

FOUNDRY FORGE

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Pandemic Time: How Much Longer?

As Christmas approaches, we are all wondering how much longer we must live with the restrictions this pandemic imposes on our lives.

In this “Pondering from the Purple Parlor” Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli reflects on the challenge this uncertainty poses. What are we supposed to learn from it? What are we doing with this time? What should we be doing?

Listen to this brief excerpt, and after that, you will find it encouraging to listen to the entire reflection – which takes less than 20 minutes!

To hear and see excerpt, click here bit.ly/excerpt

To hear and see full Pondering, go here bit.ly/pondering819

Christmas 2020 The Promise of Light

TIFFANY STANLEY AND ALAN KRILL

Last Christmas was our first as parents. After years of dealing with infertility, we felt incredibly lucky to celebrate the season with our infant son. It was a welcome respite from previous holidays shadowed by grief and loss.

The season of Advent and its expectation felt deeply personal, with the promise of light in the darkness. The story of Mary took on new resonance. One of us may have cried while singing about a baby in a manger while holding our own baby.



Christmas Eve at Foundry 2019



Our family tradition has been to attend Foundry's Christmas Eve service. We love holding candles with our church family and watching the sanctuary glow with light. Last year, we traded in candles for glowsticks at the children's Christmas Eve service, experiencing the beautiful chaos of costumed shepherds and angels and royalty.

Christmas will be different this year. We won't be lighting candles or glowsticks in a packed sanctuary Christmas Eve. We won't celebrate with our extended family on Christmas Day. For too many, this holiday will be shadowed by loss. In the darkness of this winter and in the absence of familiar traditions, we are ever more grateful for Foundry's virtual community.

This December, we are looking forward to an ugly Christmas sweater party over Zoom with our fellowship group, Common Ground. Even at a distance, these Foundry friendships support and sustain us.

We will take part in Pastor K.C.'s online workshop, Episkiazo, which reminds us that there are glimpses of the divine in the presence — and absence — of a baby. We will make time to attend Foundry's Longest Night Service (especially fitting during the longest year ever), where we will collectively provide space for the sorrow this season can bring.

And yes, we will tune into Foundry's online Christmas Eve service. We will light a candle at home. We are looking harder than ever for light in the darkness this season, and we are thankful to Foundry for showing us the way.

Tiffany Stanley and Alan Krill live in Washington, D.C., where they try to keep up with their toddler son, Bennett.

Foundry Forward

DECEMBER ACTION ITEMS

As we begin the season of Advent, we are planning several socially-distanced, masked, outdoor in-person events noted below. But circumstances change quickly so everyone planning to take part in such an event should regularly check the Foundry website to stay abreast of any changes in plans.

Sunday, November 29

Advent Begins

It's the first Sunday in Advent, a day in which we anticipate – and experience – new beginnings. Two morning classes begin, meeting via Zoom from 10 to 11 am.

Episkiazo: Encountering the Divine in Childbirth and Loss

Today and Sundays, December 6 and 13, Pastor K.C. facilitates a discussion of our experiences with infertility, childbirth and loss, topics especially meaningful as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. For more information and to register, go here: <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/595670>

Marking Holy Time

Advent is a perfect time to deepen our understanding of the discipline of various prayer practices. Join this four-week class to learn more about the spiritual disciplines we are practicing together during this season. Register by 11:30 am this Friday, November 27 at: <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/620701>

The Fullness of Time

You can also attend 10 am services at our sibling congregations, John Wesley AME Zion (go to jwdc.org and choose 'watch online') and Asbury UMC (go to AsburyUMCDC.org and choose 'live stream').

Tuesday, December 1

Budget Workshop

Tonight at 6 pm, Foundry members may join via Zoom the Foundry Board's final workshop session on Foundry's 2021 budget. It is an open meeting although the board retains the option of moving to a closed session at some point. To obtain the Zoom link, email amandabeadle1@gmail.com

Thursday, December 10

Foundry Board Meeting

The Foundry Board holds its final meeting of 2020 at 7 pm via Zoom. One of the major items on the agenda is approval of Foundry's 2021 budget. All Foundry members are welcome to attend via Zoom. Email amandabeadle1@gmail.com for the link.

Sunday, December 13

Joy! – Special Advent Music

Our 11:15 worship service will feature Foundry's Chamber Singers and Chancel Choir in choral selections from Joseph Joubert and Michael McElroy's *Great Joy*, Stanley Thurston's arrangement of *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*, and Kevin Memley's *O Magnum Mysterium*. We light the third Advent candle in our wreath and continue to ponder The Fullness of Time.

Monday, December 21

Longest Night

Come together online with the Foundry community on the longest night of what feels like the longest year ever. Gathered in worship, we acknowledge and address the darker feelings many of us are experiencing during this season. For more information, check the Foundry website, www.foundryumc.org

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve at Foundry

We invite you to join us online for our traditional Christmas Eve service of scripture and carols at 7:00 pm via live-stream, just as you do each Sunday. Watch for updates on www.foundryumc.org

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve – Watch Night Service

Join our siblings at Asbury UMC [YouTube Link](#) and other Foundry members at 10 pm for online worship as we bid goodbye to 2020 and welcome the year 2021.