

MAY 2025



# Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

## We're the Backup Plan

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22*

Someone has imagined a conversation Jesus had with the archangel Gabriel when Jesus returned to heaven after the ascension.

"You mean," Gabriel said, "your whole plan to save the world depends on that ragtag bunch of 120 former fishermen, women, and tax collectors?"

"That's right," Jesus replied.

"But what if they fail?" Gabriel persisted with alarm. "What's your backup plan?"

"There is no backup plan," Jesus said.

There is still no backup plan. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you..."

God sent Jesus out of love to share the gift of life in God, the gift of hope, the gift of mercy and forgiveness. And Jesus sends his disciples — sends us — in the same way.

As the "sent" people of God, the church is the instrument of God's mission. It's not that we, the church, have a mission, but that God's mission has a church.

As members of the Body of Christ, the Church, we are all missionaries, sent by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to live within this challenging moment in history as fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, ambassadors of God's love and mercy, cultivators of peace with justice.



To be a sent people is to recognize that being a disciple of Jesus is not just about "going to church" to save our own soul. Rather, our being "sent" is about being transformed by the grace, love, and mercy of God in community so that, strengthened by God, we can live in a way that furthers God's mission of liberating love and mercy in the world.

Rather than just going to church, it's about being the church all the time and in all the places that we find ourselves. John Wesley famously declared that the world was his parish. What if, in every realm of your life, you understood yourself as a missionary of God's church?

As we move through the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we'll be thinking together about what it means to be an Easter people, to be the church, to be sent into the world to love and serve right here, right now. I hope we'll see you in worship, study, service, and fellowship so that, together God's mission will grow!

Easter Blessings,  
ginger+

## FOUNDRY SCHOLARSHIPS: More Than Money

CASSANDRA LAWRENCE

I started attending Foundry soon after moving to Washington from Sacramento, California.

Over the next few years, I participated in creative worship, the prayer team, the point-in-time count of unhoused neighbors, the racial justice team and LGBTQ+ advocacy at General Conference. At the same time, my jobs in international and national peace and justice put me in touch with people of many religions as well as atheists and secular communities.

The Foundry community showed me what it means to live into the gospel through vital transforming Bible study, prayer, worship, and working for justice and compassion. The five years I spent at Foundry and in DC provided me what I needed to be confident pursuing a seminary education and ordained ministry.

I also knew by that time how expensive DC is and how much grad school costs. During my four years in seminary, I was supported by my Foundry family with friendship, prayer, scholarships, and even meals during finals.

That support allowed me to work and study with the communities in DC that deepened my confidence. The financial support may not have been much, but it meant I could afford the books I needed and time to take my immersion trips and summer courses.



Now, I strive to share that same support and love I experienced at Foundry in my new home in Iowa as the associate chaplain at Grinnell College. In my new position at Grinnell, I provide one-on-one care to all students, support a student-run hotline for people experiencing sexual assault and dating violence, provide interfaith and social justice leadership, connect the college and town, and support the religious student groups on campus.

I pray I'm able to share the Foundry love that inspired me in word and deed, that sustained me, that deepened my call and leadership. I miss Foundry so much even as I know I'm where God has called me to be.

## FOUNDRY SCHOLARSHIPS: This is the Month to Apply!

Foundry offers two types of one-year scholarships for students who are members or close associates of Foundry:

- 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 (for example, a regular attendee, a participant in Foundry mission activities, the immediate family member of a Foundry member) is eligible to apply.

Go to <https://foundryumc.org/scholarships> for more information and to submit your application. The deadline for applying is May 31, 2025. Questions? Contact us at [scholarships@foundryumc.org](mailto:scholarships@foundryumc.org).

*And if you haven't already, read Cassandra Lawrence's reflection in this issue on what Foundry support for a student, including Foundry scholarships, can mean.*

## Duruflé Sing and Supper

Would you like to learn what it's like to be part of a Foundry choir? Here's a chance!

At 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 21, the combined Foundry choirs invite you to a light supper followed by a sing-through rehearsal of the **Duruflé Requiem**.

Have you sung this Requiem before? Maybe you haven't and would like to? This night is for you! Visit [foundryumc.org/durufle](https://foundryumc.org/durufle) to learn more and fill out the RSVP form before May 14.



# Foundry Forward

## MAY 2025 ACTION ITEMS

Friday, May 2 – Sunday May 4

### Foundry Men's Retreat

This is the first Foundry Men's Retreat in several years: Foundry men will meet at West River UM Camp from Friday evening until early afternoon Sunday. Their discussions – focusing on what constitutes a healthy vision of manhood – will be led by recent Acting Senior Pastor David Argo, and long-time Foundry members Greg McGruder and Charlie Parker.

Sunday, May 4

### Right Here, Right Now

We are now in the Easter season, and over the next nine weeks, we will ponder – in our sermons – questions that help us consider this question: "In a time of chaos and cruelty, what does it mean to be 'Easter people?'"

You can find part of your answer today, participating in our spring **Great Day of Service!** We are again partnering with Rise Against Hunger to pack meals for our neighbors in disaster-affected regions, along with school feeding programs. Come at 8 a.m. and help us for an hour setting up; come from 10–11 a.m. or 12:45–1:25 p.m. and pack meals. Register here: [foundryumc.org/gdos](https://foundryumc.org/gdos)

Also today, we begin a multi-generational four-week class looking at the connections between the Harry Potter series of books and Christian themes. We'll meet at 10:10 a.m. in Room B2, to register, go [here](#).

Also today, we continue our Stephen Ministry study of the book "The Gift of Empathy." We meet from 10–11 a.m. in the Davenport Center. Register [here](#)

Sunday, May 11

### Mother's Day

Today we celebrate mothers – biological mothers, adoptive and adopted mothers, and all individuals in our lives who have, one way or another, "mothered" us along the way. We continue our sermon series of "RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW" – which for some of us may echo our own mother's words.

Saturday, May 17

### Civil Rights Learning Session

Today is our final Civil Rights Learning Session before our June 16–21 Civil Rights Pilgrimage south with our sibling congregations, John Wesley AME Zion Church and Asbury UMC. This session will focus on the Faces of the 1963 March on Washington. It will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. at Foundry UMC.

Sunday, May 18

### Be A Better Ally

One way we can carry forward our mission as an Easter people is to stand in solidarity with those who are too often marginalized and persecuted. Today we all have a chance to improve our ability to be an effective ally for our LGBTQIA+ siblings in today's evolving landscape. We'll meet at 12:30 p.m. Register [here](#) for more information.

Wednesday, May 21

### Singing and Supper

Anyone interested in singing along with the combined Foundry choirs is invited to join the choirs at Foundry at 6 p.m. tonight for a light supper followed by a sing-through rehearsal of the Durufle Requiem. Register here to learn more and fill out the RSVP form before May 14.

Tuesday, May 27

### 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: [foundryumc.org/board-meeting](https://foundryumc.org/board-meeting).

Saturday, May 31

### Foundry Scholarships Deadline

Today is the deadline to apply for the two Foundry scholarships awarded each year. The Alida Smith Memorial Scholarship helps support undergraduate or graduate students in all areas of higher education. The Edward W. Bauman Scholarship is for students attending seminary who plan to enter Christian ministry upon graduation. Learn more at [foundryumc.org/scholarships](https://foundryumc.org/scholarships).