

Foundry Forge

We Are Family

PAULA BLAIR



Did you know that Foundry Church, Asbury UMC, and John Wesley AME Zion Church are siblings, brothers and sisters in the Methodist faith? We have shared roots, but for 200 years we have been separated by race. The Methodist church, like most mainstream denominations, played a role in perpetuating racism. Foundry has its part in that sad story.

We began together, twenty white and eighteen African-American members, free and slave.

But soon, Pastor Ginger recounted in July, as she welcomed John Wesley's Pastor Christopher Zacharias to our pulpit, Foundry members were segregated with black members required to sit in the balcony. Not surprisingly, black members sought autonomy and with Foundry assistance established Asbury in 1836. A dozen years later, a breach within Asbury over continuing white oversight led some members to leave and create what is now John Wesley AME Zion. Today all three congregations worship within a mile of one another.

Inspired by Foundry's Ralph Williams, lay members and clergy from the three congregations are now working to rebuild our family relationship. Last fall, we came together to study the mystic and theologian Howard Thurman. Led by Foundry's Deryl Davis, we learned about Dr. Thurman's spiritual formation and his theological gifts which deeply

influenced Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our study was capped by a visit from Rev. Dr. Jesse Jackson who shared his personal recollections of Thurman.

Together, we continue to be inspired by Dr. Thurman's vision of a community of believers unified in faith, not divided by race.

I have been blessed to experience these joint congregational gatherings, making new friends at Asbury and John Wesley. More importantly, I've learned:

- We are family, inextricably linked by our heritage and our existence as children of God.
- Racial animus is insidious, ever-present, and must be continually addressed.
- We are all threatened by the inability of too many of our nation's leaders to call out and combat racism.
- When we really listen to one another and understand how seriously these divisions undermine our efforts to live as disciples of Christ, we are empowered to "stand up, speak up, and step out," just as Rev. Dr. Zacharias* challenged us to do.

Do watch for and engage in future activities sponsored by our three church communities. To start with, don't miss our pulpit exchange with Asbury on Sunday, September 8 and the first annual William Astor Kirk* lecture on October 17.

Paula Blair is a long-time member of Foundry, who has served in many areas, including co-chair of Foundry's Bicentennial Celebration in 2014, chair of Pastor-Parish-Staff Relations, and member of the Foundry Management Board.

To hear Pastor Zacharias' sermon, visit <http://bit.ly/sermon-zacharias>

William Astor (Bill) Kirk, one of Foundry's first African-American members in modern times, was instrumental in reshaping church law in the 1960s to end more than a century of enforced racial segregation in Methodist churches in the U.S.

Show Up, Change the World

REV. GINGER E. GAINES-CIRELLI



"I'm asking you to stay informed about what we're doing and to show up when it's time to show up. We can put on classes, we can talk numbers, we can talk about how terrible ICE is, but if you aren't living differently day to day with the power you've got, it doesn't matter."

As we return from summer activities, we need to hear these words, spoken by Pastor Ben Roberts at the close of his August 4 sermon. Recently back myself, I know that the challenges in our lives, our church, and our world can seem so daunting that there is nothing we can do.

Pastor Ben reminds us that we do have the power to make a difference - if we live out our values in our homes and workplaces and work together as a congregation with partners across our city and nation.

Sometimes, all we need to do is show up.

Foundry provides spiritual nurture, soul food to motivate and sustain you through worship, small groups, fellowship groups, classes and more. We also offer a variety of ways to engage in acts of social justice and sacred resistance. Here are some of them:

- volunteering for ongoing service and feeding ministries
- participating in fall and spring Great Days of Service
- working for LGBTQ justice
- practicing eco-justice

- advocating for racial justice
- pressing elected leaders to fund programs and policies to reduce homelessness
- partnering with Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) for affordable housing, jobs, and good wages
- doing whatever we can to help our immigrant neighbors.

In many cases, you may need only to make a phone call or show up. Next May, we need at least 250 Foundry folk to be present at a WIN action before the DC election on June 2. Plan now to show up!

Stay informed about these and other opportunities by reading the *Forge* and subscribing to the monthly social justice newsletter and others of interest at: <http://bit.ly/foundry-news>.

Together, we

Love God. Love each other. Change the world.

Showing up with you,

Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli
Senior Pastor

FOUNDRY FORWARD

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

WILLIAM ASTOR & VIVIAN T. KIRK SYMPOSIUM SERIES

EDUCATE • EQUIP • EMPOWER

FEATURING DR. IBRAM X. KENDI

Don't miss the inaugural lecture of the Kirk Symposium Series.

Featuring Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, author, *How to Be an Antiracist*.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17 - 7 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Pulpit Exchange with Asbury UMC

On this very special day of shared worship with our sister church, Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills of Asbury preaches at Foundry at 9 and 11:15 AM, and Pastor Ginger preaches at Asbury at 8:30 and 10:30 AM. It's easy to attend both: Asbury is nearby at 926 11th Street NW; the services are at different times, AND free parking, except on level P-1, is available next to Asbury on 11th Street.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Disciple II: Into the Word, Into the World

Come tonight from 6:30 until 8 to start a journey from Genesis to Acts, as we begin Disciple II, a 32-week study of Genesis, Exodus and the New Testament, Luke through Acts. For more information, contact Ed Crump, disciple2@foundryumc.org. Registration closes Wednesday, September 4.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Getting Married?

If so – or considering it – come to Foundry for our all-day Pre-Cana premarital counseling class. To participate, register (see below) or contact the wedding coordinator. wedding@foundryumc.org.

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

FOUNDRY FORWARD

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

Get to know the Foundry community.

Want to get to know more people in the Foundry community? Being a greeter or an usher is perfect for you! To learn more about this opportunity to be a welcoming presence in the life of Foundry, contact Pastor Kelly at kgrimes@foundryumc.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Show Up to End Homelessness

Join us bright and early at the Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, at 8 AM, to participate with The Way Home DC and welcome back DC City Council members, encouraging action to provide a home for everyone in our city.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Show Up to Learn: Development and Displacement

Meet us at Foundry by 9:30 AM and join us for a bus tour along the Anacostia River examining development, displacement, and gentrification, led by Washington Interfaith Network partners. We'll return to Foundry about noon.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

What Our Building Says About Our Beliefs

Come at 12:30 today to the first of seven sessions in this popular Stories in Stone course. You'll learn more about the history of Foundry's sanctuary, art, and architecture and explore how what we build reflects what we believe. For more information, email discipleship@foundryumc.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's governing board meets at 7 PM in Room 101. Meetings are open to any member of Foundry who wishes to attend.

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.