

FOUNDRY FORGE

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Coming of Age at Foundry – Pandemic or Not

MAYA BRAVO



Over the last thirteen years, I have quite literally grown up at Foundry. Since the age of five, Foundry has been my extended family, challenging, supporting and loving me.

Here I have learned the meaning of community. In elementary school, I learned the delicate art of mimicking church bells in Ms. Flick's class and appeared as a sparkly angel or furry sheep in many Christmas pageants.

In middle school I spent hours practicing to read scripture in the worship service with my father. During confirmation, I was pushed to ask difficult questions as an engaged member of the congregation, not a child simply accepting her parents' religion. I had the opportunity to come into my own faith and examine The Methodist Church from every angle, surrounded by caring, intelligent adults.

I have participated in service trips and educational retreats, even helping to lead some for younger youth. I have formed meaningful friendships with other youth as we have grown up together and bonded with leaders who serve as role models and mentors.

Because of the coronavirus, my last months as a Foundry youth have been nothing like my first thirteen years. Virtually attending Youth@Night, I value the continuing sense of community these gatherings provide. During these times of chaos and unpredictability, I need my Foundry connections more than ever.

My Foundry peers have remained a constant in my life during these times of physical isolation. I structure my week around our Youth@Night zoom meetings. Foundry's virtual and socially distanced graduation events have been particularly meaningful as many rituals anticipated by the class of 2020 have been canceled.

Our church has proven itself resourceful and flexible, prioritizing community connections in this rapidly changing situation. While my last months as a Foundry youth have not been what I expected, the virtual programming has ensured that our important relationships are well-maintained, and that for me, these are only times of physical — but not social — isolation. For that I am very grateful.

Maya Bravo will be starting college at Northeastern University this fall, but looks forward to coming back to Foundry with her mom, dad, and brother when it is safe to do so.

Foundry Students Receive Scholarship Aid

This summer, Foundry awarded six students scholarships to assist with the cost of the 2020-2021 school year.

Alida Smith Memorial scholarships were awarded to:



VASHAWN MCILWAIN-LIGHTFOOT

VaShawn is working toward a doctorate in vocal performance at the University of Maryland.



LING O'DONOGHUE

Ling is a senior at St. Olaf College with a double major in Chinese and Asian studies and an International Studies concentration.



KAITLIN RITTGERS

Kaitlin is a third-year student at the George Washington University Law School.

Edward W. Bauman Scholarships were awarded to three students planning to enter Christian ministry upon graduation:



CHET JECHURA

Chet is in his third and final year at Wesley Theological Seminary.



CASSANDRA LAWRENCE

Cassandra is in her third and final year at Wesley Theological Seminary.



AMANDA MUNROE

Amanda is in her first year at Union Theological Seminary.

Connect with Foundry Clergy Every Weekday – on Facebook Live



facebook.com/FoundryUnitedMethodistChurch

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

Physically Distant, Spiritually Connected

REV. GINGER E. GAINES-CIRELLI



It has now been six months since we last gathered as a worshipping body in the Foundry sanctuary. And yet while our building may be closed, Foundry church is very much open! As you have read, and hopefully, know from experience, in many ways Foundry continues to shine the light of hope, encouragement, justice, and love in our community and world.

Foundry offers live Sunday worship (that can be viewed later at any time, night or day), live reflections with our clergy every weekday, classes, small groups, retreats, youth@night, coffee hour, and more — all online. Our social justice witness has been powerful as we have found ways to continue to support the most vulnerable through our cultivated mission partnerships in DC.

We have welcomed more than twenty new members and our latest Disciple's Path class includes several folks who are part of what we are calling "Foundry From Afar." These folks seek to affiliate as members with Foundry even though they live outside the DMV. It is exciting to see that even in the midst of our current obstacles and challenges, Foundry continues to be Foundry.

We are learning of other congregations modeling new ministries on things we're doing. Our neighbor congregation, First Baptist Church, inspired by our Black Lives Matter witness, made a contribution from their mission budget in support of our witness for racial justice.

That ongoing work includes our partnership with sister congregations John Wesley AMEZ and Asbury UMC, as well as the Journey to Racial Justice initiative, now moving into its second major phase.* This phase provides opportunities for active engagement, in conversation and individual reflection, directed toward our goal of becoming anti-racist and a true expression of beloved community.

September offers many chances to connect in vital community. I encourage you to avail yourselves of the opportunities that work best with your life. We may be physically distant, but we remain spiritually connected. I am so grateful for the continued faithfulness, commitment, and witness of Foundry. Y'all are amazing. Let's keep it up!

In gratitude,

Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli
Senior Pastor

**Four hundred and seventy-seven Foundry folk responded to the congregational survey sent out by the Journey to Racial Justice team in late May. You may find the results at <http://bit.ly/JRJSurveyResults>*

Foundry Forward

SEPTEMBER ACTION ITEMS

For more information about events, and to register, go to: foundryumc.org/event/calendar.

EVERY WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Begin Your Day with Prayer

A wonderful way to start the day, join on Zoom (zoom.us/j/157623530) to share prayers at 7:30 am with Pastor Kelly.

EVERY THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 10, 17, 24

Bible Study with Pastor Ginger

Join Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli from 6-7 pm each week to explore the history and context of the scripture she will preach on the following Sunday. More info: bit.ly/StudyWithGinger.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, SEPT. 4-6

Family Camp: Virtual Edition

It's never been easier to attend Foundry Family camp! Join us via Zoom to share Friday night supper, Saturday and Sunday morning prayer. We'll have activities for all ages, including an actual hike! Our spiritual practices and discussions will be led by the Rev. Brian Hardesty-Crouch of Duke Divinity School. Register at bit.ly/VirtualFamilyCamp.

EVERY SUNDAY, SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27

Welcome to Worship

We gather at 11:15 am every Sunday to sing, pray and worship together in virtual community. Participate at foundryumc.org. And after the service, join us for coffee hour via Zoom!

WEDNESDAYS, SEPT. 9 - MAY 26, 2021

Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Divided equally between Old and New Testaments, this intensive study emphasizes the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. For more information and to register, email discipleship@foundryumc.org.

WEDNESDAYS, SEPT. 9 - MAY 19, 2021

Disciple III: Remember Who You Are

The Old Testament prophets and the Letters of Paul call us back to God and to a sense of who we are as a people "set apart." For those who have completed Disciple I or a similar Bible study, this course explores the connection between memory and identity as the people of God.

Both classes are 90 minutes on Wednesday evening, and daily work is expected.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

Pre-Cana Workshop

This one-day retreat is for persons preparing for marriage, either at Foundry or elsewhere. If you are planning to get married at Foundry, the class is included in the wedding fee. For more info, email wedding@foundryumc.org.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22

Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's Board meets virtually at 7 pm, and you're invited to observe the meeting. Email Amanda Beadle (amandabeadle1@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. Learn more about the Board by going to bit.ly/FoundryBoardInfo.