



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Remember!

At this time of year, our thoughts often turn toward the future. But my thoughts are pulling me in another direction. The spiritual prompt in my head and heart is: Remember!

This is not a voice of nostalgia or looking backward. Rather, it is an invitation to hold certain things in mind and to carry them into the months and years ahead.

What am I called to remember?

That God is good.

That I am God's child, a person of sacred worth, and that my true family name is "Beloved."

That life is a gift which finds purpose in relationships of love, care, compassion, justice, and solidarity. That we human beings can hold both pain and joy, sorrow and hope, at the same time.

I am called to remember that my identity is found not only in my family of origin or in my vocation or personality, but also in the story that began before the world came into being: the story of God whose love overflows into creation, who sustains all things and peoples, receives the cries of the needy and oppressed, and draws near to help.

This is an old, old story of God and God's love that's been lived and shared by countless people throughout the ages. So many are our teachers, sages, and exemplars — some known to us personally, others through what they have offered to the world, but all providing inspiration, encouragement, and guidance.

Why might it be important to remember these affirmations and the people who've embodied them?



We are at a moment when many beautiful things and people feel threatened in our nation and world. The call to remember keeps us mindful that this is not the first time the world has been in an uproar or when injustice and cruelty rallied their troops. Remembering that God's love and justice has given people through the ages courage, creativity, and strength to persevere, to work for peace and reconciliation helps us keep the faith. Remembering reminds us of our true identity, guarding us from forces or voices who seek to deny our belovedness, our joy, or our place in God's story.

Our memories are like the roots of a tree that go deep to hold us steady and strong even as the winds of the world blow with all their might.

As we journey through the first months of 2025, we will remember together. And, I believe, we will be stronger for it.

Peace,
ginger+

A Journey to Light

ROBERT BAKER

I grew up on a small dairy farm in Frederick County, Maryland. It was the farm that my grandfather bought in 1917. Our community was so steeped in deep personal and historic connections to each other that I felt we had one foot in the 19th century. I remember it almost with the glow of a Norman Rockwell painting.

The center of our community was the Methodist Church where our families came together. Linganore church was modest, dating from the 1790s. My gratitude is boundless for my parents and the community that nurtured me in those years and continues to nurture me. I learned how a community can celebrate together, and how a community can grieve together.

And in our country church I found solace in the liturgy that connected me to ancient traditions I was too young to understand, but felt the glow of the sacred in how those traditions were honored. I remember the sermons and learning the value of someone helping us understand our faith journey.

And we sang. Everyone sang. We sang all the hymns in four-part harmony. The anthems for the choir were challenging and central to the worship experience. And there were several folks who sang solos in a thrilling way. I was in awe of how they could sing and express the inexpressible. I can see my young self in the pew taking it all in.

In 1981, I came to 16th and P to sing in the Foundry Choir. And as different as our downtown church might seem from Linganore, the through line of liturgy, preaching, and music continue to give me solace on my journey.



And the greatest honor of being a member of the Foundry Choir and soloist is singing for you. For each of you. In your moments of grief and in your celebrations, and especially in your unspoken and unnoticed passages. Please know that all of us making music are holding you in our shared sacred journey. With our voices and with our hearts.

Like the young boy in the pew at Linganore, I am still in awe that singing can pierce the darkness and bring us into the light of our faith journey.

Robert has been a member of the George Washington University music faculty for 34 years, and has performed with the Washington National Opera, the National Symphony and all the choral groups in the DMV. While he grew up an Orioles and Colts (Baltimore!) fan, he has transferred his loyalties to all DC teams. Especially the Nationals.

Foundry Forward

JANUARY 2025 ACTION ITEMS

January 2025

Lenten Devotional Development

This month the Foundry community comes together to create this year's Lenten Devotional, sharing personal reflections, verbal or visual, for each of the forty days of Lent. This year's Lenten Devotional will explore the theme "**Grounded in Grace**". Everyone is invited to join our workshop after the 11:15 service on Sunday, January 12. This will be a hybrid workshop – in person in Room 203 and online via Zoom. All creative submissions are due by Monday, February 3.

Sunday, January 5

Kingship or Kin-ship?

Today is Epiphany Sunday, the day we remember the Magi as they – having seen the Christ Child – turned in the direction of home. Like them our spiritual ancestors are seekers, journeying in a time of great danger, political scheming and oppression. Pastor Ginger preaches this first sermon in our new series "**Remember**," drawing on texts in Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12.

Pastor's Coffee - Interested in learning more about being a member of Foundry? Come to Room 101 today from 10:10 to 11:10 a.m. for **Pastor's Coffee**, your opportunity to meet with clergy, learn more about Foundry, and move onto the next step, **A Disciple's Path**, the six-week course for new members. It starts **next Sunday, January 12**. Register for Pastor's Coffee at <http://foundryumc.org/pastors-coffee>.

Sunday, January 12

Baptism of the Lord

Remembering Jesus' baptism by John, we remember our own baptism – perhaps "The Earliest Memory" we have. Baptism connects us to the very beginning, the creation of the world by God, who called all things good. After the goodness of creation becomes stained by sin, our baptism is repentance, our turning to the way of love and justice.

A Disciple's Path Starts Today. As noted above, today we begin our six-week new members class, A Disciple's Path.

A New Adult Class: Falling Upward

This 6-week class on Richard Rohr's book with this title begins today between the two morning worship services. We'll meet at 10:10 a.m. to explore the "two halves of life" and consider some of Rohr's insights into ways to deepen faith and spiritual maturity. Come discover how life's challenges can transform your spiritual perspective and purpose. Register at foundryumc.org/falling-upward

Upperclassmen is happening today for our **10th-12th graders**. **From 10:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** students will meet for a delicious breakfast, time to connect with friends, and a devotional discussion to kick off this month and the new year with purpose.

Lenten Devotional Creative Workshop

Come in person or via Zoom and learn how you can contribute to this year's Lenten Devotional! Join this workshop from 12:30 – 2:00 in Room 203 or online. It will help you incubate ideas for a 300-word essay, poem or artwork based on this year's theme "Grounded in Grace". Register [here](#) to participate in this inspiring annual process.

Tuesday, January 14

Sacred Resistance: Time to Engage!

Foundry's Sacred Resistance team educates, organizes and empowers the Foundry community for advocacy and public witness addressing various social justice issues we are facing at both the local and national levels. Now more than ever, we need your help. **Please join us for this meeting tonight at 7 p.m.** Email sacredresistance@foundryumc.org

Sunday, January 19

Human Relations Sunday

Join us in person or virtually at 9 and 11:15 a.m. as we remember Martin Luther King Jr. and observe Human Relations Sunday.

Praying Together Workshop

Have you ever wanted to have a more robust prayer life? Or would you like to be more comfortable praying with others? If so, this session is for you!

Join us after worship for a Praying Together Workshop from 12:30-2 pm, to deepen your understanding and practice of prayer. This session is sponsored by the Stephen Ministries of Foundry.

Sunday, January 26

An Anointed Body

The church, as the Body of Christ, is anointed to preach good news to the poor, recovery of sight, freedom and justice for captives and others in need. We are not without power. We are given unique gifts within the Body of Christ. Pastor Ginger draws on the texts of 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a and Luke 4: 14-21 as the source for this day's message.

Sunday, January 26

Orientation for Small Group Facilitators

If you care deeply about building authentic community and guiding others toward deeper discipleship, join us today at 12:30 p.m. to discuss the vision and purpose of Covenant Small Groups **We're excited to launch these new small groups, and we need dedicated facilitators for them.**

If you'd like to learn more about leading or co-leading a Covenant Small Group, please join us for this informational meeting. We'll discuss the vision and purpose of these small groups, share helpful resources, and equip you with the tools you need to lead effectively. Your presence at this meeting doesn't commit you to leading — just come hear more and see if it's a good fit for you! Register here <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2665992>

Tuesday, January 28

Foundry Board Meeting

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

Wednesday, January 29

Help Count Our Unhoused Neighbors

You are invited to be part of the Foundry team taking part in the **Point-in-Time Count**, the essential annual 'census' of unhoused neighbors in DC, which provides policy makers and funders the information they need on homelessness here.

The count supplies valuable data that the District uses to secure federal funding and ensure that resources are used efficiently and help achieve the goals of housing for everyone. The team of Foundry volunteers are needed to canvass the Dupont Circle neighborhood near Foundry. Meet at the church by 8:30 p.m. Like last year, training will be available on-line. For more information, email ben@foundryumc.org. Register [here](#).

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.

Register this month for the Foundry Women's Retreat!

Registration opens this month for the 2024 Foundry Women's Retreat! **Watch for information on how and where to register** in this month's **Worship Guides**. This annual, in-person gathering of the Women of Foundry with our sister congregations, returns **February 21-23** at Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, a UMC facility across the Bay Bridge in Centreville Maryland. Our keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Lydia Munoz** who was a guest preacher during the 2022 Lenten season at Foundry. Sign up [here](#) now to be part of the Foundry Women's Retreat group, and if already a member, please ensure your contact information is current.

DATE CHANGE:
COMICS X THEOLOGY: Exploring Faith Through Your Favorite Comics

Join us for the inaugural session of Comics x Theology in **January 2025** at Fantom Comics in Dupont Circle. Dive into the fascinating world where comic book narratives meet theological concepts. Whether you're a comic book enthusiast or interested in exploring faith in contemporary culture, this gathering is for you! Bring a friend and join us for an afternoon of insightful discussion and community fellowship. For more information, please contact jbrown@foundryumc.org

Join A Civil Rights Pilgrimage...

Members of Foundry, Asbury UMC and John Wesley AME Zion are invited to journey together through the American south on this civil rights tour, June 16-21, 2025. More information at foundryumc.org/civil-rights-pilgrimage