

FOUNDRY FORGE

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

When Are You Available to God?

With this issue of the Forge, we are sharing with you one of Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli's Wednesday Facebook Live "Ponderings from the Purple Parlor" instead of her usual written reflection. You can listen instead of reading!

During these days of tension and disruption, many of us are not sleeping well. In this personal reflection, Pastor Ginger asks you as she was asked during such a time: "When are you available to God?"

Listen to this brief excerpt, in which Pastor Ginger shares the wisdom of two mentors --- and her positive experience as a result. After you listen, you will find it enlightening to listen to the entire reflection -- which takes less than 20 minutes!

To hear and see excerpt, go to <https://rb.gy/0kh8fw>

To hear and see full Pondering, go to <https://rb.gy/fseztq>

Books to Prisons, Pandemic Version

CHRIS MATTHEWS

"I was in prison and you visited me."
Matthew 25:36



As heavy rain hit the region one day this summer, an odd scene unfolded on a DC street.

Despite the downpour, a crew of adults raced between multiple cars, shifting heavy boxes. Nothing alarming was underway – just Books-to-Prisons volunteers swapping books.

Given COVID-19, prison visits are few and far between, and our Books to Prisons ministry no longer works out of Foundry's basement. But shifting gears, we are still doing our work -- from our homes. And it is important work. Our nation, with less than five percent of the world's population has 20 percent of the world's prisoners, many with little or no access to books or any other educational materials.

Sending books to prison inmates is not simple. Each volunteer fulfills requests for specific genres of books. First, we review inmates' letters requesting books, and code them to indicate the restrictions required by the particular prison and the type of book desired. Then we get the letters and books to the right volunteers. They match the requests and letters, weigh them, and respond with notes. Other volunteers check and mail the packages.

Prisoners want all sorts of books -- history, sci fi, suspense, self-help, science, language, GED, puzzles, African American lit, fantasy, National Geographics, and our **most requested books... dictionaries!** The importance of the packages they receive is evident in their responses:

“Reading and learning is freedom.”

“Thank you so much for the amazing amount of joy you mailed to our dismal prison!”

“I’m trying to change my life . . . I want to learn all I can . . . so that I can make better choices in the future.”



In addition to answering individual requests, we send boxes of books to prison libraries and support several prisoners' book clubs. And, we have sent more than 6,000 books to children in immigration detention facilities!

Longtime Foundry member Chris Matthews volunteers with Foundry's Books to Prisons ministry, which was taken under Foundry's wing in 2005 at the request of Foundry member Michael Thompson, then chair of the Prison Ministry. Books to Prison looks forward to welcoming new volunteers once they resume normal in-person work at Foundry. Until then, for more information, visit <http://dcbookstoprisoners.org/> and to donate books, contact btopdc@gmail.com.

Connect with Foundry Clergy Every Weekday – on Facebook Live

MONDAYS AT NOON

"Good Noon" with Pastor K.C.

TUESDAYS AT TEN

"Wandering Toward Wonder" with Pastor Will

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

"Ponderings from the Purple Parlor" with Pastor Ginger

THURSDAYS AT TEN

"Midday with PK" with Pastor Kelly

FRIDAYS AT TEN

"Ben at Ten" with Pastor Ben



Foundry Forward

NOVEMBER ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Day

Begin Sunday by attending Foundry's **Practicing Spirituality** class at 9 am. This lay-led class studies, discusses, and prays about varying subjects and practices that sustain and renew one's spirit. To join, email Pastor Will Ed Green, wgreen@foundryumc.org.

As we remember our loved ones who died this year, we join together in worship with music and prayers of contemplation, holding the memory of our Saints, and God's faithfulness to us all. Tune in at 10:50 am for a special prelude before the worship service begins at 11:15 with songs of remembrance from Brahms, Messiaen, Clausen, and Forrest.

Participate in Foundry's service every Sunday using any of these links: **Facebook**, <https://bit.ly/3jMEUIO>, **Website**, <https://bit.ly/3kJuODe>, **Vimeo Channel**, <https://bit.ly/2HMuaqd>, **YouTube Channel**, <https://bit.ly/3jDNkMc>. And you can also attend 10 am services at our sibling congregations, John Wesley AME Zion bit.ly/JWAMEZ and Asbury UMC bit.ly/AsburyUMCLive

Monday, November 2

Election-Eve Candlelight Vigil

Bring your masked self and your own candle to Foundry at 5:30 pm for an hour-long socially distanced interfaith witness. We will pray for hope, peace and justice. For more information, visit bit.ly/37VIZ4w

Tuesday, November 3

Praying Our Way Through Election Day

It's an important day – and probably a long one - so Pastor Ginger and Pastor Will are joining with clergy from Asbury UMC, John Wesley AME Zion, and Mount Vernon Place UMC to offer times of prayer and meditation via Facebook Live throughout Election Day. For specific times for each Facebook Live prayer session and the prayers to be used during it, go to bit.ly/2TAdcOi

Wednesdays, November 4, 11, 18, 25

Begin Your Day with Prayer

Every day, but especially the day after this Election Day, begins better with prayer. Go here <https://bit.ly/34FdxWj> to share prayers at 7:30 am with Pastor Kelly today and every Wednesday.

Thursdays, November 5, 12, 19

Bible Study with Pastor Ginger

Join Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli from 6-7 pm on each of these Thursdays to explore the history and context of the scripture on which she will preach the following Sunday. For more information and the Zoom password, email discipleship@foundryumc.org.

Sunday, November 8

Worship and In-Person Communion

Gather for worship at 11:15 am as we sing, pray and worship together in virtual community. Our November theme is “Choose This Day,” reminding us that no matter what happens, God is with us, extending the grace we need for every situation.

And join us between 3 and 6 pm that afternoon for socially-distanced, in-person communion! You have three options – a brief, in-person liturgy of Holy Communion on Foundry’s Plaza (30 participants total), a walk-up station, and a drive-through station. <https://bit.ly/2TDakQE>. Registration is required and all registrants will receive an assigned arrival time.

Tuesday, November 24

Today’s the Last Day to Order Fair Trade Gifts

Be sure to send your orders today to Margie McKelvey for fairly-traded coffee, chocolate, pecans and other goodies. Delivery in mid-December. You will find more detail at <https://bit.ly/3e6JXMD>.

Wednesday, November 25

We Gather Together to Give Thanks

Let’s come together via Zoom with our siblings at Asbury UMC for a service on Thanksgiving Eve. To attend, go to Facebook and search for AsburyUMCDC.

Sunday, November 29

The First Sunday of Advent

Today we enter the season of Advent, full of promise. More than ever in this time of anticipation, we need to come together to share our hopes and fears in worship, prayer and song.