

APRIL 2025



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Using Our Mind Loving God

Foundry's dedication to challenging study is grounded in the belief that we are called to love God with our heart, soul, and mind. This scriptural invitation in Mark 12:30 reminds us that an intellectually engaged faith is part of our spiritual journey.

When we bring genuine curiosity and careful thought to our discipleship, we open ourselves to deeper insights and a richer encounter with the divine. For years, Foundry has modeled this commitment through seasons of intense inquiry and discernment, especially when called to address issues of inclusion and justice.

In the early 1990s, Foundry undertook a focused exploration of whether to become a Reconciling Congregation. We held several gatherings, sharing perspectives, concerns, and hopes. This dialogue fostered a spirit of honesty and humility, allowing us to weigh varying opinions and understand our collective calling. Ultimately, Foundry affirmed that it would be a place where all are truly welcome, including those who identify as LGBTQ+, demonstrating how study, discussion, and prayer can guide a faith community to act with compassion and courage.

In 2010, Foundry confronted a new opportunity to live out these values when same-gender marriage became legal in the District of Columbia. Encouraged by Senior Pastor Dean Snyder and under Todd Mullins' leadership, our congregation engaged in a "Summer of Discernment," examining theological and legal ramifications of hosting these weddings in our sanctuary. Again, Foundry members discovered a deep, shared commitment to hospitality grounded in faith. They voted overwhelmingly to celebrate same-gender marriages, embracing again the principle that God's love extends to all people.



This spirit of thoughtful engagement continues to shape who we are. Immediately after Easter, two new classes will offer fresh perspectives on faith and community by examining unconventional texts. One, **Harry Potter and Christianity, Fantasy and Faith**, invites participants to explore how themes of sacrifice, redemption, and love in J.K. Rowling's series resonate with biblical narratives and Christian teaching. The other class, rooted in Keegan Osinski's **Queering Wesley, Queering the Church**, uses a queer lens to reinterpret John Wesley's theology, emphasizing radical inclusivity, grace, and the power of seeing the image of God in all people.

Each class aims to foster a safe environment for dialogue, reflection, and shared discovery, affirming that God can speak to us in surprising ways. By participating, you join a long tradition at Foundry of loving God with heart, soul, and mind, embracing the growth that comes from study and open-hearted conversation. We look forward to journeying together in faith and learning.

Pastor Jonathan

Associate Pastor and Director of Discipleship

Our Children, Your Chance

MARY SMALL

I have two daughters, who you all get to see during the Children's Moment every week. In a Ministry Moment earlier this year, I talked about **Children's worship**, which strikes the perfect balance between having our children experience collective worship with us, but also giving them their own space to learn, experience prayer on a kid-accessible level, and cultivate joy and connection.

I spoke about **Sunday school**, where my kids have deepened their relationships with other kids their age, bonded with their teachers, learned Bible stories and done some truly excellent crafts.

Those experiences are so, so good for my kids and all our Foundry kids as they grow in knowledge and understanding of themselves and of God's love for them.

But they're also so good for me, and for all the other parents who are hungry for a chance to just be: To be seekers and learners and community builders instead of just parents – whether that's listening uninterrupted to the sermon or participating in book studies or small groups. To get a chance to deepen and reinvigorate our own faith, so that we have more in our reservoirs to nourish the fledging faiths of our children.

All of that is true. Deeply so.

But as I prepared to share with you all, I realized that what I'm most grateful for about Family Ministries isn't Children's worship, or Sunday school, or the delightful chaos of the spontaneous Christmas pageant, or even my beloved family camp.

At the core of my appreciation for Family Ministries at Foundry is the community. I know that whatever comes in the weeks ahead, whatever unanswerable questions my children ask as they overhear the news or one of my work calls, whatever gets broken or dismantled around us, however much other people use the name of our God to inflict harm and suffering on others, whatever unreasonable resilience this world is about to ask of our children, there is a community here that made a vow to my kids, and to all our kids, at their baptisms.



There are other adults here committed to modeling a different way of walking through this world – with compassion and bravery and generosity, weaving the sense of belonging that will hold them as it holds each of us, standing in humble but defiant contrast to the grievance, greed, corruption and cruelty of empire.

These times call us all. Differently, to be sure, but nonetheless, they call us. Each of us must discern what acts of sacred resistance are ours to take. There are many to choose from.

I want to suggest that investing in Foundry's kids – in Children's Worship, as a Sunday school teacher or something else – is an act of resistance. And it is sacred work – teaching the radical gospel of Jesus' unending love and acceptance and inclusion for the wide, wide diversity of God's family.

As Spirit leads, I hope you'll reach out to find your place. Thank you.

Mary and her spouse Brandon Wu have been members of Foundry since 2015, and their two daughters (ages 6 and 8) have been part of the Foundry family since they were born. Mary is the Managing Director at Indivisible, a grassroots pro-democracy organization. When she isn't working, Mary loves playing with her sweet kiddos, being outside, or ideally, both at the same time.

It's Time for a Foundry Men's Retreat!

In recent years, there has been an increasing amount of national conversation about gender and gender roles. Much of that conversation expresses fear about the evolving understanding of sexuality, gender and the perceived shifting of gender roles. Some argue for a return to more "traditional" paradigms, while others express concern about "toxic masculinity."

Take a weekend this spring to reflect with other men in the Foundry community on what constitutes a healthy vision of manhood. The retreat will take place at the beautiful West River United Methodist camp, about an hour from DC, beginning Friday evening May 2nd and closing on Sunday after lunch on May 4th. We will stay in the main lodge, where all our meals will be provided. The cost for the two-night retreat is only \$200. Scholarship money is available upon request.

This weekend retreat is an opportunity for the men of Foundry to get to know each other and share our stories. We will explore the positive and negative ways in which our identities as men were shaped by our fathers. We will use the language of Carl Jung that affirms the power of masculine archetypes and discuss how to access their energy as a resource for everyday life.

Led by recent Acting Senior Pastor David Argo and long-time Foundry members Charlie Parker and Greg McGruder, we will build on the work of Jung, pioneering psychologist of the collective unconscious, as described in the book *King, Warrior, Magician, Lover*. Stories from our rich scriptural heritage will augment these archetypes and illuminate what they may have to teach us about a wholesome understanding of male-ness and how it impacts our lives.

David has led retreats on this topic with other congregations. One past attendee said, "It was the deepest spiritual experience of my life."

Register [here](#) by April 15.

A Look into the Crucifixion Music Series

MJ JEAN, MUSIC TEAM COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR

This Lenten season, Foundry's Chancel Choir will share a wide variety of songs about the crucifixion. Gifting us with music from four countries and six genres, this Crucifixion Music Series evokes the broad range of emotions we share in this holy season: from rage to sorrow, pain to surrender, all ultimately finding resolution in the transcendence of God.

You will hear selections from the baroque to modern. In J.S. Bach's **"Here Yet Awhile,"** from his St. Matthew Passion, the melodies and harmonies compress and expand as the singers voice the diametric forces in Jesus' last days: his innocence and the violence of his death, his patient nature and the thunderous hatred of those who killed him. Also from the Baroque period, Antonio Lotti's **"Cruxifixus"** resolves dissonance into angelic harmony.

Moving forward to the 20th century, as part of the Good Friday Tenebrae evening service, the choir will sing **"Tenebrae factae sunt"** by French composer Francis Poulenc, blending music, readings, and the extinguishing of candles into a powerful expression of worship.

Modern-day American compositions round out the season. Roger Wagner's **"Were You There?"** is a reflective and plaintive setting of the familiar spiritual framing the voice of a soloist against wordless choral vocalises (i.e. the choir humming or singing "ooh") rather than the hymnal version of call and response. The quiet, haunting opening of Larry Fleming's **"Every Time I Think About Jesus"** transports us through rhythmic lines to the hope and triumph of resurrection.

Part of the Black Composers Series, "He Never Said a Mumblin' Word (Crucifixion)" arranged by Adolphus Hailstork, the Dean of African-American composers, blends soaring pleas and austere lyrics into a transcendent resolution. The choir will also share "O, Come and Mourn," a traditional hymn arranged by United Methodist choral director and jazz composer Loonis McGlohon.

AND YOU ARE INVITED TO SING WITH US!

We invite anyone who would like to sing with the choir, especially at the Good Friday Tenebrae Service and on Easter Sunday.

You are also welcome to join us in **May**, as we begin rehearsing for our 'Foundry Sings' 2025 Project, the **Durufié Requiem**, which we'll sing on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025.

Sign up now at music@foundryumc.org to sing with us for any or all of these opportunities, and the music ministry team will answer any questions you have and help you prepare to sing with us.

Foundry Forward

APRIL 2025 ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, April 6

“From the Ground Up”

Today, the last Sunday before Holy Week, Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli concludes our “Grounded in Grace” series. Our texts are from Isaiah 43:16–32 and John 12:1–8. John’s passage tells the story of Mary, the sister of Martha, anointing and wiping Jesus’ feet with expensive, aromatic oils. In that action, Mary exemplifies the power to act bravely, to do what is needed, when we are grounded in God’s grace.

At 12:30 you are welcome to join a Prayer Workshop hosted by the Stephen Ministry team in Room 203 and online. Register to attend in person or get the link to participate online [here](#).

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

We gather on the Plaza to begin Holy Week and remember Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. Pastor Ginger will preach. Our texts (Psalm 118:1–2,19–29, and Luke 19:28–40) remind us of the succession of conflicting emotions that day: the enthusiasm of the crowd, the dismay of the Pharisees, followed by Jesus’ tears as Jerusalem comes into view, his warning of dark days ahead, his anger and his ousting from the Temple those who were using it as a “religious bazaar.”

Thursday, April 17

Maundy (Holy) Thursday

Tonight, we come together in the sanctuary and online at 7 o’clock to remember Jesus’ Last Supper. After several days of preaching in the Temple, Jesus gathers in the Upper Room with his disciples, one of whom will soon betray him to his enemies. He washes the feet of the disciples and alludes to his knowledge of Peter’s denial and Judas’ betrayal. Our texts for this evening range from Exodus (12:1–4, 11–14) and Psalms (116:1–2,12–19) to John (13:1–7, 31b–35) and 1 Corinthians (11:23–26).

Friday, April 18

Good Friday

Together at noon and again at 7 p.m. we remember this grim day. Jesus is arrested, repeatedly disavowed, interrogated by the High Priest and the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, whipped, abandoned by the crowd, taunted, crucified and dies. Our texts include Isaiah (52:13–53:12) Psalm 22, and John (18:1–19:42)

Saturday, April 19

Easter Egg Hunt

Children of all ages – and their families – are invited to come to Stead Park at 11 o’clock today for an Easter egg hunt. For more information, email Natalie Harvey, Director of Family Ministries, nharvey@foundryumc.org

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday!

Today we celebrate life – Jesus’ resurrection and the hope that His victory over death gives us even in our darkest days. Pastor Ginger will preach at both the 9 o’clock and 11:15 services, drawing on familiar texts from the Old and New Testaments, affirming that we are Easter people, people with hope.

Tuesday, April 22

Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry’s Board convenes its monthly meeting at 7 pm. Interested Foundry members can attend, using [this Zoom link](#).

Saturday, April 26

Earth Day Clean-Up

As part of Foundry’s Earth Day celebration, we are partnering with the Anacostia Watershed Society for a clean-up today from 11–1pm at Fort Totten Park. Join us as we pick up trash and learn more about how we can protect the Anacostia River and other local waterways. Register [here](#) to join Foundry’s group at Fort Totten Park or to participate in a clean-up in a different location. For more information, email Jackie at jwright@foundryumc.org.

Sunday, April 27

Earth Day

Today we celebrate Earth Day, begin a new adult class, and offer anyone interested in becoming a Foundry member the opportunity to talk with a member of our clergy about the path to membership. Our sermon – beginning our Easter Season series at 9 o’clock and 11:15 – will be based on texts from Psalms and Revelation.

A New Look at Wesley

And between services, you are invited to attend the first session of a new 4-week class, looking at the teachings of John Wesley through a new lens. It’s at 10:10 am in Room 203. The course focuses on Keegan Osinski’s **Queering Wesley, Queering the Church**, which reinterprets John Wesley’s theology to focus on radical inclusivity and the church’s call to honor the image of God in all people.

Pastor’s Coffee

Are you considering joining Foundry as a full member? You’ll have a chance today to learn more. Join us at 10:10 am virtually or in Room 101 to learn about our church and your next steps toward becoming a Foundry member. To register and get the link, go [here](#). Questions, email Pastor Jonathan at jbrown@foundryumc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW
FOR SUNDAY, MAY 4!

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE... and a new adult class!

Foundry will again partner with Rise against Hunger for our spring Great Day of Service. Join us for this Foundry favorite. Registration coming soon/

And today at 10:10 in Room B2, we begin a four-week course on Harry Potter and Christianity, Fantasy and Faith, exploring how themes of sacrifice, redemption and love in this popular series echo or contradict Christian teachings. Register at foundryumc.org/harry-potter

CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE ACTION: JOIN, LEARN, SUPPORT!



- Reserve your spot today!
- Support with contributions and airline miles!
- Connect with films, books, each other!

JAF Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Alabama
From Atlanta, Georgia

June 16 – 21, 2025
MARS Tours and Travel

Everyone is invited to come to Saturday learning sessions 2-4 pm:

March 15: Freedom Riders @ Asbury
April 5: Selma Marches @ Foundry
May 17: March on Wash @ John Wesley

Hosted by the Senior Pastors of JAF:
John Wesley AME Zion
Asbury UMC
Foundry UMC



JOIN: Register soon for the June 16–21 Civil Rights Pilgrimage at <https://foundryumc.org/events/civil-rights-pilgrimage>, as seats are going quickly.

This is such a compelling time for us to look back and be re-inspired and reinvigorated in order to move forward. The multi-racial allyship of Asbury, Foundry and John Wesley is the kind of community that is needed for us to upend the terrors of this administration and to focus the nation on building a diverse and equitable society." – [Kumeya Shorter-Gooden](#), Member, John Wesley AME Zion Church

LEARN: **Everyone** is invited to the upcoming monthly Saturday [civil rights learning sessions](#). We will view and discuss film and book excerpts with congregants from all three churches.

Also, Asbury UMC has invited both churches to join in its **Lenten Book Study of [Share the Dream](#)** by MLK Jr., offering different weekly times for different schedules. See flyer at the Pilgrimage table after services or ask one of us to send it to you.

SUPPORT: Any amount welcome! Donations for those who need scholarships, especially for teens on this intergenerational trip, may be made through <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/racial-justice> or by designating "JAF Pilgrimage" on a check. Donations of frequent flyer miles? Yes, please.

Saturday, March 15, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.:

[Freedom Riders, 1961](#)

[\(Hosted by our own Greg McGruder\)](#)

ASBURY: 926 11th St NW, Washington, DC 20001
(free garage parking)

Saturday, April 5, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.,

[Selma Voting Rights Marches, 1965](#)

FOUNDRY: 1500 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20036

Saturday, May 17, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.,

[Faces of March on Washington, 1963](#)

JOHN WESLEY AME ZION: 1615 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Reach out with questions

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