



# Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

## Why We Give Now

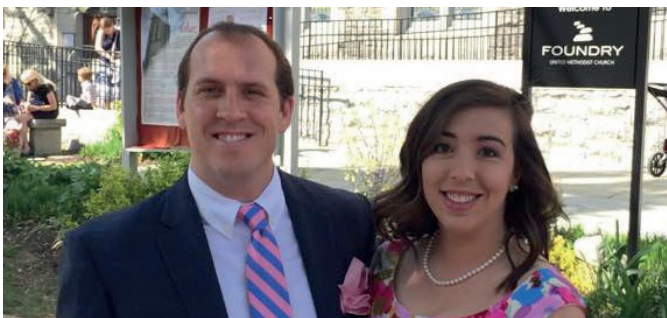
*Each of us has different reasons for giving to Foundry. Here, Lorea Stallard and Dan Vock, chairs of this year's stewardship campaign, tell us why they became regular contributors to Foundry's annual operating fund.*

### LOREA STALLARD

When my husband and I first joined Foundry, we were mainly able to support the church with our time and talents. I joined the ID Ministry and led a Small Group, and Kyle joined Job Corps to help with odd jobs around the "old barn," as we now know Pastor Dawn called the building.

We always gave a little bit, and a little bit extra for the ID Ministry special offerings, but it wasn't until Tara Holeman Kawasaki and Terry Birkel led the stewardship campaign one year that I really understood why pledging is so important.

We all love that Wesley quote, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, so long as ever you can."



We also know that, despite our best efforts, we cannot be everywhere. However, when we pledge to the church's general fund, I imagine our support winding its way not just through the old barn, but also out into our community where it does so much more good than we can do with just our two hands.

*Lorea Stallard is a native West Virginian and a cradle Catholic. She found Foundry after she began dating a Southern Baptist and they needed a place that satisfied their spiritual needs and reflected their commitment to justice and equality. Her favorite Foundry memories include becoming official members of Foundry with John Harden, being married by Pastor T, and candlelight services on Christmas Eve.*



### DAN VOCK

When I was a kid, my brothers and I would save up all our change to give to our church on Christmas Eve. One year, my younger brother put all our change in a Hershey's Cocoa tin. It was heavy – and loud.

When he put it in the offering plate, it made a big clang. And it clanged again every time someone passed the plate. I like to think the spectacle inspired other people to give more.

But giving to the church for me was sporadic until I became involved in church leadership here at Foundry. It was then that I finally grew to understand that giving is a spiritual practice, and, like all good spiritual practices, the more you do it, the more you benefit from it. I have become less worried about money, and more grateful for what I have. My yearly estimate and monthly contribution feel like acts of faith.

It's not always easy.

Two years ago, the magazine I worked for laid me off (such is the life of a reporter), and I had no idea what my financial situation would be. But I decided I would keep making my monthly payments until money got tight. Luckily, enough freelance work materialized that I've been able to make those contributions, even though my income dropped. Every check still feels like a bold act of faith to me.

*Dan Vock grew up in the Chicago suburbs. He started attending Foundry shortly after moving to Washington 16 years ago. His favorite memories of Foundry include teaching English, traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border, getting married to Mariana (during a Capital Pride parade, no less), and seeing his two kids get baptized here.*

# Come to the Table with Thanks!

"Thank you." What power these small words hold!

While researching his role as a butler in the film, *The Remains of the Day*, Anthony Hopkins interviewed a real-life butler who said his goal in life was to blend into the woodwork of any room like a mere fixture, a table lamp, an andiron. The real-life butler summed up an excellent butler this way: "The room seems emptier when he's in it." The goal is to do your work, fill the wine glasses, clear the plates and silverware without being noticed, much less thanked.

That is the effect of ingratitude: it makes people disappear. You are the center of your universe and can easily forget anyone else is around at all, even if they're the ones making sure you have all you need! But a simple word of thanks makes people visible again, it humanizes them.

Saying "thank you" acknowledges gratitude for what someone does or who someone is. And at an even more basic level, to say "thank you" is to recognize someone's presence, to acknowledge them as a fellow human being. If we take others for granted, they can begin to feel invisible, dehumanized, and devalued.

An example: When I get so wrapped up in my work that I fail to say thank you to Anthony for the ways that he supports and cares for me and for our shared life, then it is easy for me to forget all the ways he does those things. I can feel "on my own," put out, weary, and resentful – ways of being that do not expand my humanity, but rather wear me down to a self-righteous nub. Gratitude is life-giving for all involved; saying "thank you" is no small thing.

This month as we celebrate Consecration Sunday and Thanksgiving, I encourage you not to take your important relationships for granted. Say "thank you" to the people in your life, acknowledge God as the source, sustainer, and guide of your life, and consider the role Foundry plays in helping you stay connected to God and others, providing ways to participate in God's work of love, forgiveness, grace, and justice in community.

God prepares the table for us. By God's grace, we prepare the table for others. Let us always come to the table with thanks!





# Order Fair Trade Christmas Gifts

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Foundry is once again providing you a virtual opportunity to support social and racial justice — and buy some great Christmas gifts — by purchasing fairly-traded coffee, chocolate, and more. Foundry members Chris Matthews and Margie McKelvey will take your orders through November 18, and will deliver your purchases by early December. Visit [foundryumc.org/news/fair-trade](https://foundryumc.org/news/fair-trade) to learn more.

Thank you in advance for your support! It is especially important because the pandemic continues to be very hard on the small farmers in lesser developed countries from whom Equal Exchange (a cooperative partner of interfaith groups including UMCOR) buys these and other products including pecans from Black farmers in Georgia.



# Foundry Forward

## NOVEMBER ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, November 7

### All Saints Sunday Music of Remembrance

At our 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. worship services, Foundry Pastors and our Chancel Choir will guide us through liturgy and music which offer us the opportunity to recall and celebrate the saints in our lives, both past and present. Join us for these inspirational worship experiences.

### A Disciple's Heart

Discipleship in the Methodist tradition affirms that there is always more work for God to do in the human heart. Today we begin a six-week course, **A Disciple's Heart**, and attempt to reclaim and, in a sense, reinterpret for today John Wesley's understanding of this transformation of the heart, which he called "Christian perfection." We will meet from 10–11 a.m. online. For more information, go [here](#).

Thursday, November 11

### Kirk Symposium: Chocolate City

Join us at Foundry or online at 6:30 p.m. for our second annual Kirk Symposium lecture, in partnership with the Edlavitch DCJCC, featuring Dr. Chris Myers Asch and Dr. George Derek Musgrove. Drs. Asch and Musgrove will be discussing their book, **Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital**, followed by a book signing in Community Commons. *A limited number of books will be available for purchase on site.* More information [here](#).

Thursday, November 18

### 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 [here](#).

Sunday, November 21

### Consecration Sunday

Today's the day we make our commitment to Foundry's 2021 general operating budget. We come to the table with our pledges of giving to enable us to expand the offerings of Foundry's table in the year ahead. If you aren't joining us in person, you can submit your estimate of giving [here](#).

Sunday, November 28

### The First Sunday of Advent

Today we enter the season of Advent, full of hope and promise. Let us each observe this season of anticipation with an open heart as we come together – actually or virtually – and share our hopes and fears in worship, prayers, and song.

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).