

JULY 2021



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

So Far and Yet So Near

SUZANNE AND CHUCK WALDRON

Was it a happy coincidence or the touch of God's hand?

In October 2019, we traveled to Washington to visit out-of-the-way museums, enjoy unique theater, and see pandas at the zoo. On Sunday, we attended Foundry.

Gripped by the experience of our visit to Foundry, we returned home to Florida with memories of warm greetings, great music, a great sermon and a copy of Pastor Ginger's "**Sacred Resistance.**"

We felt a shared belief in sacred resistance, the very thing Jesus lived. We craved a church where sacred resistance was not only considered a good thing but an imperative. Our search for a reconciling church in our area proved fruitless. We often heard messages of hostility instead of inclusivity. That made Foundry's rainbow presence stand out.

The disenfranchised? Is a person without a home a child of God? Individuals lacking food, clothing, the sick? Christ taught us he is present in each and every one. We learned Foundry welcomes all, regardless. That's an open door to all of God's children.

Then came the pandemic. Suddenly streaming and zooming opened a door to all of us, regardless of distance. From hundreds of miles away, we began to attend Foundry online each Sunday, even meeting people at the virtual coffee hour after worship.



"Church is more than a place. It's connection, it's a community..."

It was an easy way to go to church. Dress up? Not needed. Makeup? Not needed. "Church is more than a place. It's connection, it's a community we came to feel a part of as month followed month."

Eventually, each of us made the commitment to join Foundry and to truly become Foundry-from-afar. We want to stay connected with Foundry and our new church family.

As in-person activities resume, we hope hybrid worship can evolve to allow those of us now known as Foundry-from-afar to have a place at the altar with you.

Suzanne and Chuck Waldron, proud members of Foundry-from-afar, enjoy living in Port St Lucie, Florida while keeping an eye out for hurricanes, alligators and Burmese Pythons.

Plans: For Good and Not for Harm



Our world is opening up, emerging from the pandemic-imposed restrictions on so many aspects of life.

While the new freedom is welcome, making this transition is still a shock to all our systems. There is lingering fear and confusion as we try to honor our needs for comfort and safety, all the while remembering that our needs may not be the same as those of others.

As we turn this corner together, what do we expect? Do we imagine everything will be exactly as it was before?

We inevitably have our own ideas of what it will be like to gather again in person for study, service, and worship. Some of those ideas will be thoughtfully developed, others unconscious. Some will be realistic, some not.

It's time now – and probably several times between now and year's end – for each of us to prayerfully consider our expectations, assess how realistic they are, and adjust accordingly. Some may not be met – and there will probably be reasons, good ones, if they aren't.

We are feeling our way into a new reality. The questions we face should not be resolved in terms of success or failure, but rather of safety and sensitivity to each other's needs. This is work in which we all need to take part.

Where is God in all of this? In one of my favorite passages from Jeremiah, God says, "For surely I know the plans I have for you . . . plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Whatever happens, God is moving into the future with us and that future will be good and full of hope. God will bring us through and make something beautiful even of what looks or feels to us like failure. If we can stay present in the middle of emptiness and disappointment, we may learn new things and become aware of the ways God is working for good.

So, in this time of re-entry we are all invited to check our expectations and bring grace to bear on the fear, confusion, and uncertainty. Let grace flow into your own life – and then let it flow through you into engagement with others and all the other spaces you inhabit. Be assured: the future is full of hope and new life is always just around the corner.

In faith, hope, and love,
ginger+

Foundry Forward

JULY ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, July 4

Communion on the Plaza

We will gather via live stream for worship at 11:15, and in the afternoon, you are invited to join us for Communion on the Plaza. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Sundays, July 11, 18, 25

The Shape of God's Reign

The third of a three-part series, this course meets on Sundays at 10 a.m. to help you deepen your discipleship and explore its implications on your life and the world. [Learn more and register here](#) by July 8.

Every Sunday, July 4,11,18,25

Practicing Spirituality

We meet every Sunday from 10 to 11 a.m. to study, discuss, and pray. Feel free to drop in via Zoom and take part in our lay-led lesson which is tied closely to Scripture and focuses on practices to sustain and renew one's spirit. [Find more information here.](#)

Wednesdays, July 14, 21, 28

Ponderings from the Purple Parlor

Tune into Foundry on Facebook each Wednesday at noon to share Pastor Ginger's thoughts on the topic of the day. Sometimes from the Purple Parlor – and sometimes from somewhere else!

Every Monday, July 5,12,19,26

Psalms in the Park

Bring your Bible and blanket or lawn chair to Logan Circle from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and study one or more of the Psalms. We'll focus on what the particular psalm tells us about the nature of God and of creation, and what it challenges us to consider in our relationships with God and each other. [Register for Psalms in the Park](#) to let us know you are coming.

Wednesdays, July 14,21,28

Evensong Services

Midweek evensong services are back! We'll gather in person in Community Commons from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. each Wednesday evening through August for congregational singing and a reflection from one of our pastors. Masks will be required.

Sunday, July 18

Worship, Baptism and Pastor's Coffee

In addition to our worship service at 11:15 a.m., you can learn more about Foundry's ministries by [joining the Pastor's Coffee](#) from 10 to 11 a.m. before worship service. July's [Baptism Orientation](#) class for both child and adult baptism will be held at 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 25

A Disciple's Path

If you are seeking to join Foundry as a member of the congregation, [A Disciple's Path](#) is for you. This virtual six-week course will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. on Sundays to learn more about the church, our community, and the United Methodist Church. Learn more and register here. With questions, please email [Rev. Dr. Kelly Grimes](#).

Saturday, July 24

Picturing America Through the Eyes of Artists

Don't miss this virtual tour on July 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., led by Foundry's own Stephen Roberts. By examining an array of artworks, you will learn that "America" encompasses a wide range of ideas and images. [Register here by 1 p.m. on July 17](#) in order to receive information about how to join the tour.

Tuesday, July 27

Foundry Board Meeting

All Foundry members are welcome to attend the monthly meeting of the Foundry Board which gathers at 7 p.m. Email amandabeadle1@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

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.

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.