

FOUNDRY FORGE

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

A Truly Unforgettable Wedding Day

CAITLIN BRIERE AND SEAN MARVIN



On September 26th, 2020, we were married on Foundry's plaza in the company of some of our closest loved ones, masked and socially distanced, while others watched online and strangers drove by, honking joyfully. It was not the wedding we'd envisioned when we started planning it, nearly two years earlier. Yet, in so many ways, it was even more special than we could have imagined.



Sean proposed to Caitlin on New Year's Eve 2018. We quickly agreed to have our ceremony at Foundry. Sean has been a member since the late 1990s, and we attended together regularly after we met. We also very much hoped that Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli could officiate, particularly because her sermons had re-inspired Sean to search for a life partner, ultimately leading him to Caitlin.

During the ceremony, Pastor Ginger described how marriage works well when partners nurture one another to become their full selves, and how that process can be long and challenging, requiring love. Her words rang powerfully true.

Compared to many, we've been fortunate during the pandemic, but it has still brought challenges. By late 2019, we had finalized most of our wedding plans, and thought we'd avoid much of the stress that can arise before a wedding. We thought we could "live in the moment" in 2020. Once the pandemic hit, however, we found ourselves living "in the moment" with each other nearly all the time. We also needed to re-plan our entire wedding and realized that most of our loved ones would not be able to attend.

With lots of thought and patience, we worked together to create a safe and beautiful ceremony. In the process and with help from a Foundry workshop, we also learned to better support each other, building an even stronger foundation for our relationship. Thanks to that journey, and support by our closest loved ones who were present with us, in-person and remotely, our wedding day was an incredible one we will never forget.

Caitlin is from western Massachusetts but fell in love with DC during a college semester here. She moved to the District in 2008 to pursue a career in environmental policy, and works for the EPA. Sean has lived in northern Virginia for much of his life and is an attorney serving in the Army JAG Corps. They live in Old Town Alexandria.

Our Work is To Love

In the New Testament the Greek word “agape” refers to the highest form of love, love that does not distinguish between friend and enemy, that seeks to preserve and create community.

[Click here](#) to listen to Pastor Ginger’s reflection on how agape helps us heal the divisions in our families, our communities and our nation. You will find this excerpt from her “Pondering from the Purple Parlor” on the day after the 2020 election, as apt today as it was then.



Foundry Forward

FEBRUARY ACTION ITEMS

Wednesday, February 3, 10, 17, 24

Begin with Prayer

Start your day with prayer and Pastor Kelly at 8:30 am. Go to <https://www.foundryumc.org/event/calendar/622>

Thursday, February 4, 11, 18, 25

Study This Sunday’s Scripture

Explore the scripture for next Sunday’s sermon with Pastor Ginger at 6 pm. Please register at <https://www.foundryumc.org/event/calendar/963>

Sunday, February 7, 14

Tired Feet, Rested Souls

Don’t miss the last two sermons in this series based on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*. You can join the 11:15 service any Sunday by going to foundryumc.org, Foundry’s Facebook page, or Foundry’s YouTube channel.

Saturday, February 13

Black Worship Music in White Churches: Appropriation or Appreciation?

How do you feel about incorporating music from the Black Worship Culture in our worship? Does it seem sincere or does it feel like caricature? This morning at 10 we’ll watch portions of a webinar conversation hosted by our own Stanley Thurston, and then share our reactions. Sign up at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/698179>

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday Services

Begin the Lenten season by joining us at noon for a service recorded Ash Wednesday 2018 or at 7 pm online for a live worship service led by Foundry pastors. For more information and to register for a Lenten Worship/Learning Box, go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/697646>

Saturday, February 20

Lenten Retreat

Join Joanne Steller and Pastor Will Green from 10 am to noon via Zoom as we expand our understanding of lament and the powerful role it plays in the Christian experience. To register, go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/663248>

Tuesday, February 23

Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry’s Board convenes its monthly meeting at 7 pm via Zoom. If you are interested in attending, email amandabeadle1@gmail.com for the link.

Sunday, February 21

Learning to Sing the Blues

After the first of our Lenten sermons in this series at our 11:15 service, we begin a series of six independent lectures exploring the topic of “Lament.” Today, Dr. M. Elizabeth Hall will deliver the first lecture. More information at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/670706>

Sunday, February 28

‘Lament’ and the Beloved Community

After worship, join Dr. Asa J. Lee of Wesley Theological Seminary for the second lecture on the subject of Lament. More information at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/670706>

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



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