

NOVEMBER 2023



# Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

## The Rewards Of Engagement

JOSHUA BAUMGARDNER

Reflecting on my years at Foundry, I feel somewhat embarrassed that it was ten years before I became a member. I knew from day one that Foundry was a special place, filled with special people. Some of us just take a bit longer to settle in.

This was true for me, still grappling with my perceptions of what churches can be like, having grown up in a conservative Baptist church in the South. Fortunately, Foundry proved to me that churches are not all the same.

When I moved to Washington, I was a professional opera singer. I came to Foundry as a professional member of the choir, and I adored it. We are fortunate to have one of the best choirs of mostly volunteer singers in the region.

Eventually, I moved into a full-time career in real estate, and had to leave the choir. I couldn't leave Foundry and continued attending worship regularly. After some time, I began to feel like I wasn't contributing enough to the church that had so changed my understanding of a church family. So I started looking for ways to utilize my talents at Foundry.

A Foundry friend suggested I join the facilities committee. The grandson of a skilled carpenter, growing up on a farm where we did a lot of at-home maintenance, I do understand many "behind-the-walls" systems. Add countless home inspections and it adds up to a pretty solid understanding of how to care for facilities. So, I decided this was a fit.

But something was still missing. I longed to be more involved. My initial experience at Foundry was shaped by the warm welcome of congregation members, so I wanted to contribute to that experience for others. I attended a training for greeters and ushers and soon began welcoming members and guests in our narthex.



This is what I had been missing. As a greeter, I've met so many more members of our Foundry family. It's an honor to be one of the first to welcome them as they enter our doors.

Then I was asked to serve on the Foundry Board. I am humbled to do so. Our church is literally changing lives across the globe; our movement into the future has never been more important. As we explore ways to engage new visitors and enhance our offerings to members, I'm thrilled to work alongside fellow board members and our clergy team to create and implement a vision for our path forward.

So take it from me, if you have any desire to serve Foundry, assess what you can contribute, and let someone know. There is a place for everyone to serve at Foundry. I'm so glad I finally made the leap; it allows me to forge an even deeper relationship with my church family and, most importantly, with my God.

Don't be afraid. It's worth it.

*Joshua grew up in Abingdon, Virginia on a picturesque horse farm in the Appalachian Mountains, the son of a Freewill Baptist Minister. He later attended undergrad at James Madison University before moving on to graduate work at Florida State University. In 2011 Joshua moved to Northern Virginia and began attending Foundry. He now calls the Shaw / U Street neighborhood home.*

# GREAT GIFTS, GOOD WORKS

In-person gift buying is back! You can pick up chocolate, coffee, tea, dried fruit, and olive oil from Equal Exchange (a cooperative partnering with interfaith groups such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief) during Foundry's coffee hour on Sundays from November 19 through December 10.

Check or cash ONLY. Your purchases support farmers in developing countries, help eliminate child labor, and foster sustainable farming and community development.

And if you need a lot of an item or see something else in the Equal Exchange catalogue (<https://shop.equalexchange.coop>) that you would like, you can place special orders at coffee hours on November 19 and 26.

# Magnifying Our Joyful Noise

Foundry's growing group of music makers is now in final rehearsals for All Saints Sunday, November 5. That Sunday, they will present **A New Creation** by René Clausen. This music special will feature the Chancel Choir, members of Foundry's new and growing Congregational Choir, and featured soloists Angeli Ferrette, Wayne Jennings, and Robert Baker.

Since its inauguration in late summer, the Congregational Choir has sung a choral anthem, Robert Ray's **Gospel Mass**, and its members have provided percussion accompaniment for October's "Rhythm of our Lives" series. More join-as-you-can singing opportunities are planned each month.

"With all the music events happening at Foundry, we continue to welcome new singers," says Todd Mullins, Integration Coordinator for Foundry Choirs. "Whether singers are able to join Jubalate at the 9:00 service or the Chancel Choir at 11:15, something special happens when we come together to sing."

"We welcome all who are willing and able to join our singing groups occasionally, when hectic schedules allow, and also those who can sing on an 'on-call basis,'" Todd says.

## IF YOU ARE INTERESTED...

— In joining the Congregational Choir (and have the Foundry Church Center app), go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/groups/music-foundry/congregational-choir>

— In singing with Jubalate at the 9:00 service (and have the Foundry Church Center app), go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/groups/music-foundry/jubalate> Or just show up in the Choir Room at 8:15 am on Sunday mornings to rehearse.

— In part-time participation with the Chancel Choir (and have the Foundry Church Center app), go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/groups/music-foundry/chancel-choir> PT or contact Stanley Thurston, [sthurston@foundryumc.org](mailto:sthurston@foundryumc.org)

# Foundry Forward

## NOVEMBER ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, November 5

### All Saints Sunday

Today, on All Saints Sunday, we will have special music, including Rene Clausen's **A New Creation** at our 11:15 service with choir, soloists and orchestra.

Between services, from 10:10–11 am, there are classes for children, ages 3 to sixth grade in Rooms 204, 205, 206 and 208, and for adults who wish to join us in Room B2 to continue our exploration of **"Digital and Divine: Spirituality in an Age of Machine Learning."** Go to [foundryumc.org/machines](http://foundryumc.org/machines) to learn more.

Following our 11:15 service, a new four-week class **"Desperately Seeking Sabbath"** begins today from 12:30 until 2:00. Our topic focuses on our spiritual need for rest. This is a drop-in-friendly class taught by MJ Jean, using Wayne Muller's book **Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives**. More information at [foundryumc.org/seek](http://foundryumc.org/seek)

Also following the second service, there is a **Fellowship Ideation** meeting to which anyone interested in planning events that will bring the Foundry community together to have fun and enjoy each other's company in the coming year. We'll meet in Room B2 at 12:30. More info can be found at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1985533>

Wednesdays, November 8,15,29

### Sermon Reflections Discussions

Tonight, next Wednesday and the Wednesday following Thanksgiving, we continue our on-line discussion of the previous Sunday's sermon, gathering from 7:30–8:30 pm on Zoom to share our thoughts and comments. To register and join, please visit [Foundryumc.org/communal-discussions](http://Foundryumc.org/communal-discussions).

Sunday, November 12

### Who's Living Who?

Today we begin looking at how the world we live in today shapes how we think, focus and feel. Pastor Ginger's sermon today, "The Magic Trick," draws on Psalm 146 and Galatians 5:1.

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).

Sunday, November 19

### Reclaim Your Time

Pastor Ginger preaches today on texts from Psalm 131 and Colossians 2:2–4, 6–7.

**Baptism orientation** is available at 12:30 for anyone interested in learning about baptism in the United Methodist Church. Visit <http://foundryumc.org/baptism-orientation> for more information or email Natalie Harvey at [nharvey@foundryumc.org](mailto:nharvey@foundryumc.org).

**Equal Exchange gift buying is back!** Start your holiday shopping by buying fair trade chocolate, tea, coffee, dried fruit, and olive oil during coffee hour today. These are great gifts that help support sustainable farming.

Thursday, November 23

### Thanksgiving Day

Are you a runner or walker? We are forming a team to run or walk in the So Others Might Eat Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. It is a fun and healthy way to contribute to SOME's work and help our community. Email Jackie Wright, [jackie@foundryumc.org](mailto:jackie@foundryumc.org), to sign up or get more information.

Sunday, November 26

### Christ the King Sunday!

Today's sermon "Stress isn't Your Fault" draws on texts found in Psalm 91 and Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12.

### Learn More About Mary

A new class begins today, focusing on Mary, the mother of Jesus, using the book **Mary in the New Testament**. It will meet from 10:25–11 in room 202. This class is open to all: no prerequisites.

It's not too late to pledge your support for Foundry in 2023! Visit [foundryumc.org/estimate](http://foundryumc.org/estimate) to submit your estimate of giving now.