

Foundry Forge

Change the World, Restore Creation

As nine Foundry friends kayaked along the Potomac last August, we saw great blue herons, great egrets, and a large amount of not-so-great trash. That day with Foundry's **God and the Great Outdoors Fellowship Group** is a perfect example of what I love most about Foundry: finding the mystery of God at the nexus of community, spirituality, and justice. These values drive my involvement in eco-justice and my question: how can Foundry respond to the effect of climate change and environmental degradation on the places we love?



As our world warms, all the justice issues we care about will be intensified. Our neighbors without shelter will be the first affected by record highs and lows. It is precisely these people, who have contributed the least to our environmental problems, who will first suffer the effects.



As a community, we must speak and act prophetically in response. We have started. On our church's roof are solar panels, gathering energy from heaven and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. Out front is a rain garden-in-progress, protecting our city from the effects of increasingly severe weather. And this spring, I'll lead a six-week course on Christianity and the Environment, where we can dive deeply into these issues to better understand their spiritual, scientific, and political underpinnings.

But we can't stop here. We confront a monumental crisis, evocative of those faced by Old Testament prophets. We have only a dozen years to act decisively if we are to avoid the most dire consequences. Will we respond with moral authority and hope? Our faith communities possess both the deep tradition of prophetic witness and the spiritual tools needed

to understand and react. Foundry can be a beacon of light, a space where the pain of environmental devastation is transformed into a vision of a more beautiful world.

Most important, we must integrate concern for our changing climate into the life of our church. It cannot be written off as an issue we are too busy to focus on. We must break the "climate silence" in our sanctuary, acknowledge our complicity in "natural" disasters, recognize the relationship between climate change and other human rights issues, and take meaningful steps -- in advocacy and behavior -- to restore and renew creation.

In this era of climate change, what must we do to love God and love each other? We must change the world.



Avery Davis Lamb has been a member of Foundry for two years. He is a co-leader of the Foundry **God and the Great Outdoors Fellowship Group** and the

Bloomington Small Group.



Welcome to the Body of Christ

Help each of us, gracious God, to live in such magnanimity and restraint that the Head of the church may never have cause to say to any one of us, "This is my body, broken by you."

– Chinese prayer, #564 UM Hymnal

As we continue to travel the redemption road together on our way to Holy Week and Easter, I find myself thinking about our journey toward redemption as Foundry Church, a local faith community. How do we live together in a way that reflects God's call?

In her book *Amazing Grace*, Kathleen Norris shares her experience joining the small Presbyterian church in the Midwest town where she lived:

"Before the service, the new members gathered with some of the elders. One was a man I'd never liked much. I'll call him Ed. He'd always seemed ill-tempered to me, and also a terrible gossip, epitomizing the small mindedness that can make small-town life such a trial.

"The minister had asked him to formally greet the new members. Standing awkwardly

before our small group, Ed cleared his throat and mumbled, 'I'd like to welcome you to the body of Christ.'

"The minister's mouth dropped open, as did mine—neither of us had ever heard words remotely like this come from Ed's mouth. Like distant thunder, the words made me more alert... I was astonished to realize... that while I may never like Ed very much, I had just been commanded to love him."*

We often fall short of our calling as members of the Body of Christ. We aren't always humble, gentle, or patient. We don't bear with one another in love. All the "isms" and phobias undermine the Beloved Community we seek to be. The truth is that we mess up. But that isn't the end of the story.

The church community is more than the sum of its parts. It is the Body of Christ, broken and given,

resurrecting and ascending. It is the place in which God's Word is trying to become incarnate. And sometimes, like distant thunder, we hear or see someone unexpected saying to us in one way or another, "Welcome to the body of Christ." Perhaps you even find yourself extending that welcome to someone you don't like at all.

The world expects us—needs us!—to be the Body of Christ. And, thanks be to God, the redemption road promises grace and help.

Traveling with you,

*Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli,
Senior Pastor*

* Kathleen Norris, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, Riverhead Books: New York, NY, p. 142.

Foundry Forward: April Action Items

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17 – Lenten Evensong

Come to Foundry any or all of these Wednesday evenings from **6:30-7 pm** for a time of song, silence and reflection – a holy interval of comfort and inspiration.



Sunday, April 7 – Worship with Rev. Jesse Jackson

Join Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli as she and the **Rev. Jesse Jackson** share conversation at **9 and 11:15 am**, honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the anniversary of his death.



Palm Sunday, April 14

Entering Jerusalem

Begin Holy Week with worship at **9 or 11:15 am** and a **Pastor's Coffee** session after each service. Today's sermon topic is "*We Could Have Had It All.*" (More about Pastor's Coffee [here.](#))

And . . .

Come to the Plaza where we will dedicate our new **Rain Garden** at 10:20 and gather at **10:45 am** for the **Procession of the Palms.**



**Rain
Garden**

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – The Last Supper

Remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples in the Upper Room as we gather from **7-8 pm** for prayer, footwashing, communion and a meditation by Pastor Will Green.



Good Friday, April 19 – The Darkest Day

Join Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli for a traditional service at noon, and a second service at **7 pm** including an interactive retelling of Jesus' last hours and the adoration of the cross.



For more information on these events, go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations>.

Foundry Forward: April Action Items

Saturday, April 20 – Anticipating the Glory

Prepare the sanctuary for a glorious Easter by helping the Altar Guild decorate Foundry for this happy day. Email altarguild@foundryumc.org for more information and to let them know you are coming to help.



Easter Sunday, April 21

Celebrating Life

Celebrate Easter's promise of new life by worshipping with us at **9 or 11:15 am**. Senior Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli will preach on the topic "*Breaking Through*."

Earth Day and EcoJustice

Observe Earth Day by participating in this Sacred Resistance discussion from **12:30 until 1:45 pm** and learn more about what the Bible has to say about our responsibility to be good stewards of Creation.



Tuesday, April 23 – Management Board Meeting

Foundry's Management Board will meet at **7 pm** in Room 101. All members of Foundry are welcome to attend. This is a public meeting.



Sunday, April 28

A Great Day of Service

Channel Easter energy to help ensure that our neighbors do not go hungry! Help set up as early as **8 am**, or work for one or more of three 75-minute shifts at **10, 12:30 and 2**. We are joining with neighboring congregations and Rise Against Hunger. Sign up [here!](#)

And a new Disciple's Path Course

If you are interested in learning more about our Methodist history, traditions and doctrines, come to the first session of a new Disciple's Path course at **10:10 am**. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



Tuesday, April 30 – Last Day to Register for LBGTQ+ Retreat: This is Us!

Be sure you are registered for this weekend retreat, **May 3-5** in Rehoboth Beach, DE. T.C. Morrow and Pastor Will Green will guide our exploration of the intersections of self-knowledge with building community and strength for the journey of discipleship. To register and for more information, email lgbtretreat@foundryumc.org.



For more information on these events, go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations>.