of metaphor leaves any room to doubt. Imagine how effective the metaphor used in Psalm 42 would be had the psalmist not included the phrase, “So my soul longeth after thee.” The reader may not even recognize it as a metaphor or may interpret it in drastically different ways. We should be eager to use metaphors to aid us in our writing, but we should be even more eager to explain what we mean by them.



**Dr. Trad Nogueira-Godsey**  
Writing Instructor

**Course of Study School of Ohio**

<https://cosohio.org/> and  
<https://cosohio.populiweb.com/>

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2021 Winter	Feb. 12-13 & Mar 12-13	12/14/2020	FULL, please
2021 Spring	Apr. 16-17 & May 14-15	2/15/2021	email Grace
2021 Summer	Jun. 25-26 & Jul. 16-17	4/26/2021	to join waitlist
2021 Summer 2-week	Aug 2-6 and 9-12	6/3/2021	AVAILABLE

**2020 SUMMER GRADUATES—CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Brian Carroll, Carmen Cook, and Dan Eggan**

## MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



### Dr. Randy Litchfield

COS 123: Formation & Discipleship

Dr. Randy Litchfield received his Master of Religious Education from Anderson University School of Theology and his Ph.D. from Claremont School of Theology. He currently teaches Christian Education at MTSO.

### Rev. Dr. Norman “Ned” Dewire

COS 224: Administration & Polity

Rev. Dr. Norman “Ned” Dewire received his M.Div. from Boston University School of Theology and his D.Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary. A retired elder in the West Ohio Conference, he served as the third president of MTSO.



### Rev. Dr. Wray Bryant

COS 421: Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, & Wisdom Lit

Dr. E. Wray Bryant received his M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He is Assistant Professor of Religion at Capital University.

### Rev. Dr. John Wallace

COS 524: Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry

Rev. Dr. John Wallace received his M.Div. from Candler School of Theology and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. A retired elder of the West Ohio Conference, he served churches in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio.



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

### TAKE A MOMENT TO FEED YOUR SOUL

As pastors, we are great talkers. We “message” and “text,” we send long emails and video ourselves giving “great” sermons. We preach about what it means to be “connected” in a disconnected world. And then we listen - to ourselves.

Listening has become a lost art in this virtual world we are in. Now, even on Zoom it is easy to interrupt each other, or speak louder to make sure we are heard. Everyone wants to be heard, but few of us want to listen. We are caught in a sort of pseudo-conversation monologue, with ourselves, and no one is really listening.

So, why do we bother, you might ask. We bother because communication matters – we need it in order to get things done, to share the “good news” and to make a difference in the world. But to really do that, we need to stop talking and listen – “anyone who has ears, listen.” Even Jesus knew that people did not always listen to what he was saying. He wasn’t trying to get all the attention, he was trying to get them to just listen, to God’s word, and to each other.

Prayer is a good place to start when it comes to listening. Prayer is our main avenue – our spiritual app or link to God. Even in prayer, you cannot do all the talking if you want to hear God’s voice. So, during this 2-week term, I invite all of us to return to prayer, go deeper in your spiritual journey. Spend time in prayer each day. Begin with a word to center you, “Loving God be present with me now,” stop talking, let the words go, just sit quietly and listen. When you feel ready to get up, say “Amen.”

Practice every day and notice how your listening changes.

[Click here for a PDF](#) of a few suggestions for your devotions which focus on our upcoming worship services:

**Sunday, August 2 @ 7:00 pm “God Bless this Chaos”**

**Friday, August 7 @ 11:15 am “God Bless the Seeds of Yesterday”** (have some bread and a drink ready for a remembrance of communion)

**Thursday, August 13 @ 11:15 am “God Bless Us – the Beloved Community”** (have some bread and a drink ready for a remembrance of communion; and bring a noise maker for the graduation celebration!)



Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples

Director of Spiritual Formation

## FROM THE COORDINATOR

Thank you all for your adaptability and graciousness in these difficult times! As your classes start online, please note that I have posted directions for Populi and Zoom our website at <https://cosohio.org/populi>. If anything isn’t covered there, please ask me! My office phone is redirecting to me at home so you can still call. I’ll also be available whenever your online class meetings begin to meet, so if you have tech issues then, please get in touch!

### COURSE PLANNING NOTES:

- We’ve marked the dorm as full for most 2021 terms because, if we can meet in person, due to social distancing we may not be able to use the dorm at its full capacity. If you’d like to stay in the dorm, please email me and I will add you to the waitlist.
- **2021 Winter COS 324 is full**
- **2021 Spring COS 323 is full**

Students from 10 Annual Conferences are attending COS here this term:



Grace Wallace  
Coordinator

## FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

As the old saying goes, “*the one who sings prays twice.*” We look forward to singing together again when we can safely meet in person!



Please [join the COS Choir Populi group](#) to keep in touch.



Lori Douglas Weaver, MEd  
Choir Director