

OCTOBER 2020

FOUNDRY FORGE

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

STEWARDSHIP TODAY

For Such A Time As This

SHELLEY JESSEE



Foundry to me is all about connection.

Connection to God through inspiring worship. Connection to friends (and the ever-growing crop of babies!) at our Common Ground fellowship group gatherings. Connection to issues that impact our city and our world. Connection to the next generation of Foundry members through the 4th and 5th grade Sunday school class I co-teach.

Giving to Foundry provides another form of connection. When I give, I feel viscerally connected to Foundry's mission and ministries, even the ones I'm not directly part of. I feel invested in every aspect of Foundry life, from the ID Ministry to the music to the care ministry to ASP.

This year, when we have been separated physically, those feelings of connection are more important than ever. It's hard to feel connected when you can't be together, sing together, or care for each other in ways we're used to. Seeing how Foundry has adapted has been inspiring. It is no small feat to create dynamic worship online, transition small groups and Bible studies to Zoom, and care for each other when we can't see one another.

This year's stewardship campaign -- "Fearless Generosity: For Such a Time As This" --- calls us to respond to the time we're in right now. We're called to keep reaching out, connecting, and investing in the future, whatever it might look like.

More than ever, our estimate of giving this year will be an act of faith for each of us, myself included. I work in an industry decimated by the pandemic, and the future is very unsure. Still, I will submit my estimate of giving to Foundry for 2021. This annual ritual is my act of hope, my way to express trust in God's grace and direction for my life, even if I'm not sure where the road will lead.

Join us and submit your estimate of giving for 2021. Though we do not know what lies ahead, we can trust in God to lead us and use our gifts for amazing things in our church, our city, our nation, and our world.

Shelley is the chair of the Stewardship Ministry Team. She has been in DC and at Foundry since 2007, moving to the city from her hometown in East Tennessee. Graduate school and work brought her here with her husband Nick, but now, DC is home. In addition to Stewardship, Shelley co-teaches the amazing "God Squad" 4th and 5th grade Sunday School class and helps organize the Valentine's Day Cookie ministry.

Order Fair Trade Christmas Gifts!

Despite the pandemic, Foundry is again providing you the opportunity to support social and racial justice – and buy some great Christmas gifts – by purchasing fairly-traded coffee, chocolate, and other products. This year, thanks to some hard work by Margie McKelvey and Chris Matthews, it's all virtual!

Visit bit.ly/foundry-fair-trade to find out how it works.

Thank you in advance for your support. It is especially important because the pandemic has been very hard on the farmers from whom Equal Exchange (a cooperative partner of interfaith groups including UMCOR) buys these items and other products including pecans from Black farmers in Georgia.

Donate Books to Prisons

Nothing slows down the dedicated volunteers with the Books to Prisons Project! They are working from their homes now. And you can still donate books! Don't bring them to Foundry. Contact btopdc@gmail.com on how to donate. For more information, go to dcbookstoprisoners.org.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

This is the Day to Pledge What You Can

Foundry's work in our community and our world has never been more important. We need everyone to help fund that work in 2021. So on or before Commitment Sunday, October 25, go to bit.ly/2021giving and submit your estimate of regular giving for next year.

Connect with Foundry Clergy Every Weekday – on Facebook Live

MONDAYS AT NOON

"Good Noon"
with Pastor K.C.

TUESDAYS AT TEN

"Wandering
Toward
Wonder" with
Pastor Will

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

"Ponderings from
the Purple Parlor"
with Pastor Ginger

THURSDAYS AT TEN

"Midday with PK"
with Pastor Kelly

FRIDAYS AT TEN

"Ben at Ten"
with Pastor
Ben



Shaped by Love

REV. GINGER E. GAINES-CIRELLI



"A RIVER DOESN'T HOLD ALL THE WATER THAT PASSES THROUGH IT."

– MARK NEPO*

This line frames my recent ponderings. As pandemic “season” drags on, our earthly seasons are changing. A chill in the air signals the shift into autumn with brilliant days, crisp evenings, and new beginnings for school, programs, sports, and more.

This year, the changing season may evoke a different reaction. In the absence of normal fall rituals, seeing trees losing their multicolored leaves may instead remind us of all we have had to let go of and all we may miss in months to come.

In the reflection from which I draw the line above, the writer says, “The river . . . doesn’t own the water that rushes by, yet it couldn’t be in more intimate relationship to it, as the force of what moves through shapes it. It is the same with everything we love. In truth, there is no point to holding on to the deepest things that matter, for they have already shaped us.”

This is not to suggest that it is wrong to be sad, to miss people, things, or experiences. But our sadness should be mixed with the wisdom that the persons and things that

have touched our hearts and lives most significantly are still with us. The love and vitality that have given our lives energy and meaning continue to dwell in us — they’re part of our “shape.”

Creation teaches us that life has its seasons — they come and go, turn and return. And this time of multiple pandemics is a season. We don’t know how long it will last but we know that both COVID-19 and systemic racism will continue to require vigilant communal response well after quarantines end.

In this and every season, as people of Christian faith, we are assured that even when it appears as if all is lost, God is still alive and moving. Like the sap of trees, God’s love and grace may be unseen, but flow in powerful ways with the promise of life anew.

Thanks be to God.

Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli
Senior Pastor

* Mark Nepo, *The Book of Awakening*, San Francisco: Conari Press, 2011, p. 259

Foundry Forward

OCTOBER ACTION ITEMS

Every Sunday

You can attend Foundry's 11:15 am service using Facebook Live, Vimeo, YouTube and the Foundry website at foundryumc.org. You can also attend 10 am services at our sibling congregations, John Wesley AME Zion (jwdc.org choose "watch online") and Asbury UMC (bit.ly/AsburyUMCLive).

Don't forget that we can

- pray together every Wednesday morning with Pastor Kelly and
- study the Bible passage on which the next Sunday's sermon is based every Thursday evening with Pastor Ginger
- ...plus our weekday visits via Facebook Live (see page 2)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 A BUSY SUNDAY AT FOUNDRY!

Great Day of Service

Volunteer virtually or in person on Foundry's plaza to help provide meals with Rise Against Hunger. Register at bit.ly/foundry-service for a shift between 8 and 4 OR to give just \$29 and provide 100 meals.

Pastor's Coffee

Learn more about Foundry ministries by Zooming into Pastor's Coffee from 10-11. Register at bit.ly/pastors-coffee.

In-Person Communion

Celebrate World Communion Sunday by taking Holy Communion at Foundry between 4:30 and 6:30. Registration is required at bit.ly/foundry-communion.

Youth@Night@Stead Park!

And Foundry Youth will have an outdoor, socially-distanced, mask-wearing, in-person gathering in Stead Park from 5 to 7 pm! bit.ly/youth-night

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7, AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Our Journey Begins

Our congregation's Journey to Racial Justice begins with Racial Justice 101, one session offered this week, Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoon. This online conversation is a time to learn more about factors fostering racial injustice, how they contribute to systemic racism, and what individuals can do to dismantle it. Choose the time that works for you and register at bit.ly/foundry-journey.

Continue the journey with

- Racial Justice: A Biblical Perspective on Saturday morning, October 17
- LGBTQ Equity and Racial Equity: Do the Twain Meet? Sunday afternoon, October 25
- How to Be an Antiracist, Saturday morning October 31

Register at bit.ly/foundry-register.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Disciple's Path – Virtual Edition

Thinking about joining Foundry? This six-week class from 10-11 am, now on Zoom, is required. You'll explore the vows of membership and how we live them out as United Methodists at Foundry. Register at bit.ly/foundry-disciples.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Foundry Board Meeting

Our governing board meets at 7 o'clock tonight. Meetings are open to any member of Foundry who wishes to attend. Email Amanda Beadle (amandabeadle1@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. See lay observer reports and board minutes at bit.ly/FoundryBoardInfo.