

AUGUST 2024



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Our Wide Embrace

As we delve into the third conversation of our summer series based on the book **Upward!**, we confront a profound challenge, **radical hospitality**. This concept of hospitality extends far beyond a mere welcome; it beckons us to embody the inclusive love and grace modeled by Jesus Christ.

The authors remind us that at the heart of the Christian gospel lies the vision of a "beloved community," perhaps most memorably championed in modern times by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This vision calls us to embrace unity-in-diversity, mirroring Jesus' daily practice of hospitality and inclusivity. The authors assert that these virtues — hospitality, inclusivity, and a wide embrace — are not merely worthy ideals but can become transformative practices that shape our identities and communities.

Henri Nouwen adds depth to this discussion by highlighting God's unconditional love and the freedom it brings — the ability to give and receive without reservation, with gratitude and joy.

Yet, radical hospitality does challenge us. It challenges our assumptions, our comfort zones, and our readiness to extend grace beyond familiar boundaries. It challenges us to see every encounter as an opportunity to share the abundant love and gifts we have received.



Today and this month, as we explore these themes together, let us be open to the challenge of radical hospitality.

Let us reflect on how our practice of inclusivity and a wide embrace can truly embody the gospel message in our lives, in our church, and in our broader community.

In the *Shalom* of God

ginger+

Finding Family at Family Camp

Kristy Maddux

I feel a sense of homecoming when I pass along that last stretch of gravel road and catch glimpses of West River to my right. I find my cabin assignment. I unroll my sleeping bag on a squeaky plastic mattress that will amplify every move I make during the night, and I bump my head on the top bunk a couple of times for good measure.

I have arrived at Foundry Family Camp. At that moment, I felt connected to my Foundry family, to the church camps that were so foundational to my own faith formation, and to the Wesleyan heritage that we are reflecting upon this summer.

We Methodists know the Camp Meeting as the place where we can encounter God unbothered by the trappings of the Church — no stained glass, no organ, just ourselves and our siblings in Christ, reveling in the majesty of creation.

In this time together, we embrace our church family. We find ourselves sharing breakfast with people who we otherwise recognize only vaguely from across the sanctuary. Our youth and young adults lead us on nature walks and relate what they have learned about the local habitat. We open ourselves to learning and growth through small group conversations. We end our day gathered around the campfire in story, song, and prayer.



My kids learn that they have a church family who notices them and cares about them. Someone will relax on the shoreline with my six-year-old Lydia while I take my older kids out on a canoe. Someone will catch my seven-year-old Soren's tippy cafeteria tray when he has it overloaded with watermelon, juice, and an extra slice of cake. Someone will sit outside on the porch and rehash all the latest soccer matches with my ten-year-old, Creighton. Spending a weekend together at camp, without all the distractions of our regular lives, we form these connections.

Now, ask my kids what they like about Family Camp, and they will tell you about the bunk beds, boats, and sugary cereal options. They are right too. Family Camp has something for everyone, reminding us that we all belong in the Foundry family.

Kristy Maddux is originally from the Pacific Northwest, where she grew up going to camps and retreats at Camp Indianola, Ocean Park, and Lazy F. She has been attending Foundry since 2007.

Foundry Forward

AUGUST 2024 ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, August 4

Hopeful Realism

Pastor Ginger preaches today on that topic, the foundation for which is the text from Ephesians 3 that begins "God can do anything, you know — far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us." The second part of our text from Luke 10:27 makes clear what we are to do to turn our hopes into reality: "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence — and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself."

Sunday, August 11

Pastor Ben Preaches Today!

Today, Pastor Ben Roberts will preach, drawing on texts from both the Old Testament — the story of David and Absalom (2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, and Psalm 130) and the New Testament — "Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that." (Ephesians 4:25-5:2 and John 6:35, 41-51).

Sunday August 18

A Time to be Bold

Today our guest preacher is Dr. Ashley Boggan Dreff, who is the General Secretary of the General Board of Archives and History of the United Methodist Church. Drawing on his deep knowledge of our Methodist heritage, he encourages us to go boldly into the world, unafraid of "breaking the rules" in order to share the gospel and do justice. Don't miss this message!

Sunday, August 25

The Wesleyan Way

Today we conclude our summer study of our Wesleyan heritage, with our own T.C. Morrow preaching the final sermon in this series. Drawing on the texts of Psalm 84 and Luke 4:16-21, she will bring together the many strands of this study, reminding us as we go forward that the Wesleyan way of life is an integrated whole, not just a series of separate actions.

Friday, August 30 - Sunday, September 1

Time for Family Camp!

Foundry's Family Ministries invites you to join us at the beautiful West River United Methodist Camp for a time of rest, recreation and fun. All are invited — whether you are a single, couple, parent, non-parent, grandparent, or friend, you are welcome!

Accommodations are in lodges with air conditioning and bathrooms. Campers need to bring a sleeping bag, towel, toiletries, and a snack to share. Six meals are included - Dinner Friday, all three meals on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Register here:

<https://foundryumc.org/events/family-camp-2024>

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.