

NOVEMBER 2024



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Shaping Foundry's Future

In this season of giving thanks, my mind turns to all of you and the life and mission we share as Foundry United Methodist Church.

Over the past year, Foundry has undertaken a robust strategic visioning process that included house meetings, collation of member stories, discernment of themes, extraction of key areas of energy and focus, and lay team development of "Provocative Proposals" for six areas:

- Living out our baptismal covenant for children, youth, and families
- Being a big church made up of small communities
- Providing "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow" through direct service and long-term advocacy
- Inviting others to experience the good news of God's love and justice
- Extending radical hospitality and intentional companionship and care
- Offering strong digital support for our ministries and life-enhancing ways to connect with Foundry online as well as in person.

Last month the Foundry Board focused intently on these proposals to gain greater clarity and alignment of priorities. Next, we will use them to craft an integrated strategy with goals to carry Foundry into the future.

I believe this rewarding process will provide the tools we need to grow and build on our strong foundation.

Our Board reflected on Luke's account (Luke 9:1, 10-17)



of Jesus sending the disciples out to proclaim the good news of the Kin-dom, to heal, and to assert authority over demons. Then — after a long day doing all that — Jesus tells the disciples to feed more than 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. They didn't think that was possible. But Jesus could see the abundance that was available if the table was set and invitation given.

The lessons of this passage speak directly to the work we are about — discerning a big vision, offering a busy schedule of mission and ministry, and doing the work required through our annual stewardship campaign to assure that the abundance among us is gathered and used to sustain and grow our shared life next year and beyond.

A wise guide reminds me that "anything is possible with enough time, people, and money." I give thanks for all of you who contribute your time, your skills, and your financial resources to help Foundry thrive. Together, we like the disciples, will proclaim the good news, bring hope and healing into the world, and feed hungry people not only with food but also with justice.

God is doing miracles in, among, and through us all the time.

Thanks be to God!
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Much More Than A Meal

Parker Low

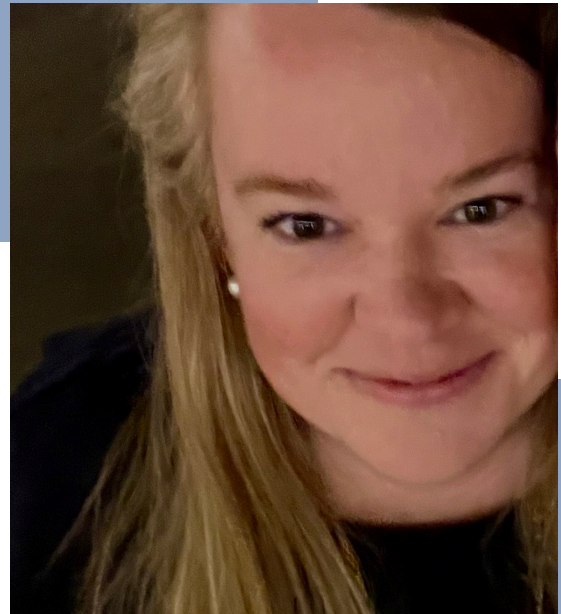
As summer 2015 drew to a close, a Foundry friend and I were thinking about what to do one last glorious summer weekend. We did end up at Target Friday night where I convinced her a 2000-piece puzzle was a good investment, but the highlight of our weekend was volunteering at Christ House.

An announcement had been in the worship guide the week before, so we signed up and showed up at the Safeway on Saturday morning, not knowing what we were getting into, or that we were beginning a beautiful long-term commitment.

Fortunately, we had a grocery list, a menu with instructions, and a Safeway gift card provided by Pastor Ben. After shopping, we walked up the block to Christ House to begin making lunch of ground beef tacos with all the toppings, a bean and corn salad, a cabbage salad with cilantro avocado dressing, and fruit for dessert. I don't remember too many specifics about that day, but I do remember chopping cabbage for what felt like an eternity. Eventually, we finished cooking and began serving the Christ House residents.

Christ House is a home in Adams Morgan, providing comprehensive, compassionate health care to men experiencing both homelessness and medical needs. Foundry has been serving lunch there since it opened in 1985. After we serve what we have prepared, we're invited to stay and eat with the residents.

Serving at Christ House is one of the best ways to live into Foundry's mission of transforming the world through active service. Nine years later — but more accurately nearly forty years later — Foundry has made thousands of tacos, served hundreds of men we would not otherwise interact with, and gotten a little smarter about buying bags of prechopped cabbage (if they're on sale).



If I find myself resentful about getting out of bed on a Saturday morning, that's probably when I need most to go to Christ House. An added bonus is the opportunity to chat with Foundry friends I don't see on Sundays. I am so grateful that this opportunity landed in my life.

Foundry serves lunch the first Saturday of each month. We meet at 10:30 and usually finish by 1:00. If you or your family members over 16 would like to join us, sign up here or talk to Martha Craver or me on Sunday. It's a powerful reminder that we serve God by serving others. We would love to have you join us.

Parker Low began attending Foundry in 2013. She is co-leader of the Cooking at Christ House ministry, volunteer coordinator for Project Transformation, an Advocacy Team volunteer, a member of the Foundry Scholarship Committee and of the Arlington-Alexandria small group. She is also a reserve delegate to the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.

Fair Trade Gifts Available

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 24 – DECEMBER 15

It's easy to do some holiday shopping buying fair trade products from Equal Exchange at coffee hour at Foundry! You can pick up chocolate, tea, coffee, dried fruit, and olive oil.

Your purchases (check or cash PLEASE!) support farmers in developing countries, help eliminate child labor and foster sustainable farming and community development. Equal Exchange is a cooperative partnering with interfaith groups including the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

You can also check out the Equal Exchange catalogue at <https://shop.equalexchange.coop>. **If you see something else you would like besides the items we have in Community Commons – or need more of one item than we have on hand – we will take special orders Sunday, November 24 and Sunday, December 1.**

ELECTION WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

Washington Interfaith Network – Interfaith Service: Reservoirs of Hope. Sunday, November 3, 5–6:30pm at Christ UMC, 900 4th ST SW

This event is an opportunity for people of all backgrounds, faith traditions, and people who believe in the common good to gather together to reflect, pray, and center ourselves on the values that sustain us amid the uncertainty and pain within our nation and our world.

Election Eve Candlelight Vigil for Democracy, Peace and Hope. Monday, November 4 from 5:30–6:30 pm on the Foundry Plaza

On the evening before the national election, please join us for a candlelight vigil with houses of worship along 16th Street NW, from the White House to Silver Spring, to shine a light for democracy, peace and hope. We will gather on the Foundry plaza at 5:30pm for prayer, followed by candle lighting.

Prayers on Election Day Tuesday, November 5 from noon to 8pm – Foundry's Community Commons is open for prayer.

A Communal Service Of Hope Following the 2024 Presidential Election. Wednesday, November 6 from 6:45-8pm at Mount Vernon Place UMC, 900 Massachusetts Ave NW

You are invited to join the congregations of Asbury UMC, Capitol Hill UMC, Dumbarton UMC, Foundry UMC, and Mount Vernon Place UMC for a communal worship service that will include music, scripture, a brief message, holy communion, prayer, and fellowship.

Important December dates!

Sunday, December 1
Advent Season Begins

Tuesday, December 3
Foundry Board Meeting

Sunday, December 8
Second Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 12 and Saturday, December 14 – 2024 William Astor and Vivian T. Kirk Symposium

Sunday, December 15
ONE worship service at 10 a.m. on this Third Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 19
The Longest Night

Sunday, December 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services

Foundry Forward

NOVEMBER 2024 ACTION ITEMS

Saturday, November 2

Come Cook at Christ House!

As you have read on page 2 of this issue, a Foundry team of volunteers (which you are invited to join) cooks lunch at Christ House in Adams Morgan the first Saturday of each month. What better way to begin Thanksgiving volunteering to join today's team? To learn when and where to meet, email christhouse@foundryumc.org. And if this month doesn't work for you, sign up for Saturday, December 7 – or even Saturday, January 4!

Sunday, November 3

All Saints Sunday

Today we remember our "saints" – those members and other loved ones who have died this past year and before. Pastor Ginger will preach about "Love at the Center," using as her texts Isaiah 25:6–9 and Mark 12:28–34. *Don't forget to set your clocks back. Today begins Daylight Savings Time!*

Thursday, November 7

Race, Self-Reliance and Food Access

This week we begin our reading for the 2024 William Astor and Vivian T. Kirk Symposium on December 12 and 14. **Sign up here now** to join other Foundry folk and our neighbors at The Edlavitch DCJCC to read and discuss the book **Black Food Geographies; Race, Self-Reliance, and Food Access in Washington, D.C.** The author, Dr. Ashante M. Reese, will join us for the symposium December 12 and 14. There will be a number of groups; none larger than 12. **Your group will meet this week for the first time to decide the time and date of future meetings and whether they will be in-person, hybrid, or virtual.**

Sunday, November 10

Abundance!

Today we receive new members of Foundry and Pastor Ginger preaches. Her texts are Ruth 3:1–5 and 4:13–17, and Mark 12:38–44.

Bad Theology Kills is a book by Kevin Garcia concerning the injurious impact of harmful beliefs and practices on individuals, relationships and more. Today, led by MJ Jean, this class begins four weeks of Sunday discussions of this book. Class meets from 10:10 a.m. to 11 in Room 203. Whether you are familiar with this book or new to the conversation, join us as we work to create spaces for healing and transformation. Register at foundryumc.org/bad-theology-kills.

Sunday, November 17

Days Like This

Pastor Jonathan preaches today, using as his texts Psalm 113 and Mark 13:1–8. His sermon title: "Mama Said There'd Be Days Like This!"

Join our John Wesley, Asbury and Foundry team today at 12:30 to learn about **our civil rights pilgrimage** which will take place in June 2025 to sites in Georgia and Alabama. We'll talk about itinerary, cost and vision. Email civilrightstour@foundryumc.org for more information.

Sunday, November 24

Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

Pastor Ben preaches today. His texts are 2 Samuel 23:1–7, Daniel 7:9–10 and 13–14, Psalm 132; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8 and John 18: 33–37.

Fair Trade Gift Sale Starts Today

Starting today and each Sunday until December 15, you can buy fair trade products from Equal Exchange at coffee hour! Gifts include chocolate, tea, coffee, dried fruit, and olive oil (check or cash PLEASE!).

Holiday Greens!

Buy a beautiful fresh wreath, garland, door swag or other hand-crafted decoration for your home or as a gift for friends and family. Each item purchased will fund planting of an evergreen seedling in a national or state forest. **Order by December 9 at foundryumc.org/holiday-wreaths and use code FOUNDRYVA001.**

To print a copy of this issue of the Forge, go to foundryumc.org/forge.

Share your thoughts and ideas by emailing ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org.