

MAY 2026



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Our Faith, Our Values, Our Voice

Once or twice a year, Foundry's staff team takes time to look ahead — not only to the church calendar, but to events in our community and nation that will shape our shared life. We reflect on the questions, concerns, and pressures rising among our members, and from that context, we shape worship series that speak with clarity and relevance.

This season, that process has led us to focus on how we respond to currents of thought and practice that dismiss or silence voices outside narrow, exclusive claims about truth, faith, and identity.

Our response is clear: while some insist they alone understand and represent the values and identity both of Christianity and our nation, **we know who we are** — as United Methodist Christians and as the Foundry community.

We are clear about our values and beliefs. We are not wishy-washy about our priorities. We know how we engage scripture and life — thoughtfully, humbly, and faithfully.

And so, beginning in May, Foundry will embark on a three-part, multi-month sermon series: ***We Know Who We Are: A Counter-Testimony of Faith, United Methodism, and the Work of the Church.***

Together, we will explore the heart of Christian belief, the rich theological and practical wisdom of the United Methodist tradition, and the particular calling of our Foundry community in this moment.



Grounded in scripture, shaped by the creeds, and guided by our United Methodist theology and Social Principles, we will explore and affirm our faith that is anything but vague. **We are rooted in grace, committed to justice, formed by mercy, and called to the transformation of the world.**

Each week will include invitations to concrete practices — spiritual, communal, and public — demonstrating that our faith is not only something we believe, but something we live.

I hope you'll join us as we take this journey together, strengthening our faith and renewing our commitment to **Love God. Love each other. Change the world.**

Peace and power,

ginger+

Foundry: Shaping – and Shaped by – History

JOHN MCCORMICK

Have you ever wondered how Foundry Church fits into the history of our city and our nation, and how that history continues to shape who we are today?

Like many of you, I knew that President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill attended a Christmas Day service at Foundry in 1941. But I found myself asking: why Foundry? Similar questions led me to join Foundry's Archives and History Committee, which I now serve as chair. I quickly discovered that exploring Foundry's history is not just about facts, it's about understanding the life of a community of faith across generations.

Our committee's work has two parts: archives and history. On the archives side, we preserve and organize the church's records, documents, and artifacts, and help members connect with their own histories at Foundry. Over the past year, we reviewed over 40 boxes of materials, identifying and preserving those with lasting historical value.

On the history side, we are working to bring Foundry's story to life. We recently launched a weekly feature, "This Week in Foundry's History," highlighting moments from our past and connecting them to the present. We are also expanding the church's historical timeline on the website, beginning an oral history project, and developing a self-guided tour of the church building and its treasures.

This work has been deeply meaningful, showing me that Foundry's story is not just about buildings or events, but about people — people who have worshiped, served, struggled, and grown in faith here for more than two centuries.



If you are interested in learning more — or in helping us research, preserve, and share Foundry's history, please contact me at jtmccormick58@gmail.com.

John McCormick and his family have been members of Foundry since 2007. He grew up in Front Royal, Virginia, and came to Washington, D.C. after college and law school at the University of Virginia and 15 years as a prosecutor in New York City. He has worked at the World Bank, the Federal Reserve Board, and Citigroup. He enjoys researching history, including the World War I era, the subject of a historical novel he is currently writing.

This Month in Foundry History

May has been an eventful month in Foundry history – here are just a few of the events in this month over the years:

- In May **1909** Foundry introduced the use of individual communion cups during the celebration of Holy Communion. The change reflected concerns about public health, and soon became common in many congregations of the United States.
- On May 19, **1940**, Foundry UMC began a major renovation of its historic sanctuary building, modernizing the interior to ensure that the sanctuary could serve the congregation well into the future.
- On May 27, **1959**, Foundry began planning for Foundry's 150th Anniversary which was celebrated in 1964.
- United Methodist Women was formed in May of **1973**, uniting the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild into a single organization, which became a vital force for mission and outreach across the country. Later this organization was renamed the United Women in Faith.

Thanks to the work of Foundry's History and Archives Committee for making these dates available to us.

Foundry Forward

MAY 2026 ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, May 3

Identity as Resistance

“We Know Who We Are: Beloved of God”

Today we begin a sermon series in which we will explore and affirm who we are as Christians, what we believe and stand for and how our attitudes and action bear witness to our faith. And to put those words into action, **today is also... Our Spring Great Day of Service!**

We are working with our friends from Rise Against Hunger to pack meals for our neighbors in disaster-affected regions, along with feeding programs at schools and in communities across the globe. Families and friends are encouraged to volunteer together, so bring a loved one! You may sign up for any of the following one-hour volunteer slots [here](#).

- 8–9 a.m.: Set Up
- 10–11 a.m.: Meal Packing
- 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.: Meal Packing

Need more information?
Email jackie@foundryumc.org.

Reading Groups: Separation of Church and Hate

Join a weekly reading group for *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang, **meeting from today, May 3 through June 28**. Together we will explore what faithful Christian witness looks like in a polarized world, examining how fear and exclusion can distort the gospel and how love of neighbor, truth, and justice can shape our discipleship. We also need volunteer group facilitators. Sign up to participate or to facilitate: foundryumc.org/reading-groups

NEW Federal Workers Support Group

If you are a current or former federal employee, contractor, or retiree feeling stress or uncertainty in this season, you are not alone. We invite you to a monthly support gathering after the second service on the first Sunday of each month — a space for listening, encouragement, and community. Come as you are and find support among others who understand. Our first meeting will be on **TODAY** Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 12:30 p.m., lunch will be provided. If interested, sign up at foundryumc.org/federal-workers-group

The Devil’s Music

It's not too late to join this class, which began April 26 and continues through May. We are exploring the often uneasy relationship between Christianity and rock and roll. Using *The Devil's Music*, we are looking at how people of faith have responded to rock music as a source of fear, inspiration, resistance, and cultural change. We meet at 10:10 a.m. in Room 203 for a thoughtful conversation about music, theology, and the ways the church has engaged popular culture. Register at foundryumc.org/devils-music

Sunday, May 10

Mother’s Day – “We Know Who We Follow”

Today we examine the topic of faith – a way of life shaped by Jesus. The sermon, drawing from texts in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 1, verses 16–20, reminds us that Jesus is the example we follow in our daily lives.

Sunday, May 17

“We Know Where We Belong”

T.C. Morrow, who has been appointed as Senior Pastor to The United Church + Vereinigte Kirche, located in Foggy Bottom, beginning in July, will preach at both services today. Her texts are from the twelfth chapter of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, emphasizing our strong connections to all our fellow humans. And between services, everyone is invited for cake and refreshments in Community Commons as we say Godspeed to T.C. as she moves on to this next step in her ministry. We are all invited to contribute to a love offering in T.C.'s honor through the "Giving" page on Foundry's website.

Foundations of Sacred Resistance– Social Principles

Join Pastor Ben after the second service to discuss the United Methodist Social Principles and how they inform our sacred resistance work. Register [here](#).

Washington Interfaith Network's Mayoral Candidate Forum

After Pastor Ben's session, please join us for the Washington Interfaith Network's Mayoral Candidate Forum from 3–5 p.m.. This is an important event you will not want to miss. We are hoping to turn out 40 Foundry members for this event. Location and registration coming soon.

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost – “We Know Why We Are Sent”

On this Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday, Pastor Ginger will preach about the Mission of God, drawing from texts in Acts 2, verses 1–21 and John 20, verses 19–22. We are reminded that the church is not a refuge from the world; we are sent into the world to make disciples of Christ and transform the world.

Tuesday, May 26

Foundry Board Meeting

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

Friday, May 29 - Saturday, May 30

Spring Pre-Cana Weekend

Foundry's Pre-Cana weekend is an opportunity for couples planning to marry to receive expertise in the areas of finance, personality, relationship, and counseling. We will gather on Friday, May 29 at 6 p.m. in person for dinner and conversation and then again on Saturday, May 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. online via Zoom for discussions. Register at foundryumc.org/pre-cana

SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, June 21

On this Sunday, Pastor Jonathan Brown will preach at both services. And between services, we will gather to share some of his favorite southern desserts in celebration of his ministry and his appointment as senior pastor of Inman Park United Methodist Church in Atlanta. We are all invited to contribute to a love offering in Jonathan's honor through the "Giving" page on Foundry's website.

Sunday, May 31

Trinity Sunday... And Scholarship Deadline

Today we move into the topic of United Methodism. Pastor Ginger preaches on the significance of grace in our denomination, pointing out that "Grace is Bigger than You Think." Her texts are the first chapter of Genesis, verses 26 through chapter 2, verse 3, and Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 4-10.

Today is also the deadline to apply for a Foundry scholarship for higher education. Foundry offers two types of one-year scholarships:

- **the Alida Smith Memorial Scholarship** - for undergraduate or graduate students at any institution (Community colleges, 4-year institutions, or graduate institutions) and
- **the Edward W. Bauman Scholarship** - for those attending seminary and planning to enter Christian ministry upon graduation.

Any student who is a member of, or closely associated with Foundry United Methodist Church is eligible to apply. If you are a regular attendee, an immediate family member of a Foundry member, or a participant in Foundry UMC mission activities, you may apply at <https://foundryumc.org/scholarships>.

The deadline for applying is today - May 31, 2026.

Questions? Contact us at scholarships@foundryumc.org

Sunday, May 31

Retreats are Part of Foundry Life.... Help Plan One

Help Plan Next Year's Foundry Women's Retreat!

You are invited to come to Room 203 today at 12:30 today, for an information session on Leadership of Foundry's annual Women's Retreat. You'll have a chance to learn about how you can participate in shaping and leading this important annual event for Foundry Women. A new leadership team for 2027 is being recruited. This special opportunity is open to anyone who's interested - whether you've attended before or not. Please register using this link. <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3502181>

LGBTQ+ Retreat Steering Committee

For many years Foundry's LGBTQ+ community and allies held an annual weekend spiritual retreat, and it's time to get this show back on the road! Whether you're interested in planning any part of it or just want to offer a helping hand, all are welcome to join the LGBTQ+ Retreat steering committee. If interested, please contact Jonathan Brown at jbrown@foundryumc.org