

# FOUNDRY FORGE

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

## Singing A New Song... In A Virtual World

GORDON OHLSSON

Do you remember Marvin Gaye and Tammy Terrell telling us that “there ain’t nothing like the real thing, baby”? I sure do.

And when the pandemic sent us into lockdown and studies warned that choir practices were super spreader events, I wondered if it was possible for our Foundry Chancel Choir to sing together in the present, not just in the World of Livestream.

And how could any other experience compare to the real thing?

But soon I heard, during a livestreamed Sunday worship service, the first presentation by Foundry’s virtual choir. A small group of singers sang the beautiful Mark Miller hymn, “Imagine the People of God!” I knew then that it would be possible for our choir to sing a new song in this strange virtual world, and shortly thereafter, we were singing – together – Thomas Dorsey’s “Precious Lord.”

A lot of work went into that – singing our parts solo, recording audio and video separately, so our ace technical team could put it all together. But for me, hearing the song as part of worship was a revelatory “yes.”

Yes, we could still make music together.  
Yes, we could add new things to worship.  
Yes, our individual efforts could come together for the glory of God.

*Gordon Ohlsson, a Nebraska native, became a rebel in his family of musicians by going to law school. He has always loved singing and has sung in many choirs, most recently in Atlanta before moving to DC in 2008 and joining the Foundry Choir in 2013. Using his law degree, he fashioned a career in his other great love, writing. He works for the federal government (not as a lawyer!) and lives in Woodley Park with his husband Kevin.*



Even though we couldn’t be together, we could still come together to do what we love.

Virtual choir has opened my eyes. I come from a family of musicians – my dad was a singer and choral conductor – so I have definite expectations for choirs, and our Chancel Choir has always met them. And now, virtual choir meets them, too.

Music is my ministry, and our virtual choir lets me continue that ministry. Together with occasional Wednesday night Zoom hangouts and regular Sunday morning sing-alongs organized by Steve Pflasterer and Jubalate, virtual choir brings me together with my friends. We love our music and each other. Practicing in the Foundry choir room with Stanley and our crew gives me great joy. But I’ve discovered that singing in the virtual world gives me great joy, too.

Virtual choir is surely different, but now I know that “yes, it’s the real thing, baby!”

# Bringing Wisdom Forward

As summer approaches, we seem to be moving toward a new version of normal life. The prospect is strangely daunting.

How do we respond? How do we carry forward wisdom gained during this last year and reshape our lives accordingly?

Speaking from a seat in Foundry’s pews, Pastor Ginger invites you to think about your answers, as we move together into the future. Hear her thoughts by visiting [bit.ly/ginger-pondering](http://bit.ly/ginger-pondering).



## Connect with us on Church Center

*\* Please join Foundry on Church Center by visiting [foundryumc.churchcenter.com](http://foundryumc.churchcenter.com). Here, you can manage your member profile, events, giving, and more. Choose “Log in” from the upper-right corner to get started.*

## Connect with Foundry Clergy Every Weekday – on Facebook Live

MONDAYS AT NOON	TUESDAYS AT TEN	WEDNESDAYS AT NOON	THURSDAYS AT TEN	FRIDAYS AT NOON
"Good Noon" with Pastor K.C.	"Wandering Toward Wonder" with Pastor Will	"Ponderings from the Purple Parlor" with Pastor Ginger	"Midday with PK" with Pastor Kelly	"Week Ends with Ben"

 [facebook.com/FoundryUnitedMethodistChurch](https://facebook.com/FoundryUnitedMethodistChurch)

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).

# Foundry Forward

## MAY ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, May 2

### The Rewards of Going Green in Your Garden

Foundry member Doug Barker will lead this class from 12:30-1:30 p.m. providing useful information about growing your garden in environmentally friendly ways. Learn more: [bit.ly/foundry-green-in-garden](https://bit.ly/foundry-green-in-garden).

Thursdays, May 6,13,20,27

### This Sunday's Scripture

Join Pastor Ginger from 6-7 p.m. every Thursday to explore the Scriptures assigned for our next Sunday worship service. Join: [bit.ly/sundays-scripture-may21](https://bit.ly/sundays-scripture-may21).

Monday, May 10

### Prepare for Pentecost

Register by 5 p.m. on May 10 for your Pentecost worship and learning box, and pick it up at Foundry on either Sunday, May 16 or Monday, May 17 between 3 and 7 p.m.

Designed for all ages, the box provides faith practices to use as we journey together through the Pentecost season. Each box includes Reflect and Talk cards, Pentecost postcards, and items for your home altar. Register: [bit.ly/pentecost-box](https://bit.ly/pentecost-box).

Saturday, May 15

### Foundry Fellowship Tours

Don't miss Foundry's First Fellowship Tour, "Race, Space, and the Power of Place at Union Station" with Dr. Izetta Autumn Mobley from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Inspired by Isabel Wilkerson's book [The Warmth of Other Suns](#), which examines the Great Migration's impact on the lives of everyday people, Dr. Mobley uses Union Station to tell the story of the Great Migration. Register to receive the Zoom link: [bit.ly/fellowship-tour-515](https://bit.ly/fellowship-tour-515).

Sunday, May 23

### Pentecost Sunday

As we celebrate the beginning of Pentecost season, we begin a new class – *The Shape of Our Lives*. For the next six Sundays, we will meet from 10-11 a.m. to discuss the book by that name and explore the basic rhythms, rituals and attitudes that define a life of discipleship. Register by Thursday, May 20 at 11:30 a.m. [bit.ly/shape-of-our-lives](https://bit.ly/shape-of-our-lives).

Tuesday, May 25

### Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's Board convenes its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All Foundry folx are welcome to attend.

Email [amandabeadle1@gmail.com](mailto:amandabeadle1@gmail.com) for the link.