

OCTOBER 2021



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Prepare the Table!

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

— Psalm 23:5

So much life happens around dining tables — we are nourished with food, conversation, storytelling, and perhaps, a good debate. We laugh, cry, form new relationships, and reconnect with old friends. The food and drink on various tables reflect cultures from which we come, traditions of our families, and "specialties of the house." The tables themselves are soaked with prayers and memories and bear the scratches and stains of real life shared together.

This is nothing new. Throughout the Gospel, life-changing things happened around tables. Wherever Jesus gathered at table, wonderful things occurred: acts of service, eye-opening teaching, prayer, and sacramental transformation. Boundaries got broken for the sake of justice. Community was formed and dignity restored to those once excluded. With Jesus, the "table" might be on a hillside or in an upper room, but wherever the people gathered with Jesus, people were nourished body and soul.

An older scripture — Psalm 23 — paints a picture of the table that God, our Shepherd, prepares for us. This image reminds us that God provides for us even in times



of challenge and danger. We are anointed at the table, our cup overflows.

Our October and November sermons will explore Psalm 23, both inspiration and invitation, as Foundry gives thanks for God's provision and sets a course for the future. Throughout this series, you'll receive reflections from the Foundry family about how the Foundry "table" nourishes their lives and serves others. Together, we will commit to using our collective generosity to assure abundance, nourishment, and an ever-wider circle that welcomes all.

As we navigate the unknown territory of ongoing pandemic with its changing landscape, the deep wisdom and comfort of this Psalm will be welcome companions. Join us as we journey with our Shepherd who prepares a table for us, whose goodness and mercy are everlasting!

Preparing the Table with you,

ginger+

At Last, A Big Win in the Fight to End Homelessness

KATE COVENTRY

Searching for a new church more than 10 years ago, I was looking for a community with a special kind of social justice commitment. As a Christian, I take very seriously Jesus' calls to love our neighbor and do justice. As a public policy graduate student focusing on poverty, I had specific ideas of what effective social justice work should look like. Goals should be clear. Commitment should be sustained. Goals can take years to achieve. Churches should partner with people with lived experience and knowledgeable organizations.



I found all this at Foundry. Foundry's work to end chronic homelessness began about 15 years ago when housed residents of Foundry's rapidly gentrifying neighborhood began to complain about people sleeping on our steps. Most of these individuals were chronically homeless; they had been homeless for a long time and had one or more disabilities.

With other members of the Washington Interfaith Network, Foundry successfully advocated for a new housing design that had shown promising results in other cities, permanent supportive housing (PSH). This program combines long-term affordable housing with tailored wrap-around services.

By the time I started attending Foundry, the District had stopped putting significant new investments into PSH. But Foundry did not give up. Every year, we advocated for more permanent supportive housing.

Frustrated by the lack of progress, organizations and people who have experienced homelessness formed The Way Home campaign in 2014 to advocate more effectively. Foundry was among its first members. The organization I work for, the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, was another.

Finally, this year, all this work paid off. DC's budget for next year includes permanent supportive housing for more than 2,300 individuals, three times DC's largest previous investment in PSH!

As a participant in this effort, I have had the joy of seeing Foundry's unique contribution to the work of ending chronic homelessness. This past June, right before the first vote on the budget, Foundry held a vigil to honor the 42 people who had died while homeless this year. That number included Jose Antonio Navarro, a homeless day laborer who slept on Foundry's steps. That vigil was mentioned by two City Council members to emphasize how urgent this need was and rebut objections to the tax increase on high-income residents that funds nearly half of the new investment.

Kate Coventry has attended Foundry for more than 10 years and is a leader with the Sacred Resistance Team, specifically focused on homelessness advocacy. She works to end homelessness and poverty in DC and enjoys reading, knitting, and British tv.

Don't Miss This!

Chocolate City

The 2021 William Astor and Vivian T. Kirk Symposium

Again this year, this symposium, named in honor of Foundry members William and Vivian Kirk, lifelong advocates for education and justice, will bring to Foundry speakers whose work has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the role that race and racism have played in our nation's history.

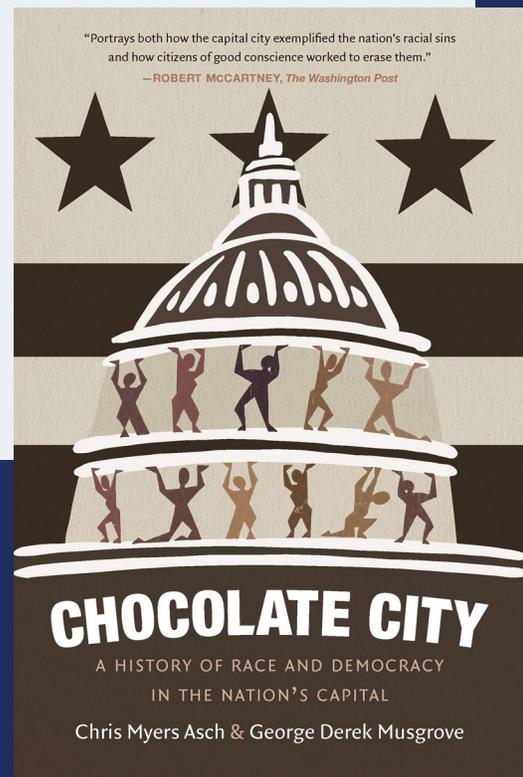
This year's Kirk Symposium on Thursday, November 11 at Foundry will feature the authors of the landmark history of our city,

**Chocolate City:
A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital.**

Drs. Chris Meyers Asch and George Derek Musgrove will speak at 6:30 p.m. at Foundry. The symposium will be live streamed.

A limited number of books will be available for purchase on site.

To register and for more information, go [here](#) or email discipleship@foundryumc.org.



Foundry Forward

OCTOBER ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, October 3

Who Are We?

Do you wonder sometime what it means to be a Methodist? Pastor Will will lead this thought-provoking class today and each Sunday this month from 10–11 a.m. You can explore with him the unique practices and perspectives that make us United Methodist. For more information and to register, go [here](#).

Saturday, October 9

Pre-Cana, Fall Edition

Couples contemplating or planning marriage can join this one-day retreat from anywhere! It will be conducted virtually from 8 a.m.ET to 4 p.m.ET. For more information, please contact our wedding coordinator Alice at wedding@foundryumc.org or Pastor Kelly at kelly@foundryumc.org.

Sunday, October 17

Baptism Orientation

All interested in learning more about baptism – for infants or adults – in the United Methodist Church, are invited to attend this session from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m. Register [here](#).

Tuesday, October 26

Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's Board convenes its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All Foundry members are welcome to attend. Email amandabeadle1@gmail.com for the link.

Friday-Saturday, October 29-30

Caring Congregation Retreat

Join us in-person at Foundry or online from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday for our first caring congregation retreat. This retreat is an opportunity for care ministries in different churches across our conference to learn more about how to give care during this pandemic season. For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Kelly L. Grimes at kelly@foundryumc.org.

AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
All Saints Sunday, November 7
Consecration Sunday, November 21.

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.