



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Easter Happens in the Dark

It is good news that while it's still dark, Easter happens. Because if we begin to believe that Easter only happens in the light — when things are going well, when we feel strong and certain, when suffering and death hasn't touched our lives, when the powers of empire have been defeated and justice is consistently done — then our celebration of Easter would be less meaningful. Because the truth is — it is still dark.

While it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to Jesus' tomb and found it empty. She didn't know that Easter had happened. She assumed foul play — insult to injury, more cruelty from a world that wouldn't learn how to be gentle or just.

She was shrouded in darkness, shattered by grief, deep in lament. She stood there and cried. What else was there to do?

In the Psalms — our biblical prayer book — a common pattern begins in lament, naming the pain, fear, and suffering of life, even railing against God for seeming far away. And then, with the Psalmist's heart broken open in grief, something shifts. Is it memory? Grace? A ray of light in the darkness? Whatever it is, the prayer that begins in sorrow ends with praise.

The Psalm Jesus quotes from the cross — "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" — is one of these. It includes these words: "God did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried out... and I shall live for God." (Ps. 22:24, 29)



You see, the God of Jesus — the God of Easter — is a God who hears when we cry out in whatever darkness breaks our heart, who does not turn away from us but draws near.

And while it was still dark, Jesus draws near to Mary. She hears her name spoken by a voice she thought gone forever. In that moment her lament turns to praise: "You have turned my mourning into dancing... and clothed me with joy."

Easter is not about pretending that all is well when it isn't. It is about learning to dance in the dark. When our hearts are broken — by loss, betrayal, or despair for the world — Christ comes near, arms outstretched, inviting us toward new life. Jesus will always stay near, ready to ask at just the right time: "Shall we dance?"

Thanks be to God. Blessings as we dance through this Easter season,
ginger+

Sunday School Delights

MASON DAVENPORT

Sunday School with 16 pre-k/kindergarten students sizzles with energy. Here's a typical morning.

Check-in starts sometime after 10 a.m., depending on how long the early service goes. Kids check in by picking out a sticker to add to the attendance sheet. Then they play with toys. That typically involves a lot of laughter, some struggles to share with others, and one or two kids that decide it's their week to grab my legs so that I drag them around. (Don't tell them but I love this — although I do have to brace my core to avoid falling.)

We sit around the carpet for story time, read a short passage from the children's bible and discuss the lesson. Then it's time for the scramble of letter search (we hide letters in the classroom that spell a phrase connected to the morning lesson), the craft of the day devised by Ms. Lynn, longtime Sunday School teacher and absolute wiz. The children look for the hidden letters and then use them to spell out the phrase related to the morning lesson. Every Sunday, we pray we get the right number of letters so that everyone can find one. And every Sunday, we are off by just *thiissss* much. Regardless, it helps young ones learn their letters and older ones with basic spelling, so I think it a win. After that, we join in a prayer where kids say what they are thankful for and maybe a snack to go.

Parents, I love your children. Each child has something I remember them by. This one is a little awkward and full of love and always asks for a hug. That child likes a high five where I shake my hand after because he's hit it so hard. This child must be having a tough time because she typically talks 1000 mph and is shy today. That child perfects his weekly arts and crafts such that I know he has an aesthetic future.



And I love this job. I see glimpses into the lives of our young ones. I learn from them. I feel the Holy Spirit within me when I see the smile of recognition and spark of joy in the children's eyes. In a time where so much seems to be going wrong, I find my center every Sunday morning looking at the face of God in so many little smiles looking up at me during story time. I am forever grateful for Pastor Natalie's call for volunteers that spurred me to volunteer. I encourage anyone interested in Sunday School or our church youth community to reach out and get involved. You won't regret it.

Mason Davenport came to Foundry after rediscovering his faith in January 2024. He started as a Sunday School teacher in September 2024 while he was a law intern in the Office of the White House Counsel. A graduate of UVA Law and member of the DC bar, he is an associate lawyer at Winston & Strawn. He hails from Richmond, VA, where he loves to visit his nieces and nephew, whom he credits for instructing him on the best silly faces to use when teaching Sunday School.

Fair Trade Items for Your Easter Basket

As Easter approaches, think about stocking your Easter baskets with fairly-traded chocolate rather than big brand names. With fair trade, small local producers can capture a larger share of the profit and there is far less risk that your chocolate started with child labor in a poor country. To order your fair trade chocolate for Easter, just go to this link, <https://shop.equalexchange.coop>

For many years, Foundry has been making fairly-traded products from the Equal Exchange cooperative available for sale at Advent and through our informal "coffee club" that buys coffee, tea, dried fruit, olive oil, nuts, and chocolate more or less quarterly. Additionally, you have been drinking Equal Exchange coffee at the weekly coffee hour.

In recognition of our commitment to fair trade justice, Foundry has once again this year been recognized as being among the top 100 churches/community groups with which Equal Exchange works.

This Month in Foundry History

April 1865 — one hundred and sixty years ago — was a momentous month in American and Foundry history. President Abraham Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theatre on Good Friday, April 14, and died the following day. The day after his death was Easter. Foundry's pastor, Rev. William Ryan, changed the Easter service into one of mourning for the late President and said in his sermon that while George Washington was the founder of the nation, "Abraham Lincoln had saved it."

Thanks to the work of Foundry's Archives and History Committee, you will soon be able to read more about this and many other moments from Foundry's long and rich history as part of a new series, "**This Week in Foundry's History.**" Stay tuned!

Foundry Forward

APRIL 2026 ACTION ITEMS

Thursday, April 2

Maundy (Holy) Thursday

Tonight, we come together in the sanctuary and online at 7 o'clock to remember Jesus' Last Supper. The service will include Holy Communion and foot washing and a meditation on two passages from the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel of John, verses 1-17 and 31b-35.

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

Together at noon we retell the passion story in narrative, remembering that Jesus was arrested, repeatedly disavowed, interrogated by the High Priest and the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, whipped, abandoned by the crowd, taunted, crucified and died. Gathering at 7 p.m. we will participate in a contemplative Tenebrae Service of chants and extinguishing candles.

Saturday, April 4

Easter Bunny Hop!

Join us today, the day before Easter Sunday, for our annual Bunny Hop in partnership with the Friends of Stead Park. Children of all ages – and their families – are invited to come to Stead Park from 10:30 until 12:30 today for fun, games and refreshments. Volunteers always needed! Register at <http://foundrymc.org/bunnyhop>. For more information, email Natalie Harvey, Director of Family Ministries, nharvey@foundrymc.org

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday

Today we celebrate life — Jesus' resurrection and the light of hope that His victory over death gives us even in our darkest days. Pastor Ginger will preach at identical 9 o'clock and 11:15 services, both of which will include Holy Communion and festive Easter music with choir, organ and trumpet. The text for today's sermon is Matthew 28, verses 1-10.

Sunday, April 12

“The First Day”

As we move into the Easter Season, Pastor Ginger focuses us on what we should carry with us, using as her text, John 20, verses 19-31.

Friday – Sunday, April 10-12

Men's Retreat

For the second year, the men of Foundry Church are gathering at West River Retreat Center for time together away from everyday life. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, this year's Men's Retreat offers an exciting opportunity to support you. You won't want to miss this opportunity for spiritual growth, insightful learning, and a chance to make deeper connections with fellow church members. and how to incorporate prayer more fully into your daily life. This year's theme, **Teach Us to Pray**, is based on Luke 11:1: *"Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."*

Sunday, April 19

Workshop on Aging

In this workshop, we will learn more about lower-cost options for aging. That was the number-one topic requested during the first of Foundry's workshops on the topic of aging last November. The workshop, which will include lunch, is at Foundry but you do need to register [here](https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3430709) at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3430709>. Our featured speaker is Samantha Henson from Iona Senior Services. Her presentation will be followed by questions and answers, so bring your questions!

Saturday, April 25

Earth Day Hikes

As part of Foundry's Earth Day celebration, we have two Foundry-led hikes in Rock Creek Park. One will be for kids and kids-at-heart and includes a scavenger hunt. The second will include information on the history of Rock Creek Park and the trees, plants and critters living there. For more information email Jackie at jwright@foundryumc.org.

Sunday, April 26

Earth Day

Today Rev. Jonathan will preach as we celebrate Earth Day in worship. His texts include Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23, 1 Peter:19-25, John 10:1-10.

After the 11:15 service you can join Barbara Briggs, a leader of the Washington Interfaith Network's Green team, who will discuss some of the many environmental advocacy efforts in DC. Join us at 12:30 p.m. in Room B2.

Also, at 12:30 today, consider joining an information session on Leadership of Foundry's annual Women's Retreat. It will be held in Room 203. You'll have a

chance to learn about how you can participate in shaping and leading this important annual event for Foundry Women. A new leadership team for 2027 is being recruited. This special opportunity is open to anyone who's interested — whether you've attended before or not. Please register using this link. <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3509401>

Tuesday, April 28

Foundry Board Meeting

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

And ...

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE- SAVE THE DATE!!

Foundry will once again partner with Rise Against Hunger for our spring Great Day of Service on **Sunday, May 3rd**. Please join us for this Foundry favorite! For more information and to register, go [here](#).