

# Course of Study School of Ohio

[www.cosohio.org](http://www.cosohio.org)

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2023 Summer	June 16-17 & July 7-8	4/18/23	Online term
2023 Summer 2-Week	July 31-August 11	6/1/23	Online term
2023 Fall	Sept. 15-16 & Oct. 13-14	7/18/23	Hybrid: Available each wkend
	2024 schedule TBA soon		

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Let me welcome all of you, including fourteen new students and eight graduates, to the 2023 Spring Term of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

I hope that you and your congregation had a blessed and glorious Easter.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives “peace” to the disciples in four different places. Twice during his farewell discourse and twice after the resurrection. And the peace that Jesus gives is always distinguished from what the world gives.

In John 20:19-23, Jesus appears for the first time after his resurrection to the disciples who have locked themselves away “for fear.” Jesus gives them the gift of peace and shows them the wounds of his crucifixion. And then, he commissions the disciples for mission: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” As God sent Jesus into the world, now Jesus sends the church into the world. And the church’s mission in the world is to be shaped by the life, teaching, suffering, and death of Jesus himself.

Richard Hays rightly calls attention to the fact that, in the resurrection, the power of death was overcome but the wounds in the body of Jesus still remained. As the risen Christ carried his wounds of crucifixion, the community of faith is to be formed by the cross and Christian mission is to be cruciform—the cross is to remain at the center of our discipleship and mission.

Yet, the disciples can be confident that Jesus’ peace will abide with them as they faithfully and sacrificially engage in mission in and for the world. The peace that Jesus gives is the peace that derives from the very heart of his life, death, and resurrection: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

This Easter, may we all be assured of and hold on to the gift of peace from the risen Christ!

## FROM THE DIRECTOR, cont.

As announced, classes will continue to be taught fully online through 2024. With our program highly valuing the in-person, on-campus experience and community building, we intend to offer courses in a hybrid format every Fall Term.

All of us on the COSSO staff look forward to journeying with you this term, and pray for God’s continued guidance and blessings on your studies and ministry.

Peace,

*Joon-Sik Park*

**Dr. Joon-Sik Park**

*Director of the Course of Study School of Ohio  
E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism  
at MTSO*



## 2023 WINTER GRADUATE— CONGRATULATIONS!



Rick Gutheil (West Ohio)



# MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



**Rev. Dr. Brenda Buckwell**  
COS 123: Formation and Discipleship

Dr. Brenda Buckwell received her M.Div. from Boston University and D.Min. from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. An elder in the West Ohio Annual Conference, she is the founder and spiritual director of *Living Streams Flowing Water*.

**Rev. Cara Stultz-Costello**  
COS 224: Administration and Polity

Rev. Cara Stultz-Costello received her M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary. She serves as District Superintendent of the Tuscarawas District of the East Ohio conference.



**Rev. Dr. Jeff Jaynes**  
COS 322: Theological Heritage III: Medieval-Reformation

Dr. Jeff Jaynes received an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. A Presbyterian elder, he currently teaches Church History at MTSO.



**Rev. Dr. Paul Kim**

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

Dr. Paul Kim received his M.Div. and Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from the Claremont School of Theology. A Presbyterian elder, he is Professor of Hebrew Bible at MTSO.



**Dr. Glen Messer**  
COS 524: Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry

Dr. Glen Messer received his M.Div. and Th.D. from Boston University. From 2012-2016 he served as associate ecumenical staff officer for theology and dialogue with the UMC Council of Bishops Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships.



# SPIRITUAL FORMATION

## PRAYING OUR WAY INTO SPRING

*Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper. Jeremiah 29:7*

How do we do it? How do we celebrate the resurrection, pray for peace, work for justice, and respond to God’s call all at the same time, with so much negativity, violence, war, and natural disasters occurring all around, over and over again? It is easy to become overwhelmed and to lose sight of God’s call, when the hope of God’s resurrecting love seems a distant dream. In light of the recent school shooting in Nashville, it was a shock but not a surprise, when three children and three staff members were murdered in the one place they thought was safe - their school. It’s hard to work and pray for “the peace and prosperity of the city” that Jeremiah encourages, when the horror of death dulls our senses. We ask why and we wonder how we, as a nation, got to this point. How did it happen that the safety of our children has become secondary to protecting the rights of assault weapons? I am not arguing for or against changes in gun laws, I am arguing for the sacredness of children and their right to live and learn in sanctuaries of peace.

Since violent death is not a deterrent, we must figure out ways to go on when it occurs, even with our dulled senses. How do we as clergy minister to our parishioners and communities? How do we make sense of what seems nonsensical? The numbers are staggering, over 10,000 homicides this year with 400 teens and children killed by guns. But it’s not just the number of lives lost, it is the extent of the loss that comes with each death that is hard to reconcile. Many more people are wounded by the loss and helplessness of not being able to do something. This pain lingers long after the funerals and the breaking news reports and affects each one of us, spreading our malaise over another mass shooting.

And then, Easter happens, life goes on and the Earth is renewed in the rising light. Things go on, in spite of crushed spirits and grieving parents. Death came and everyone, the living and the dead, is marked by it. No one is immune to the wounds we carry from loss. We know this, we preach this, and yet, the chaos continues and we ask, where are you God and where do we go from here? Our sorrow moves us to the cross and the hope of new life, but this hope, which is at the core of our faith, does not say that everything will go back to the way it was. This hope tells us that life will go on and that we will have many opportunities “to seek the prosperity and peace” that Jeremiah proclaims. If one prospers, we all prosper. With hope we pick up the pieces after Nashville, after Sandy Hook, after Uvalde, and try once again to put them together, in spite of what pulls us apart, with whatever strength we have.

And so, in the aftermath of Easter and another mass shooting, we do not lose hope. We respond to God’s call by praying our way into Spring with each breath and each step we take.

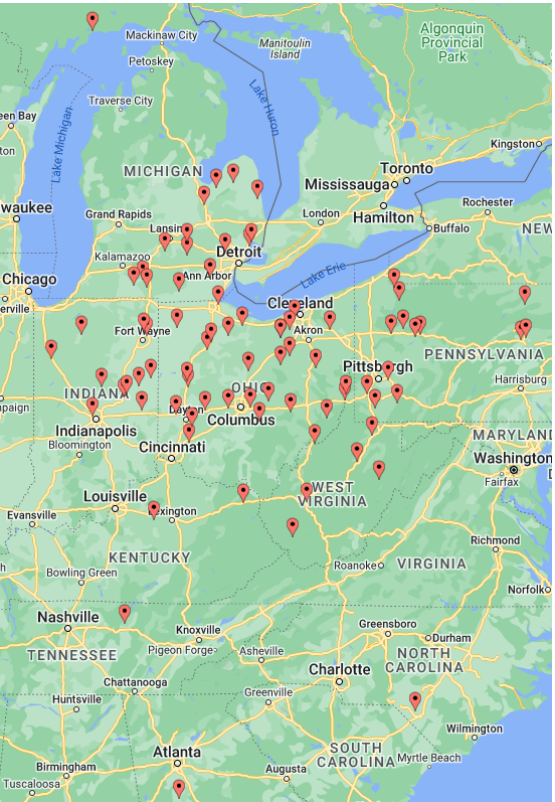
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples**  
*Spiritual Formation Director*



# FROM THE COORDINATOR

- Registration notes:
- 2023 Summer COS 324: Preaching now has a spot open & no one on the waitlist
  - In case anyone missed my email, the 2023 Summer & Summer 2-Week terms will meet fully online. 2023 Fall is meeting in a hybrid format. COS 121, 222, and 323 will meet in-person weekend 1. COS 424 and 522 will meet in-person weekend 2. Each class will meet on Zoom the weekend they are not in person.



← Students from 12 Annual Conferences are taking classes in 2023 Spring



**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 do so in person.



**Lori Douglas Weaver, MMed**  
*Choir Director*