



The Light Shines in the Darkness

Vision 2024

Mission

Coracle exists to inspire and enable people to be the presence of God in the brokenness of the world through Spiritual Formation for Kingdom Action.

Values

Inspired by and wanting to be like Jesus, as a ministry and in the lives of fellow pilgrims, Coracle values:

A Contemplative Life - living in touch with God and with the day-to-day realities of our worlds; praying together and listening for God's voice and responding.

A Community Life - living connected, authentic and meaningful lives with each other; offering hospitality and sharing life with others, especially those whom God leads to Coracle.

A Transformed Life - living as new persons in Jesus Christ, as our true selves in God and in the world.

An Engaged Life - living in and bringing Shalom more fully into the world for the sake of others and all creation, pursuing beauty, diversity, and justice as hallmarks of the Kingdom of God.

Vision

Our vision is for people to come fully alive through Christ for the sake of the world. To this end, we offer a variety of ministries, including our Spiritual Formation Fellowship program; Ministry Center in Arlington; Corhaven Retreat Center and Graveyard; in-person and online programs, communities, and resources; opportunities to deepen in prayer; "Essential Christianity" and other courses; ministries of reconciliation, justice, and shalom; personal and group spiritual retreats; pilgrimages and missions; spiritual direction, and more!

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*CORACLE has made me
REALLY WANT TO,
WITH INTENTION, be
Jesus in the world.
That's huge! CORACLE
HAS EXPANDED MY
WORLD.*

~Program Participant

“——

*At a turning point in my
life I needed a fresh
view of God and faith
and my entry into the
world of Coracle was
the entryway to that.*

~Program Participant

Coracle's Journey

Since we started our journey in 2012, Coracle has consistently sought to enable men and women to significantly deepen their relationships to God so that they might find new life in Jesus and powerfully engage places of brokenness in the world with God's redemptive love. From the beginning and still...

- We help the mature mature.
- **We help those longing for More find it.**
- We help those looking for God to find God and be found.
- **We help those on the frontlines of the brokenness of the world stay there and even thrive there.**
- We bring God's Kingdom with so many others, working for justice, reconciliation, and shalom for all people.
- **We experience and model the unity of the Church in divided times.**
- We help people be who God has made them to be for the good of all people, the common good, and the good of the world.

From the beginning we have been constantly motivated by two inescapable truths—that the world is broken and that Jesus is real. We've deeply engaged many places of brokenness to bring God's light and life there and bear witness to Jesus, empowered others to do the same, and have enabled thousands of people to encounter

God and mature in Christ through the many offerings that have emerged since our ministry was founded. **We believe that “in Christ all things hold together” (Colossians 1.17)**, and so our ministry has taken on a wide variety of forms, emerging then developed at the Spirit’s prompting, with all of them expressing, pointing to, and holding together in Jesus.

In the summer of 2022, reflecting on a decade of ministry, Coracle undertook a period of **corporate discernment** and, **informed by Jesus’ feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6.30-44)**, was given great **clarity of vision** to substantially increase our ministry and community efforts incarnationally through a ministry center in south Arlington, Virginia, as well as to extend our ministry in the Washington, DC and Baltimore metro areas, in the Shenandoah Valley, and online in order to reach many more people. In 2023, Coracle began this expansion with extraordinary progress and provision from the Lord. **This vision enables us and others to more fully incarnate the convictions and values we have pursued for years**, including cultivating community, creating spaces for people to deeply encounter God and experience deeper spiritual formation, and concretely acting for the sake of God’s kingdom for justice and racial healing, to make this world a place that looks more the way God designed it to be for the glory of Jesus.

We are excited by the opportunities for many more people to encounter the love and beauty of God revealed in Christ across a wide variety of backgrounds and needs, be they spiritual or material. **We are excited by more opportunities to reveal the love of Jesus to many more people and bear witness to the real reality of the Kingdom of God.** We are excited by how we feel God wants to meet many more people through this ministry and has in fact already provided the actual, physical spaces to do that.

“

*Now I know that
God sees me. Now
I know that God
knows me. Now I
know that God
can be trusted.*

*~Spiritual
Formation
Fellowship
Program
Participant*



Celebrating a decade at Corhaven, 2019

“—

We live in an increasingly broken world and the presence of a ministry seeking to push back the darkness and offer light to folks is extremely valuable spiritually.

~Community Survey Respondent

The Bigger Picture: Lighting a Light

Coracle is committed to persistently and uncompromisingly pursue our long held mission, “to inspire and enable people to be the presence of God in the brokenness of the world through ‘**Spiritual Formation for Kingdom Action**’.” **And we’re excited to be doing all this right now, in a challenging time in American history.**

We are living in a highly divided and increasingly polarized culture with few signs of that pressure abating. At the same time, there are ongoing exposures of where the Church seems often not to have lived up to the beauty of her calling, or at times even seemed to work against it. Long held foundations seem to be shaken. Today many people in the United States carry an unsettled sense that it seems like a dangerous and dark season in this country’s history. We feel that, too.

And we are neither intimidated nor afraid. We are clear about what is required.

When it feels dark, there’s one thing to do...to light a light, to set a bonfire in the dark so that those who feel like it’s cold and hard to see can come to it and find light, and warmth, and others. In this image, the light is Jesus himself, and the power and beauty of his “good news of the Kingdom of God” (Luke 4.43).

Jesus said in John 8.21, “I am the light of the world.” Yes, he is.



It was written of Jesus, “The light shines in the darkness.” Yes, he does, and John 1.5 goes on, “and the darkness did not overcome it.” No, it didn’t, and it will not because the light of Jesus still burns brightly in those who give themselves ever more fully to him and his Kingdom, those in whom the risen, living Christ lives.

For all the people—from all different places and perspectives—who will be touched and changed by God in the coming year, who will become more like Christ and powerfully become more who they uniquely are in Christ, who will be even more empowered as agents of God’s Kingdom, **we sense there is a bigger story of what we’re doing.**

All of our offerings, in our various locations, are akin to placing dry logs on top of each other so that Jesus can come and light the bonfire, the flame being Christ’s very self in our midst, bearing witness to his reality and beauty and inviting others to that same light. As Jesus himself said, “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it was already kindled!” (Luke 12.49). These are not words of judgment and condemnation but a promise of deep hope, vision, invitation, and inspiration!

Coracle is laying down logs for a bonfire, wanting Jesus to come so that we might enjoy him, know him more, and become more like him, so that others can see him as well and come near, finding warmth and light in what often feels like dark times. We welcome anyone who wants the light of Christ to burn brightly in his or her life, and we are assisting churches to do the same. By this, we hope that Jesus will be more fully revealed, more known and glorified, and that people will be blessed by encountering him, and realize all the more that **the God-who-is is the God who is Love.**

“

We were encouraged and refreshed in a meaningful way. As for many, these past couple of years have been so disorienting as it relates to our cultural evangelical Christianity and the church. We are finding our faith growing deeper and deeper personally, but felt this need to be grounded in a way that your teaching is doing for us.

~Essential Christianity Participant

Coracle's Ministry Spaces

Coracle offers regional and online programming in a variety of forms – our flagship spiritual formation fellowship program, community groups, seminars, retreats, pilgrimages, and ministries of reconciliation, justice and shalom, and more. While we hope and anticipate that more will come, currently we work primarily in four locations: Northern Virginia-Washington, DC; Baltimore, MD; Shenandoah Valley, VA; and online (around the world).

Northern Virginia-Washington, DC

Since its beginning, Coracle has had a community presence in the Northern Virginia-Washington, DC area, but as of May 2023, we are excited to have a physical presence and large space from which to provide a variety of ministry offerings. In this new ministry center, located in south Arlington, the most materially impoverished part of Arlington county, we have ample opportunities to engage with the needs of the immigrant, the refugee, and the materially poor among us.

The Coracle Arlington Ministry Center addresses the tangible needs of our neighbors through providing hospitality, food, and teaching, including:

- ESOL classes
- a food pantry
- cooking classes and shared meals
- life skills training
- a lending library with English and Spanish language books
- a work space with computers, internet, and printer access
- convening area churches and groups for partnership

Coracle also seeks to address the spiritual needs of any who walk through our Ministry Center's doors through our ministry offerings of:

- the Coracle Spiritual Formation Fellowship Program
- prayer
- spiritual direction and pastoral counsel
- spiritual retreats
- regular community gatherings
- crucial conversations and seminars
- pilgrimages that help participants understand the legacy of enslavement in Virginia and beyond
- a dedicated Community Minister

We want to incarnate integrated Christianity in the Washington, DC area so that the love and beauty of Jesus and the reality of God's kingdom can be experienced and made known for many people as both service and witness.

Baltimore, Maryland

Coracle's ministry presence in Baltimore began in earnest in 2020, in response to a spiritual hunger there that has led to a vibrant, diverse, and growing community who listen and walk with one another and with their neighbors for the good of the city. This community draws deeply on their desire to be agents of justice and righteousness in an impoverished urban locality and engages in civic action rooted in their practices of spiritual formation.

Our spiritual formation and kingdom action offerings in Baltimore include:

- the Coracle Spiritual Formation Fellowship Program
- prayer
- spiritual direction
- thematic retreats
- regular community gatherings
- partnering with BUILD (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development) to address the needs of the city
- developing pilgrimages that help participants understand how Baltimore came to be the way it is today, including engaging with the legacy of enslavement
- a dedicated Community Minister

We desire to see people in Baltimore formed deeply in Jesus so that they can love well, and we want to continue to cultivate a community of Christians who are more empowered to engage with the needs of their neighbors.

“

You guys are touching the heart of so many important matters and it feels like you are really coming alongside God's children to help us live at peace with Him and the world around us!

~Pastor in Baltimore



“

*The moment I entered
Corhaven, I knew this
was a thin place.*

~Retreatant at Corhaven

Shenandoah Valley, Virginia

Coracle's ministry presence in the Valley is centered at Corhaven, a 17-acre farm and retreat center in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. Corhaven offers the chance for Christians of all ages and all denominations to taste and see that the Lord is good, through a variety of offerings, including:

- spiritual retreats for individuals, leadership groups, ministry teams, and pastors
- creation care activities and family experiences, including opportunities for stewarding the land, farming, and gardening
- arts initiatives and community gatherings to enjoy beauty through hospitality, music events, and other artistic expressions
- a ministry program for youth (SLAQ-Servant Leader Quest)
- a dedicated Corhaven Host providing hospitality for retreatants and guests
- a dedicated Community Minister

Corhaven also offers a space to constructively engage with the history of slavery in the United States by caring for and welcoming visitors to the Corhaven Graveyard, a historic burial site for enslaved peoples who once lived and worked on the land where Corhaven now resides.



Young Adults Retreat, 2016

“

*Corhaven is truly a
shelter for the heart, I
was inspired and
strengthened. Thank you
for creating such a soul-
filling space.*

~Retreatant at Corhaven



Corhaven at Night

In 2023, our Valley ministry expanded to include SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest), a ministry for youth initiated by our Community Minister in 2020. SLAQ offers youth from diverse backgrounds a chance to discover the sacredness of life and the gift of a “good” creation through real-life experiences of adventure, discipleship, and leadership.

We want to model good stewardship for creation as well as create spaces in the Shenandoah Valley where many people and youth can go to meet with God on spiritual retreat and encounter God in sacred places and through curated experiences of beauty and healing.

Nationally and Around the World (online)

Coracle has numerous online offerings designed for people to connect with God, realize the relevancy of Jesus, and engage with theological, spiritual, and cultural questions. A few of our live offerings include Space for God (weekly spaces for prayer and contemplation); Sounding Seminars (conversations about living as Christ-followers in this moment); and The Deeper Journey (a monthly gathering to go deeper into Christ together), and Bible studies. We also share recordings via our website and our weekly podcast, For the Journey.

We are developing substantive on-demand courses, including the recently published Essential Christianity, an 8- or 15-session journey through the beautifully expansive story of God’s love, Jesus’ mission, and the coming Kingdom, written by Rev. Bill Haley, Coracle Executive Director.

Coracle’s online programs welcome attendees from across the U.S. and around the world. Observing the clear hunger for connection with others, we are committed to cultivating this growing and thriving space so that we have a variety of ways for people to engage with others on the journey.

We want to offer any person in this country and on the planet powerful spiritual formation resources and intellectual content, meaningful encounters with God, and deeper community for like-minded souls whom God leads to Coracle.



“ —

Each session of Essential Christianity is like a breath of fresh air and I am so grateful for the perspective this course is giving me.

~Essential Christianity Participant



Coracle's Ministry Programs

Our four spaces provide Coracle with the platforms to offer a wide variety of opportunities and programs for spiritual deepening and service to others, including:

The Coracle Fellowship Spiritual Formation Program – leading participants through a series of 12 retreats to go deeper in their relationships with God in order to be a redemptive presence in the world; offered in-person in Northern Virginia/Washington D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland, and Online.

Corhaven Retreat Center – offering a 17-acre farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley for spiritual growth, rest, and equipping for a variety of people, including spiritual retreats, creation care and arts initiatives, community gatherings, and dedicated retreats for pastors and ministry leaders.

Community – providing online and in-person spaces for people on the journey to gather together, including The Deeper Journey (a monthly community group meeting online and in Baltimore) and A Common Way (an ecumenical, non-residential, and accessible way for lay people leading regular lives to apply monastic wisdom to contemporary life together).

Essential Christianity – developing a book with a video and audio course designed to help participants recover the awe of Jesus and Christianity, available for individual, small group, and church use.



Equipping a variety of churches, faith-based relief and development NGOs, and parachurch ministries through leadership consultation, retreats, teaching, speaking engagements, and spiritual direction for executive leadership.

Servant Leader Quest (SLAQ) – taking youth through a 12-month program for spiritual formation, character building, and leadership development.

The Repentance Project – pursuing racial healing and reconciliation among all peoples by offering programs to encourage Christians to recognize, repent, and respond to America’s history of racial injustice for the sake of repair and in the context of relationships.

The Corhaven Graveyard and Hush Harbor – honoring men and women who died enslaved in Virginia, providing space for reflection, engaging lament and prayer, and educating about local and national history for the sake of repair and reconciliation.

Spiritual Direction – offering this classic Christian ministry of spiritual accompaniment for a wide variety of people and providing scholarships for accessibility.

Pilgrimages and Mission – crafting transformative travel experiences including Maryland and Virginia slavery history sites, Guatemala and the US/Mexico Border, Nepal, the Camino de Santiago in Spain, Celtic Christianity in the UK and Ireland, Israel/Palestine, and Rome and Assisi.

Space for God – creating space online for encounters with God through a variety of ancient and modern contemplative prayer practices, with weekly virtual offerings in different time zones.

Soundings Seminars – addressing relevant topics in culture, the church, personal spiritual growth and Christian faith, and contemporary national and global events through regular online seminars.

Common Good Things business – stewarding a business built on Kingdom principles, creating employment opportunities for others, curating thoughtful goods for living well and the common good, caring for creation, and providing a context for teaching and discussions about vocation.

Online resources and communications – creating a variety of print and digital media resources for learning and inspiration, including regular essays and reflections, weekly newsletters and podcasts, social media and video channels, and the Coracle Journal.

Ministry and Program Impact

Each year, Coracle has expanded its ministry impact, now welcoming and engaging thousands of participants each year through our various offerings.

Some milestones from the last decade of ministry:

- 10 cohorts of Coracle Spiritual Formation Fellows with hundreds of alumni
- 150+ weekly prayer sessions of Space for God averaging 40-50 people per week
- 40+ Spiritual Directors offering spiritual direction with hundreds of people
- Thousands of nights on spiritual retreats at Corhaven welcoming hundreds of retreatants
- Averaging over 50 programs each year reaching over 1000 registrants
- Over 4500 podcast downloads with 500 listens a week, over 3500 newsletter subscribers, and over 1000 followers on social media networks
- Thousands of people who have gone through “An American Lent” with the Repentance Project
- Scores of seminars virtually and in person
- Leading over 175 pilgrims through 12 pilgrimages in the U.S., Guatemala, El Paso, Spain, England, Nepal, and Israel/Palestine
- Participants from across the U.S. and around the world



US-Mexico
Border Wall,
2019



Israel and Palestine
Pilgrimage, 2019

Numbers, however, do not tell the full story of the countless testimonies we've received of lives changed, enlivened, and encouraged for the journey. Here are our participants in their own voices.

- **“What a blessing and gift Coracle has been to me over this last year...truly Coracle is a place where I have been able to experience the blessings of God...in prayer, community, listening, learning, growing...a time to refresh and refuel, in order to be able to continue to pour out to others in my own community and life journey.”**
- **“Sometimes you don't know how much you need something until you show up. Corhaven and the Coracle Fellows Program was that unexpected, amazing, perfect answer to prayer that we hadn't had words for—we do now.”**
- **“I found Essential Christianity to be so rich and encouraging to examine the truths and essential story of our faith... I feel invited by God to go deeper into the reality of His love, His calling, His vision for my life and for this world.”**
- **“God met me deeply at the retreat... in new profound ways... it was the first time in a long while that I cried tears in awe of God's love for me.”**
- **“In January I did not spend time with God. Now I do. In January I did not emotionally feel His love for me. Now I do. In January I did not place my trust in His faithfulness. Now I do. And more than that. People tell me that I am more loving, that I have more light in my face—and I think I know what they mean.”**
- **“I've never been in a place so “thin” and charged with God's presence (and I usually am not sensitive to such things)! I see this place as a haven rejuvenating and reorienting all the faithful who come here. So many of us need it, and how transformative for the world it must be if more of us would make the time and space to unplug and seek to be directed like we can at Corhaven.”**
- **“Last night I sensed God directing me to pray for Coracle, specifically, to listen to Him on your behalf. This is what I sensed: ‘This is a time of transition in the Church. You (Coracle) are called to be a bedrock for this generation.’”**
- **“Because of the Fellows Program, I'm so much more intentional for God...I've never been this close to Jesus.”**



Clockwise (left to right): Serving at the Arlington Bridge Builders Backpack Event 2023, Soundings Seminar 2017, Vocation Retreat 2019, Juneteenth Service 2021, Repentance Project founded at Corhaven Graveyard 2015, Coracle Fellows 2018



- “Coracle offers a measured, thoughtful embrace of the historic faith both ancient and modern with genuine concern for social justice as Christians.”
- “This year has expanded my vision of the spiritual life, that it’s not an intermittent thing but that the spiritual life is my life. I’m asking different questions now. My desires have grown so that my old fears don’t matter so much. This was life-changing for me.”



Below (top to bottom): Coracle Staff, 2nd Wednesdays gathering at the Coracle Arlington Ministry Center, 2023

- “I’m drawn by your mission to all - breaking down barriers in a gentle and knowledgeable way; teaching the ways, the love for all, and the forgiveness of Christ and applying it in our lives with deep thought and prayer.”
- “Coracle is a trusted path through this wilderness of American evangelical life today...”.
- “Thank YOU for yielding to the unction to be used of God in the ministry of justice, mercy, repentance and reconciliation. I am deeply moved by the love that propels your involvement in matters involving race in America and beyond.”



Supporting Coracle

With your support and partnership, Coracle's ministry:

- enables people to be who they were made to be in Jesus;
- empowers people to be God's redemptive agents in the brokenness of the world;
- concretely engages the work of justice, peacemaking, compassion, and reconciliation;
- cultivates spaces for people who want to go deeper in God; and
- creates communities of encouragement for those who serve the world.

Because we never want finances to hinder someone from drawing nearer to God and being deeply formed through our programs and places, the majority of our offerings are by "suggested donation," and we are grateful for that support.

As we seek to bear witness to Jesus, to help people come to him, and thereby to become fully alive in God so that they can go out to serve their communities and the world, we would be very grateful for your prayers, partnerships, and financial support!

Coracle's offerings, programs and spaces do have their own, "real world" costs - materials, supplies, rent, utilities, etc., and staff costs. Responding to ministry opportunities coming out of our 2022 corporate discernment process, Coracle opened its Arlington Ministry Center, began transitioning Corhaven from a "retreat home" into a "retreat center," increased its online and in-person programs, and expanded its staff to include full-time community ministers in Baltimore, Northern Virginia/DC, and in the Shenandoah Valley as well as to include additional part-time staff in key ministry positions.

Knowing its responsibility to care for its employees, Coracle also improved its employee benefits to provide appropriate insurance and retirement benefits for full-time and part-time staff. Trying to best live into the call Coracle has received from the Lord, Coracle wants to care for those to whom it ministers and for those by whom it ministers.

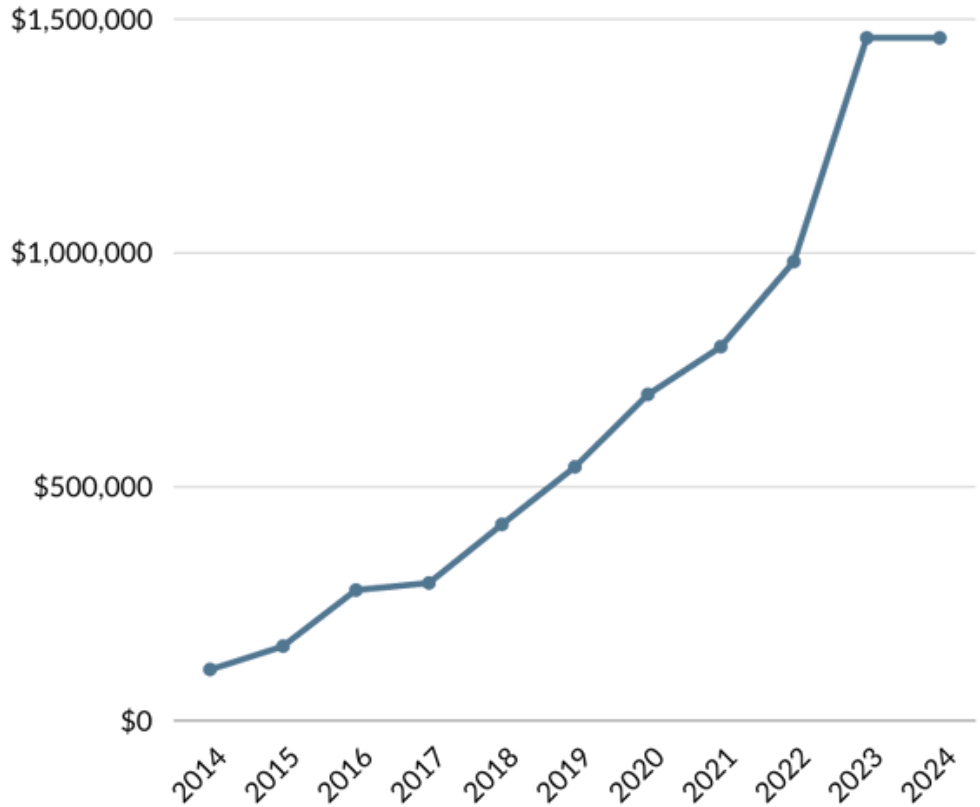
With Coracle's growth and maturing as a ministry, Coracle's operating budget has increased over the years. For the reasons just discussed, the 2023 operating budget saw the largest year-over-year increase since Coracle began. **Having experienced significant growth this year, Coracle's 2024 budget will remain similar to its 2023 budget—approximately \$1,460,000 across all of our spaces and programs.**

Budget, 2014-2024

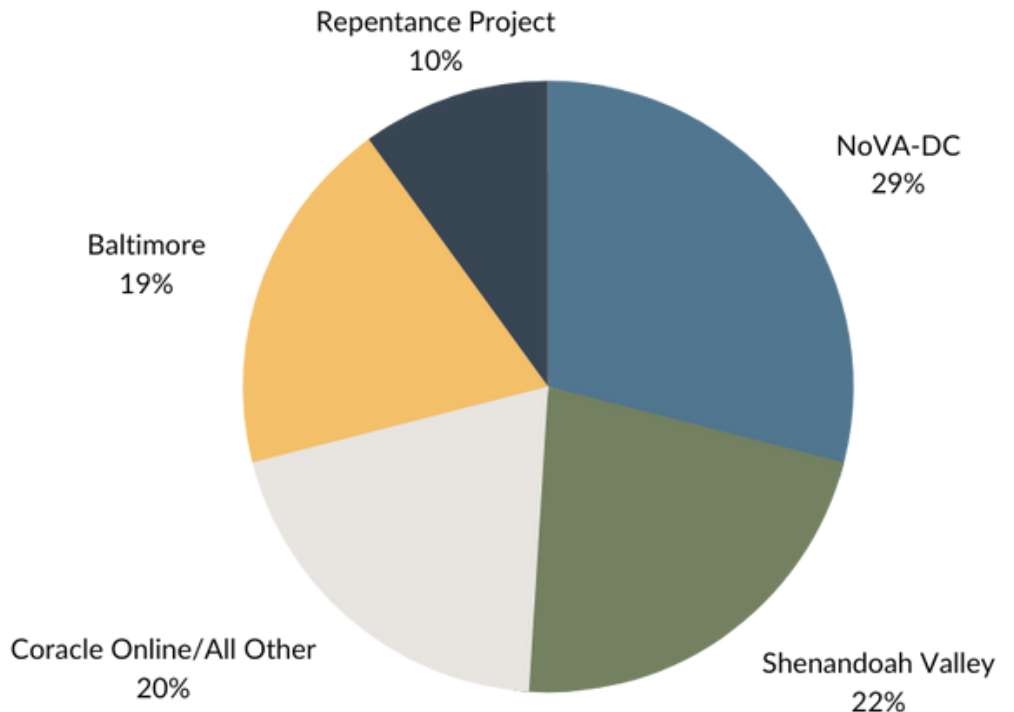
Donations in support of Coracle may be made online via the QR code below or via check made out to "Coracle" and mailed to 5401 7th Road South, Arlington, VA 22204.

Coracle is a U.S. tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization. We are a ministry of the church for the church and world. We are funded by the financial support provided by our friends, donors, and program revenue.

If you have any questions or would like more information on our programs, budget, or 2024 vision, please contact us at development@inthecoracle.org.



2024 Budget Allocations





Scan the QR code
above for “To
Become Luminous,”
a devotional
offering from Bill.

“This is a picture of a bonfire at dawn. While we are lighting bonfires in the dark now, with faith, hope, and glad expectation, ultimately we are waiting for dawn to break and the sun to rise, for Christ to return, when we will no longer need to light fires because the darkness will be banished, and all will be made right and made bright. Until that day, our fires point to that Fire. We light a fire in hope and witness to the Light that has come, is coming, and will come.”

~Rev. Bill Haley, Coracle Executive Director

