

JULY 2024



# Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

## Be Peace

*"Peace always seems a weary way off. As Jeremiah lamented, 'We looked for peace, but no peace came.' But to give up on peace is to give up on God."*

*-William Sloane Coffin*

As we prepare to celebrate our country's Independence Day, I find myself thinking much about how peace does seem "a weary way off." As a nation, we are at war among ourselves, deeply polarized and at enmity with our neighbors. Wars rage all over our world, many carried out using weapons made in our country. Terrorists, military powers, factions, clans and gangs are not the only sources of violence. Poverty, disease, bigotry, and environmental destruction are also each a violent scourge.

It can feel overwhelming, and we might feel like giving up sometimes. But, as the late William Sloane Coffin reminds us, "to give up on peace is to give up on God."

As Christians, giving up on God is not an option. We are to be peacemakers. This doesn't mean we should avoid conflict at all costs — the life of Jesus reveals that doing the will of God often brings conflict. Rather, we are to do the hard work of making peace with justice. We are invited to participate with God in building the Reign of God.

In seminary, I received a hand-made card from a friend that said simply "Be Peace." That is our work. It is our call.

So I invite you to think about the ways you can "be peace" in your family, in your relationships, through what you choose to support with your money and your time. As the beloved hymn says, "Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment, now."



Above all, I urge you to pray for peace. Pray for all those living in war zones. Pray for our women and men in military service. Pray for world leaders and for relief workers. Pray for our United Methodist missionaries who are laboring in the name of Jesus for peace with justice. And pray about the ways you can be a peacemaker in the corner of the world in which you live.

Even though it is difficult, don't give up on peace. Insofar as we claim our call to "be peace," we claim our faith in God whose vision for the world is of a people and all creation living in harmony, in unity, in love, and — yes! — in peace.

In the *Shalom* of God,

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# Onward to A Better Future

## A LETTER FROM JAN

Foundry friends,

Lindi and I have enjoyed worshiping with you again recently. Being back at Foundry made us wish we could be there more often!!! It is an exciting time as we work together to shape the United Methodist Church into a more just and inclusive denomination where there is truly room for everyone at the table.

Many of you got a glimpse of RMN's vision for the future in my February presentation or more recent conversations we have had. RMN has a plan to grow so we can continue to walk with individuals and congregations. At a time when some believe that our job is done now that the harmful language has been removed from the Discipline, RMN's planned growth is both exciting and challenging. We are discerning the right next right steps now as we develop a strategic plan. Our work is relational and step one is reaching out across local congregations and annual conferences to build deeper connections. We will spend time listening and learning.

At this time, we need the engagement of Reconciling Methodists in multiple ways.

We need at least three or four Foundry folks to become RMN ambassadors. You would be on a team of leaders who will help us provide information in local areas through individual, congregational and conference connections and will share with us feedback from local areas. You will receive training for this role before we launch that work. If you would like to help in this way, email me - [jan@rmnetwork.org](mailto:jan@rmnetwork.org).

Then, of course there is the need to support this work financially. **To make our dreams a reality we are asking individuals and congregations to make a five-year commitment to our new pledge campaign, *Onward Pledge*.** We have set our goals: at least 400 individual pledges by the end of July and 250 congregations pledging financial support for 5 years by the end of the year. I am happy to talk with anyone with questions. You can find more information on our website under **Who We Are → 2024 at a Glance**. You can make your pledge at this link: <https://rmnetwork.org/pledge/>.

RMN is forever grateful for the Foundry's significant and longstanding support. Thank you to the administrative board and the many individuals who engage with and support our work! My personal goal for Foundry participation is 4 AC Ambassadors and a minimum of 25 pledges from individuals.

Hope to see everyone again soon!!!

Jan Lawrence, Executive Director, Reconciling Ministries Network

***Jan Lawrence and her wife Lindi Lewis are longtime members of Foundry, who now divide their time between D.C. and Rome, Georgia. Jan is the executive director of the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN).***

# Congratulate These Foundry Youth!

## OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Sophia Heitfield who graduated from BASIS DC on May 31 and will enter Yale to study Chemistry and Classics



Owen Crumpler who graduated from McLean High School on June 2, and will enter James Madison University



Charley Hicks who graduated from Washington-Liberty High School June 12, and will enter the University of Colorado at Boulder

## OUR THIRD GRADERS WHO RECEIVED THEIR BIBLES ON YOUTH SUNDAY

Cinthia Sanchez-Chicas  
Elise Kidwell-Slak  
Julianna Vock

## DC Central Kitchen Service Opportunity

Looking for a way to serve but haven't found your niche? Foundry is exploring partnering with the DC Central Kitchen on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month to help prepare nutritious meals for schools, youth programs and shelters. Learn more at <https://dccentralkitchen.org/mission-history/>.

If you are interested in this exciting and meaningful opportunity, email Jackie Wright at [jackie@foundryumc.org](mailto:jackie@foundryumc.org).

## Project Transformation Needs You!

This summer as in past years, Foundry volunteers are reading with elementary-age students a few hours (9:30 -11:30) on Tuesday mornings to help them retain and improve their skills over the summer, fighting the "summer slide!"

We have more students than volunteers right now and hope you can help by offering a few hours one Tuesday or more to read with kids or have them read to you. Volunteers can be as young as 14, and we can coordinate transportation.

# Foundry Forward

## JULY 2024 ACTION ITEMS

Sunday July 7

### Upward!

***"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27***

The founders of the Methodist movement, John and Charles Wesley, provide a beautiful theological and practical framework for our lives of faith. The Wesleyan vision is a grace-fueled upward movement toward ever greater levels of love, a love that finds expression in outward acts of service, compassion, and justice. Today's sermon by Pastor Ginger is "Radical Hospitality." Our text is Romans 12:2-5 and 9-18, and Mark 6:1-6.

Sunday, July 14

### Come Hear Our District Superintendent

Join us to welcome the Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, our District Superintendent, who will be today's preacher.

Sunday, July 21

### Focusing on Genesis

Today we will hear our own Cassandra Lawrence preach, using the text of Genesis 1.

Sunday, July 28

### Upward and Outward

Pastor Ginger will preach today, using the text of Ephesians 3, as interpreted in Eugene Peterson's *The Message*.

Tuesday, July 30

### Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's Board will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Interested Foundry members may attend via Zoom, following this link: <http://foundryumc.org/board-meeting>.

To print a copy of this issue of the Forge, go to [foundryumc.org/forge](http://foundryumc.org/forge).

Share your thoughts and ideas by emailing [ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org](mailto:ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org).