

Foundry Forge

Living with Cancer

LEIGH CARTER



There is nothing like hearing the words, “you have cancer.” The head spins, vision blurs, knees buckle. Few who receive this diagnosis ever forget that moment.

It’s a moment every member of Foundry’s Living with Cancer Ministry Team understands. Every one of them is a cancer survivor.

More than 30 years ago, Foundry member Sue Parker received her cancer diagnosis. Sue, a nurse, started Foundry’s cancer support group and led it until her death. In 2000, her husband, John Parker Sr. asked Elder Witt Wellborn, who survived cancer in 1990, to take over the group.

At that point, the Living with Cancer team became less a classic support group, and more a spiritual support team of cancer survivors who were also Foundry members. Our current

purpose is to provide moral and spiritual support, prayers and shared experiences, to others who are coping with a cancer diagnosis. When I think of our mission, Colossians 1: 9-10 comes to mind:

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way. . . . (New International Version)

As with all care activities at Foundry, privacy is a hallmark. It is up to each individual in, or being cared for by, the group whether or not their diagnosis is shared with the congregation. Some are comfortable sharing

their experiences more widely, especially once they move firmly into the “survivor” category. As one member expressed it, “This unending generosity of time and spirit [from Foundry] helped me realize the degree to which we are God’s hands for each other in the world. It is a gift I am grateful to pass on.”

I am now coordinator of the team, as our members continue to support those among us facing the challenges of living with cancer. If you are a cancer survivor who wishes to engage with our ministry – or if you have recently received a diagnosis of cancer – please contact us. We welcome the opportunity to learn your story and work with you.

Leigh Carter, a member of Foundry since 2000, and currently a member of Foundry’s Management Board, is the leader of the Living with Cancer ministry team. You can contact her at leighcarter@gmail.com.

Shaking and Stirring

REV. GINGER E. GAINES-CIRELLI



In prayer before General Conference, I kept getting this message -- “Even when things seem at their worst, God is moving.” Thus reminded that God is always working to bring about new life, I was encouraged to pay attention and see where new life might be emerging.

What I see is a strong reaction against the decisions of General Conference by many United Methodists, even those historically staying out of the fray. Many are concerned about a growing mistrust between “centrists” and “progressives.” Some worry about friends whose scriptural interpretations leave them feeling stranded. Many call out the continued white supremacy that undergirds our experience. Others cry out against past and present colonialism, the rejection of LGBTQ leadership in the conversation, and our failure to govern ourselves better. The rich diversity within the

Body of Christ is challenging us to recognize and honor not just groups, but persons who live at intersections where race, class, gender identity, ability, age and culture overlap. God is using this moment to shake the Body of Christ awake to these complicated, painful realities and to the beautiful, complex possibilities for healing, understanding, deepened faith and a stronger, healthier Body.

Some question whether the outcome of General Conference 2019 is the will of God. I see God shaking and stirring us to grapple with our future and our past, to repent and reset, reclaim our Wesleyan heritage as a radical spiritual renewal movement, while retaining what is healthy and supportive of that cause from our institutional experience. All this to say, nothing is finished. God is offering us a profound opportunity to participate in

God’s saving work of mending and making new.

I don’t know what that means for the United Methodist Church in the future. But the church I love is alive, beautiful, powerful and innovative. I saw that church shining, singing, loving, leading, praying and witnessing to Jesus’ life and love even in the midst of the General Conference.

Foundry will stand in solidarity with all those crying out for justice. God is stirring and shaking us to get us where we need to go. Look for your opportunity to engage and shape the future of Methodist witness in the world.

With you on the Way,

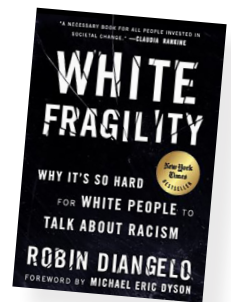
*Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli,
Senior Pastor*



SATURDAY, JUNE 1

How to Do Difficult Dialogues Well

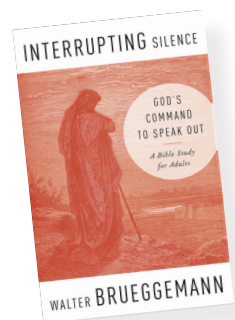
This training, led by Izetta Mobley, is based on Robin DiAngelo's book, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Race*, so you must read that text before the session which is this Saturday from 1 until 5 pm. Registration is required because space is limited.



SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Interrupting the Silence

There's nothing simple about silence. This class led by Lee Johns, from 10:10 until 11:05 am today and for the next six Sundays, uses Walter Brueggemann's book on the topic to help you recognize when you need to interrupt – or become part of the problem.



THURSDAYS, JUNE 6 AND JUNE 20

Come Throw (Tell Us) Your Story

Drop by Foundry at 6:30 pm for an hour of sharing stories with other Foundry folk. Come ready to listen – and to speak. Don't know about Foundry's Story Throw? Check out Jill Foster's article about it in the January issue of the Foundry Forge at <https://www.foundryumc.org/pdf/FOUNDRY-FORGE-JAN-19.pdf>.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

March for Pride and Pass the Lemonade

March with our LGBTQ siblings in the Pride Parade or provide marchers needed refreshments by working at Foundry's lemonade stand during the parade, right at the corner of 16th and P. You can serve from 4 to 7 pm or for a one-hour shift during that period. Sign up for your shift using the link below.



To register or find more information on these events, go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations>.



SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Stories in Stone

Today from 10:10 – 11:05 am we'll begin a seven-week class looking at what various physical aspects of our building say about what we believe. With Pastor Will Green and others as your leaders, explore the messages implicit in the design of our sanctuary, pulpit, lectern, high altar, and of course, the stained glass.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

The Door Is Open

...today and every third Sunday of the month at 10:20, for you to come talk with one of Foundry's pastors about what's happening at Foundry. Bring your questions and ask them here. Just check the wayfinding screen or the welcome desk for session location.

Sunday School/Youth@Night Summer Break

Today is the last day for our children and youth to enjoy Sunday School and Youth@Night. We'll resume again after Labor Day. Enjoy the summer!

WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 19, 26, JULY 3 AND 10

Give a Child a Morning of Reading

Spend a few hours one or more of these Wednesday mornings reading to an elementary school student at Brighter Day UMC. You will be fighting the "summer slide" when too many children fall back in their reading skills over the summer. And you may not have to do all the reading; the student may want to read to you! Sign up for your mornings using the link below.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Pray for ASP Volunteers

Today – and every day until their return Saturday, June 29, please pray for our high school youth teams and their adult leaders as they travel to and from Cocke County, TN, where they will be helping residents make their homes safer, more comfortable and more welcoming. Thanks to all who contributed to this important mission trip!

Movement, Meditation and Spirituality

This is definitely a wonderful way to spend the first official day of summer. Join Amanda Munroe, a fully certified yoga instructor, from 11 am until 5 pm for a Foundry yoga retreat. No experience required. You'll come away rested, relaxed and more aware of the connections between mind, body and spirit.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

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.

To register or find more information on these events, go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations>.

Share your thoughts about the Foundry Forge with ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org.