

AUGUST 2021



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Let's Go!

*I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the
LORD!" – Psalm 122:1*

Years ago, I learned an important lesson in yoga class. After class, led by an instructor who balanced challenge with encouragement, I was motivated during the week to practice whatever new pose had been introduced. When I missed class, I lacked the motivation. I had all the knowledge to do yoga every day on my own. But I needed regular engagement with others to remain fully engaged.

Over the past 15 months, a similar dynamic occurred in my exercise practice. Before the pandemic, I attended three workouts a week at my studio. During the pandemic, with pre-recorded sessions I could exercise from home, and for months I dutifully exercised three times a week. Then, my weekly exercise sessions dropped to two, and then one. Thank God I got vaccinated and the studio opened up – right on time. I need relationships, the challenge and encouragement of an in-person coach, and the accountability of a group to help me stay healthy.

Thankfully, as a faith community, most of us have stayed connected with small groups, classes, and ministry and mission work through ZOOM. While it's not the same, our online worship has provided a way to actively remain spiritually connected while physically distant. Nonetheless, some of us found ourselves drifting, not tuning in as often. I get it.



Now we are coming back together in person. Wednesday Evensong in our Community Commons has begun and soon we will again worship on Sundays at 9 and 11:15 at 16th and P!

For some, this is right on time. Others find it too late. For some, we're being too cautious; for others, not cautious enough. This is a time of joyful anticipation, painful complications and a sense that there is no way to get everything right.

It is important to re-engage our weekly rhythm of corporate worship. We need to be in the presence of others to receive the good gifts of God in community and to be challenged, encouraged, and loved in ways that motivate love of God and others all week.

We are doing our best to keep everyone safe and comfortable. Do what you need to do to care for your body and soul as we turn this corner. And let us all rejoice and say: "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

In peace,
ginger+

From Singapore to Sixteenth Street

DEREK WALLBANK

I began attending Foundry in person in 2016 and joined the following year. That join date was special, because it was Pride Day.

At the service, before a rainbow-bedecked altar, Pastor Dawn asked the children if they knew what that weekend was. My oldest daughter answered, "It's Pride Day." "That's right," Pastor Dawn said, and "what is that?" At which point my youngest daughter practically screamed out "PRIDE IS WHEN YOU FEEL PROUD OF YOURSELF!"



You all in the congregation chuckled, as I still do myself thinking about it now. I was proud then to join Foundry, a church where I thought my family could grow in an environment based around loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself.

Life happens though, doesn't it? And so after four years leading breaking news coverage of Washington for a major news organization, I got an opportunity in Asia I couldn't pass up. January of 2019 was my last time physically in the Foundry sanctuary, and now I attend church virtually from Singapore. The city-state is, somewhat conveniently, 12 time zones ahead of Washington. Sunday morning church livestreams are on my Sunday evening. When Pastor Will is doing an midweek evening devotional, that's morning for me.

For a year and a half year now I've been leading breaking news coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic in Asia while dealing in my own personal life with lockdowns, travel bans, loved ones back in the States contracting Covid, and, most unfortunately, funerals via Zoom. Being able to connect back to my church home, even from the other side of the world, has been a source of steadiness and strength. It is nice to see familiar faces from a world away.

These past months apart have in many ways brought us closer together, even though some of us are thousands of miles away. By embracing and enhancing the virtual connectedness during the pandemic, Foundry has leaned into its core competence as a place where I and hundreds of others can go just as we are.

Soon enough, Foundry – and indeed the world at large – will go back to being a mostly in-person experience. As it should. It won't be exactly the same, but that's OK.

We are emerging from this pandemic perhaps different in the style of our gatherings, but not in their substance. We remain voices for the voiceless, we give aid to those in need, and sometimes we get ourselves into what John Lewis would call a bit of good trouble. None of those efforts, as the last 18 months evidence, are confined by our physical locations any more.

Derek Wallbank has been a Foundry member since 2017. He now lives in Singapore with his wife, Eeda, and daughters Emma, 10, and Claire, 8..

Foundry Scholarships

Each year, Foundry offers scholarship funds to students in the congregation. These scholarships are funded by two endowments established in the 1980s — the Alida Smith Memorial Scholarship, named for D.C. educator and Foundry member Alida Smith, and the Edward W. Bauman Scholarship, named for Foundry's senior pastor from 1964 to 1992.

This year's award recipients are Amanda Munroe, Whitney Kinsey and VaShawn McIlwain-Lightfoot. The awards were recommended by Foundry's scholarship ministry team and approved by the Foundry Board.

The Alida Smith scholarships are open to undergraduate and graduate students at any institution. The Bauman scholarships are for those attending seminary and planning to enter Christian ministry.

For the 2021-2022 school year, a Bauman scholarship was awarded to Munroe who is studying at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and Smith scholarships to Kinsey, who is studying at Yale to become a physician's assistant, and VaShawn McIlwain-Lightfoot, who is getting his doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Maryland.



AMANDA MUNROE



WHITNEY KINSEY



VASHAWN
MCILWAIN-LIGHTFOOT

Pastor on the Plaza

Foundry's Pastors are pleased to schedule one-on-one meetings on the plaza Tuesday through Friday. [Sign up here](#) for your time to check in, pray together, or simply catch up.

Foundry Forward

AUGUST ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, August 1

Guest Preacher, Book Talk and Communion on the Plaza!

Today is a full day for Foundry! We will gather via live stream for worship at 11:15 and hear our guest preacher, Rev. Lydia Munoz, lead pastor at Swarthmore UMC.

And at 12:30 p.m. you are invited to join a book presentation on **Nevertheless She Preached** with its author Rev. Dr. Margaret Kutz. Register [here](#) and hear the never-before-told story of the two earliest clergywomen in Virginia Methodism. Registration is required.

Then, in the afternoon, you are invited to join us for in-person Communion on the Foundry plaza. Learn more and register [here](#). Registration is required.

Mondays, August 2, 9, 16

Psalms in the Park

Study the Psalms sitting in the park! Bring your Bible and blanket or lawn chair to Logan Circle from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and together we'll explore a particular psalm, focusing on what it tells us about the nature of God, of creation, and how what it challenges us to consider in our relationships. Register [here](#) to let us know you are coming.

Wednesdays, August 4, 11, 18, 25

Evensong Worship at Foundry!

As we move toward in-person worship on Sunday mornings, you can experience it now on Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

Come – wearing your mask – to Community Commons for congregational singing and a reflection from one of our pastors. You will find more complete information about what to expect [here](#). Advance registration is not required.

Sunday, August 8

Stacey Abrams and Celebrating Women Preachers

Don't miss our final guest preacher this summer, Georgia's Stacey Abrams! She will speak via live stream at our 11:15 service which you can attend via Facebook Live, the Foundry website, and YouTube.

And at 12:30 p.m. you can join **Nevertheless She Leads**, a discussion of the importance of women leaders in the UMC, part of our 65th anniversary celebration of the date that women's full clergy rights were recognized by the UMC. Pastor Ginger, the Rev. Dr. Margaret Kutz and others will lead the discussion. For more information, click [here](#). Registration is NOT required.

Sunday, August 15

Baptism Orientation

Learn more about baptism – for infants or adults – in the United Methodist Church at this session from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m. You can register [here](#).

Tuesday, August 24

Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's Board convenes its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All Foundry members are welcome to attend. Email amandabeadle1@gmail.com for the link.

To print a copy of this issue of the Forge, go to foundryumc.org/forge.

Share your thoughts and ideas by emailing ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org.