

MARCH 2024



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Life, Death and New Life

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit.
John 12:24

As we move through Lent toward Easter, I am contemplating the dynamic cycle of birth, growth, decline, death, and rebirth. It's an archetype found in most spiritual traditions and a reality reflected in creation. In our Christian faith, Jesus doesn't just teach the paradox of losing life to find it but loses his own life to reveal the promise of life on the other side of death.

The cycle of birth, growth, decline, death, and rebirth is also present in communities. When John Wesley identified a need for spiritual renewal, he birthed a movement that mobilizes people to organize in small groups to connect with God and others in ever deeper ways. That movement grew to need a greater infrastructure to support its growth. Eventually the movement became an institution — The United Methodist Church.

All organisms — plant, animal, individual or communal — experience a life cycle. For a community to thrive over time, rebirth is required again and again. Contexts and cultures shift, creating the need to reclaim the zeal present at the birth of the movement. There will always be a need to identify changes required to stem decline and rebuild vitality.

Loss is often required for rebirth to occur. Part of what has been must be let go to make space for the new to emerge. You can't get to Easter without traveling through Good Friday.

Foundry is now developing a new vision to guide our shared life over the next several years. The United Methodist Church is in a time of great upheaval. The life cycles of our congregation and our denomination are at turning points.



I encourage you to learn about the issues facing the United Methodist General Conference in April and about Foundry's advocacy of equity and justice for LGBTQ+ siblings and all God's beloved children in and through the UMC. Opportunities to learn can be found on our Foundry website.

Continue to pray for Foundry and our emerging vision — that it will ignite hope and new energy for sharing the good news of God's liberating love and for building God's Kin-dom of peace with justice.

In peace,
ginger+

Practicing Our Faith

From the Pew to the Public Square

MADISON CRUM AND
AUDREY MILLERHALLETT

Did you know that Foundry is a key participant in the DC Poor People's Campaign? We – two Foundry members – are part of its Coordinating Committee. We marched with them in the MLK Holiday Parade honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. And this coming Saturday, March 2, we will join them to urge DC to act to end poverty in our city.

In 1968, Dr. King and others started the Poor People's Campaign, a broad movement uniting poor communities across the country. We work to strengthen and expand the movement Dr. King was leading when he was killed. We seek to create a powerful base of poor folks, clergy, and advocates, able to wield our collective weight to raise wages, end poverty and improve the lives of those abandoned in a nation of abundance.

More than one-third of eligible voters – 85 million – are poor or low-wealth citizens. Sixty million are already registered. Mobilized around an agenda, a fraction of them could determine the outcome of an election. The power is there, and this is the time to mobilize it.

We invite you to join us. We choose to practice our faith in the pew and in the public square, to offer thoughtful prayer and consoling words for the millions suffering from poverty. But it hardly stops there.

We join in solidarity to fight the injustices that conspire to allow poverty to persist. As an African American woman and a gay man — members of just two of many historically oppressed groups — we recognize the power of faith in the public arena not only to topple injustice but also to demonstrate God at work in our community and country.

We will follow where our faith leads us, from the comfort of our church, out to the city streets, and into the hallways of the powerful to advocate vigorously for actions that will lead to a better world for all.



Register at [RSVP](#) today to join us at the Wilson Building this Saturday, March 2 to encourage DC to adopt an agenda to end poverty and move us on toward achieving Dr. King's goal.

Audrey MillerHallett grew up in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. She came to DC on military assignment and then worked in the telecommunications industry until her retirement. She has been a church member since 2020 and married her husband, Michael Lawson, at Foundry in 2022.

Madison Crum is an accountant and activist living in Ward 2. He is passionate about equity and equality issues, and is inspired by Foundry's commitment in these areas.

Foundry Forward

MARCH ACTION ITEMS

Saturday, March 2

Practicing Our Faith

Every member of the Foundry community is invited to join our Sacred Resistance Team this morning at 11 at D.C.'s Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. We are there to urge DC to act to ensure living wages, affordable housing, voting rights, education and environmental justice for all. Register and find more details [here](#).

Sunday, March 3

Connecting through Music

This morning we will have one worship service at 10 o'clock, with special music chosen to amplify the theme of our Lenten sermons, **Reaching for Connection**. Our choirs and orchestra will present Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, which focuses on the sorrow of Jesus' mother, Mary, as she stood at the cross. Selections from the oratorio will be woven among the liturgy of our worship service, which includes communion. The congregation will participate by singing "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and other familiar hymns.

Chat and Chew

After the service, come for a **box lunch and discussion time upstairs in the Frances and Norman Prince Fellowship Hall. You can bring your own lunch or pre-purchase a box lunch when you register.** Weather permitting, families with kids of all sizes are invited to gather for a picnic and play date at Stead Park. Register [here](#).

Sunday, March 10

Blood Done Sign My Name

A new class begins today in Room B2 at 10:15. Over six sessions, we'll study Timothy Tyson's book about how one church responds and fails to respond to a vicious lynching in its community. Register [here](#).

Sunday, March 17

What to Expect at General Conference

Do you know what you need to about the UMC's long-postponed General Conference that will finally take place this year? If not, or if you have unanswered questions, join Jan Lawrence, executive director of the Reconciling Ministries Network at 12:30 today at Foundry. Lunch will be provided. Register [here](#).

Study *The Screwtape Letters*

Today we begin an eight-week in-person study of C.S. Lewis' famous depiction of the psychology of evil. Anthony Gaines-Cirelli will facilitate the class, each session of which will include a brief explication of salient themes, followed by full-class discussion and reflection. Class registration will be capped to ensure rich interaction. We'll meet from 10:10 to 11 at Foundry. Registration will open March 1.

Baptism Orientation

Anyone interested in learning more about baptism in the United Methodist Church is invited to join us at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. To receive the link to join, go [here](#).

Thursday, March 21

Last Day to Order Easter Flowers!

Honor your loved ones by purchasing Easter flowers to adorn Foundry's worship spaces this season. You can do that by 1 p.m. today right [here](#).

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Today we begin Holy Week, remembering Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem, fully aware of what was to come as the week unfolded. At each of our services we continue to explore our need for, and effort to, connect, through scripture, sermon and music.

Tuesday, March 26

Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's Board convenes its monthly meeting at 7 pm. Interested Foundry members can attend, using [this Zoom link](#).

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

And tonight, we gather at Foundry at 7 p.m. for worship and reflection, sharing communion as we remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

On the day we remember Jesus' suffering and death, we come together at noon and at 7 p.m. to share in that painful day when all hope seemed gone.

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday: He Lives!

And now, it is Easter! We celebrate the day when the women went to the tomb, found it empty, and learned that Jesus had risen from the dead, had vanquished death – and that he lived! It is a joyous day – and together we rejoice.

To print a copy of this issue of the Forge, go to foundryumc.org/forge.

Share your thoughts and ideas by emailing ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org.

Send Books – and Hope – to Prisons

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You can leave one or two bags or boxes at Foundry's front desk, but if you have more than that, please contact btopdc@gmail.com



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