

JUNE 2026



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

We Belong Together

Honoring diversity is biblical.

Paul says to the church in Corinth: "Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."¹

For the common good. Not only for our personal betterment, but we are each given spiritual gifts for the common good. Uniformity is not the goal; faithful interdependence is.

The interdependence is part of how God forms us. We learn generosity by sharing what we have — a friendly greeting, our time, our resources. We learn humility by recognizing wisdom in unexpected places, including from a six-year-old giving a really good answer to Pastor Natalie during the children's message. We learn patience by working through differences and disagreements. Christian community is not always easy, but it is where we belong.

As Christians we belong together in community with other Christians to learn, to serve, to celebrate, to grieve, to remind each other that we are beloved children of God, no matter what anyone says. The body of Christ is not a collection of isolated spiritual consumers. It is a people learning how to belong to one another.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, NRSVUE¹

The above is excerpted with permission from T.C. Morrow's sermon delivered on Sunday, May 17, "We Know Where We Belong: The Church". T.C. is currently part of Foundry's Extended Clergy Team serving as Pastor of Public Witness and Ecumenical Connection. On July 1 T.C. will become Senior Pastor at The United Church, a United Methodist and United Church of Christ congregation in Foggy Bottom.



I am looking forward to the next part of my adventure, but I am going to miss this community. I will carry with me so much and I give thanks to God for helping Foundry be a community that affirmed that I belong in the church, and that we all belong in the church.

So, keep showing up for each other. Give a wide welcome to those looking for a safe space to explore big questions and bring their full selves. Teach the children that God loves them. Let others care for you and give that same care in return. Try out being an usher, or singing with the choir, or joining the prayer team, or helping out with Children's Worship. Join a small group. Participate in one of the ministries of care and justice. Be a vessel of hope in a world that desperately needs it.

Remind each other that #GodIsYetAtWork in you and through you, Foundry United Methodist Church. And may it continue to be so,

T.C. Morrow

Imago Dei

MARGARET CLARK

I volunteer in a program that assists people in obtaining their vital documents – Social Security cards, birth certificates, government-issued identification.

Most people would think of this as a minor bureaucratic annoyance. That is not the case for persons recently released from incarceration, experiencing homelessness, or otherwise living a life not secured by a legal interest in property.

Having government-issued ID is essential for functioning in our society – applying for a job, a lease, a bank account, or access to government benefits and on and on and on. But to obtain an ID, one needs other documents and certain documents are essential to obtaining other essential documents. If that sounds circular, it is.

People beset with other challenging circumstances often don't have the wherewithal to figure out how to navigate that roundabout and the roadblocks that often arise. That's where the ID Ministry of Foundry United Methodist Church – comes in. The name of the program, Imago Dei, means "in the image of God," an appropriate acronym for ID.

Lately, I have been thinking about what it means to treat people as if you were looking into the face of God. So recently, I have been making an effort to look people gently in the eye so they know that I am truly seeing them.

A transformation comes over people when they realize they are being regarded mindfully. I am not imagining this.

The other day, I greeted an Imago Dei guest when I was running late and unprepared. I didn't have my laptop open or my paperwork ready. I said, "I'm sorry, I am a bit rattled right now, and I need a minute to get myself organized." The guest reassured me, "No problem, take your time."

There is something about making oneself even the tiniest bit vulnerable to another that demonstrates they are worthy of my confidence; that I do not fear their judgment if I don't perform perfectly.



I am not the most skilled ID volunteer by a long shot. I volunteer only about twice a month (in contrast to some who have been volunteering weekly for many years). I sometimes forget how to accomplish even basic steps.

But I now know that I am able to offer something that is uniquely me – and perhaps more valuable than help procuring any document – during those minutes when guests expose their very vulnerable selves to me. I can look into their faces, and allow them to look into mine, and I am certain we are both aware that we are looking into the face of God.

Margaret is not a member of Foundry but has lived in the DMV since 1973, first in DC and then Arlington. She learned about Foundry's ID Ministry while doing similar work in Arlington and shadowed a volunteer here to learn the "Foundry Way." Years later, she found her way back and has been volunteering on Saturdays here for about two years.

This Month in Foundry History

June 27, 1903 — Laying the Cornerstone of the New Foundry Church

At the laying of the cornerstone for the new Foundry Church at 16th and Madison (now Church) Streets on June 27, 1903, Bishop Charles G. McCabe reflects on the importance of preserving the historic Foundry name. He recalls how John Wesley acquired the abandoned London foundry that became the headquarters of early Methodism and the center of numerous ministries, including a charity school, dispensary, almshouse, and loan society. McCabe describes it as "the headquarters of Methodism and the center of many philanthropic agencies."

This Month in Foundry's History" is produced by Foundry's Archives and History Committee (AHC). If you'd like more information about the work of the AHC or would like to get involved, please email John McCormick, the Committee Chair, at jtmccormick58@gmail.com.

New Leader for Reconciling Ministries Network

After nine years as Executive Director of the Reconciling Ministry Network, Jan Lawrence retired effective May 31. She will be succeeded by Rev. Andromeda (Andi) Woodworth (she/they), a United Methodist elder from the North Georgia Annual Conference and a deeply committed advocate for intersectional LGBTQ+ justice in the church.

Woodworth brings nearly two decades of pastoral leadership, community organizing, and movement-building experience to the role. As the founding co-pastor of Neighborhood Church in Atlanta — a United Methodist congregation recognized across the region as a model for liberation-focused, radically inclusive ministry — she has spent her career at the intersection of faith and justice.

Her own journey into faith and leadership in The United Methodist Church unfolded alongside her journey of coming out as trans — and RMN was part of that story. Woodworth shared what this moment means to her personally:

"At every step of the way, Reconciling Ministries Network has been there, in one form or another, to help support my faith and my flourishing as a leader in The United Methodist Church. It [will] be a deep honor to be a part of leading RMN as it enters the next phases of its journey."

Send Your Good Paperbacks to People in Prison

DC Books to Prisons, housed in Room B1 at Foundry is always seeking book donations. Recently prisons and states have been imposing additional restrictions on what books can be sent into their prisons. Texas, with one of the largest populations of incarcerated people in the country, and from which we receive the most letters, now allows only new paperbacks. Some other states still accept used paperbacks in good condition.

Used or new, to know what we need, go to <https://www.dcbookstoprisons.org/donate-books>. We have wish lists with several independent book stores as well as Amazon and Politics & Prose. You can drop off up to 2 boxes any Wednesday at Foundry's front desk or B1 between 6 and 8 pm or contact DCBtoP@gmail.com if you need an alternative arrangement.

It's Time for a Change

It has been my pleasure to put together the monthly issues of the Foundry Forge since May 2016.

I have truly enjoyed the work, especially my partnership with Bryan Villarroel, who handles design and production. But it is now time for someone younger than I to take over this position.

If you have any interest in working on the Forge, please let me, Bryan or Pastor Ginger know. You can reach me at elderwitt@gmail.com or 202-617-9391. I will be more than happy to work alongside you for as long as needed. It is time for someone younger and familiar with a broader range of Foundry folk to select the subjects and find the writers. Contact me with any questions or to express your interest in taking over this role.

Foundry Forward

JUNE 2026 ACTION ITEMS

Sunday June 7

The Means of Grace

As we enter into LGBTQ+ Pride month, Pastor Ginger will preach on the meaning and practices of grace, the practices that form a resilient faith. Acts 2:42 is one of her texts: "They met constantly to hear the apostles teach, and to share the common life, to break bread and to pray."

Understanding Ranked Choice Voting

If you are a voter in DC and have questions about how to use ranked choice voting in next week's primary election of a number of important local officials, including Mayor, Non-Voting Delegate and At-Large City Council Member, you can attend a training session between worship services today. Register here <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3572830>

Wednesday, June 10

Deadline for Youth Art for the Worship Guide and Participation in Service

Our children and youth will be leading "almost the entire service", and we would love for your child or youth to participate! Opportunities include serving as ushers and greeters, helping with the offertory, reading scripture, and even leading the Pastoral Prayer. Let's come together as a church to lift up and celebrate our young people — sign up your children and youth no later than today to participate here <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3625345>.

Sunday, June 14

Youth Sunday

Do not miss this very special one 10 o'clock Sunday service to celebrate a wonderful Foundry Family Ministries Program Year! We will honor all the milestones of our children and youth — from graduations and 3rd Grade Bibles to making it through another school year.

Saturday, June 20

Pride Parade!

Support the DC Pride Festival and Parade! You can demonstrate radical hospitality at Foundry, passing out water and lemonade on the plaza, or march in the parade with other UM Churches.

Email Jackie jackie@foundryumc.org with questions. Registration for both options is at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3635464>

ASP Mission Team Departs

Also today our Appalachian Service Project team heads to Carter County, Tennessee for their week of home repair work for families there. Pray for them as they do this important and often life-changing work, and plan to attend their June 28 report of their experience after they return.

Sunday, June 21

A Day of Celebration — and A Send-Off

Pastor Jonathan Brown will preach his farewell sermon at both services this morning as he and his family prepare to move to Atlanta where he will become pastor of the Inman Park UMC.

Tuesday, June 23

Foundry Board Meeting

Our Foundry Board convenes its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. All interested Foundry members can attend using this [Zoom link](#).

Thursday, June 25

Project Transformation Begins!

Beginning today Foundry volunteers will read with elementary-aged students for the next seven Thursday mornings – June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and August 6, 2026. This is a great way to help students at critical reading learning age to help fight the “summer slide.” You can help by offering a few hours (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.) on one Thursday or more to read with kids or have them read to you. Volunteers can be as young as 14. We can coordinate transportation. Learn more and register at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3617286>

Sunday, June 28

Sacraments that Shape Us

Today Pastor Ginger will preach on the role that sacraments play in bringing us closer to God, showing us that our faith is real. Her texts include Luke 22:19–20, describing Jesus' actions at the last supper.

You can join a celebratory meal today as we welcome our Appalachian Service Project team home with a celebratory lunch where they will share some of their experiences in Carter County, Tennessee earlier this month.

Church Conference Today

All members of Foundry are invited to attend this church conference at 10:15 in the sanctuary. Today we will elect the members of the Foundry Board and the Nominating Committee for the next several years. Joe Bateman is nominated as a new member of the Board, while Joshua Baumgardner, Cara Crumpler and Franklin Moore are nominated for re-election to the Board. Their photos and short biographies will be shared in a future communication.

ASP Reports and Lunch!

You can join a celebratory meal today as we welcome our Appalachian Service Project team home with a celebratory lunch where they will share some of their experiences in Carter County, Tennessee earlier this month.