

JULY 2025



# Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

## A Very Special Gift

*The following accompanied the presentation of Bibles to the Foundry children who completed third grade this year: Desmond Barnett O'Connor, Thomas Laughlin O'Connor, Samuel Leo Sullins, Naomi Bittrick, Jaemin Chon Myles, Theodore Loughner, Ivy Gamberini, Mara Elizabeth Powell, Amaya Wu*

**TODAY, WE HAVE A VERY SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT YOUR NEW BIBLE IS WRAPPED IN BROWN PAPER.**

**It is wrapped in brown paper to remind us that it is a very old book.** Some parts of it are over 2,000 years old! Some parts of the Bible were told and retold from person to person for many years before it was ever written down. The Bible tells us of God and God's people throughout the ages. People over the years have read these words to learn about God and to learn how God wants them to live their lives. Although it is an old book, we can gain new understandings when we read it today.

**Response from all: We thank you God for this very old book.**

**When you take off the brown paper, you'll see that your Bible is wrapped in gold paper. This reminds us that is a very special book.** People have lost their lives protecting and preserving these important words. It has helped people get through difficult times. The wisdom in the Bible has inspired people to do great things and to accomplish much good in the world. The Bible tells us of God's great love for us—to know that we are loved is as valuable as gold!

**Response from all: We thank you God for this very valuable book.**

**Under the gold paper, you can see that your Bible is wrapped in paper from the Sunday comics to remind us that it is a book full of great stories.** Here you will read

the stories of Moses leading God's people out of Egypt, Deborah the Judge, Daniel in the lion's den, Jesus calling the children to come sit with him, and Mary discovering the empty tomb. These stories speak to us. These stories give us courage. These stories tell us who we are. They tell us that we belong to one another—for we are **the people of God.**

**Response from all:** We thank you God for this book of great stories.

**Next, your Bible is wrapped in gift wrap paper to remind us that the Bible tells us over and over again of the GIFT of God's love to each of us. God loves us so much.**

We don't have to do anything to earn it. God loves us just as we are, no matter what. That is quite a gift! God wants us to share that gift of love with others.

**Response from all: We thank you God for the Bible which tells of the gift of Your Love.**

Today your church family presents you with this gift of your very own Bible. Read it. Wear it out. Ask lots of questions about what you read. Learn its stories. Study its words. Explore its mysteries. Be lulled to sleep. Be surprised. Read it at home. Use it in your Sunday School Class. Read along in worship. But most of all – be open to what you may learn about God and about yourself as a beloved child of God. We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you as you read and study your new Bible. Together, we will learn and grow in our understanding of God's love.

*This litany was written and adapted by Melanie Burrell for Dumbarton UMC; then adapted by Will Green for Foundry United Methodist Church, and now in 2025 by Natalie Harvey for Foundry UMC.*

# Powerful Passages

LINDA SCHAKEL

I first read scripture during a service at Foundry over 25 years ago in connection with the transfer of my membership from my hometown church in Newton, Iowa. I told the junior high students I was working with at Foundry that the passage I read was one I had memorized as part of my confirmation class – 1 Corinthians 13. Last month I read another passage I had memorized during my confirmation, the 23rd Psalm.

The passages I have read between those bookends have varied and taken on different meanings from those I learned in confirmation class. At one point in my career I was a teacher, first of elementary students and then of graduate students. In many ways, I have felt as though the scripture I am reading is part of a broader "lesson plan" for the service. I practice reading at home, using an audible Bible to make sure I pronounce words correctly, but during the service I look forward to seeing how that reading is woven into the hymns, music, and the sermon. Each reading offers the potential for the sermon to go in any number of directions, broadening my understanding of the scripture. My talents do not include singing, but expressive reading is in my wheelhouse, so this is a way I can contribute.

I was drawn to Foundry by a sign I saw from the 16th Street bus announcing a meal and foot washing in conjunction with the Maundy Thursday service. I was welcomed in a very intimate and meaningful way. I filled out the engagement survey and was



immediately enlisted to work with the youth, then the Education Committee, the Building Committee, as a scripture reader and now with the Altar and Facilities Committees, Sandwich 1000 and Project Transformation.

In 2019 I retired from my second career as a tax lawyer in private practice and at the US Treasury. This was just in time for the disruption of the pandemic and now the chaos of this political environment. Staying active with Foundry has helped me process what is happening and find more meaningful ways of countering the chaos.

# Foundry's Fiscal Year Changes

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

Last fall, the Finance Committee recommended and the Board adopted a change in Foundry's fiscal year. In years past, the fiscal year was the same as the calendar year.

Starting this September 1, Foundry's fiscal year will be September 1 – August 31. Foundry has been operating since January 1, 2025 under a "bridge" budget through August 31, 2025.

From the perspective of the congregation, this change will have little or no effect. The stewardship campaign will continue in the fall as it has in years past. The pledges we make in the fall are for the following calendar year, just as they are now.

There were many reasons for the change.

First, Foundry typically receives 20% or more of its annual revenue from contributions in December. This made it very difficult to know our financial position until after we close each fiscal year.

Second, the Advent and Christmas season is the busiest time of the year for clergy, staff and congregants. Trying to close the books on a fiscal year ending December 31 and adjusting the budget to account for changes in revenue in the next fiscal year starting January 1 was very difficult during this busy time of year.

Third, scheduling Board meetings late in the year to review and approve a budget is also a challenge. Typically, the Board would approve a one-month "current services level" budget for January so that we'd have firmer end-of-year numbers and estimated contributions by mid-January before approving the new year's budget.

And last, a September start date aligns with Foundry's programmatic year.

If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out to the chair of the Finance Committee, Mike Lawson, at [mlawson2003@gmail.com](mailto:mlawson2003@gmail.com).

# Foundry Forward

## JULY 2025 ACTION ITEMS

### Summer Sermon Series: July and August

## We're Listening!

"Receive what the Spirit is saying...." We say this phrase each week in worship following the reading of scripture. It's another way to say "God is speaking to us in these words. Are you listening? What stirs your heart or your mind by what is read? In the prayers, the sermons, the music of worship, how is God speaking to you?"

Listening is so important in our lives of faith and, really, in all our relationships.

We asked what you wanted to hear about in sermons, and you answered with your notes, ideas, ponderings, and inspirations. There are too many to incorporate into just two months, but every sermon in July and August will be in response to what we've received. We're listening! Join us to be part of the summer season in worship.

### Sunday, July 6

## Far-Sighted Faith

Today's text is Matthew 14:22-33, the story of Jesus walking on the water and inviting Peter to do the same. Pastor Ginger will explore how this story addresses the anxiety and lack of confidence many of us feel today.

### Sunday, July 13

## A Disciple's Heart

Join us for this new class which begins today at 10:10 a.m. It builds on **A Disciple's Path**, the text used in the new member class. We'll focus on personal spiritual growth as each participant develops their pattern of daily Scripture reading, prayer, and personal reflection. Register at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2952575>

## Belonging?

One of today's texts is the story in the 22nd chapter of Matthew which focuses on the question posed by Pharisees and Romans to Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar. In her sermon Pastor Ginger addresses the question of belonging.

### Sunday, July 20

## Boots on the Ground

What keeps people of faith putting "boots on the ground" to serve God and others? We are human, and we are often fed up and fearful. We are sick and soul sick. We are tired. There is so much on our plates. Practically, how do we "count it all joy" and keep our boots on the ground? Pastor Ginger uses the texts from James 1:2-4 – "Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials...because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance...." and Philippians 4:1-9.

### Sunday, July 27

## Us versus Them?

Using texts from Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Pastor Ginger explores the question of the divisions we see today – as well as historically – between and among Christians. In the texts, Matthew tells the story of the good seed, the wheat, and the bad seeds, the chaff. Who are we to judge who is wheat and who is chaff?

### Tuesday, July 29

## Foundry Board Meeting

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

## SAVE THE DATE FOR CAMP FOUNDRY 2025!

Join us for a weekend of community, connection, and fun at our all-church retreat! Labor Day Weekend  
August 29-31!

Mark your calendar—you won't want to miss it!

**Registration begins at the end of July!**

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).

Attention Forge Readers! We want to hear from YOU! We anticipate some changes in the **Forge** leadership in the coming months, and we would like to gather your feedback on the **Forge's** content and format, as well as learn more about who reads the **Forge**. Please fill out the [Forge Feedback Form](#) so your voice can be heard. At the end of the form, there is space for you to express interest in being part of the new Forge Production Committee (no obligation with sign-up!).

If you are reading the print version of the Foundry Forge, use this QR code to connect with the feedback form and fill it out online.

