

OCTOBER 2025



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Our Journey Ahead

"A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way..." (Isaiah 35:8)

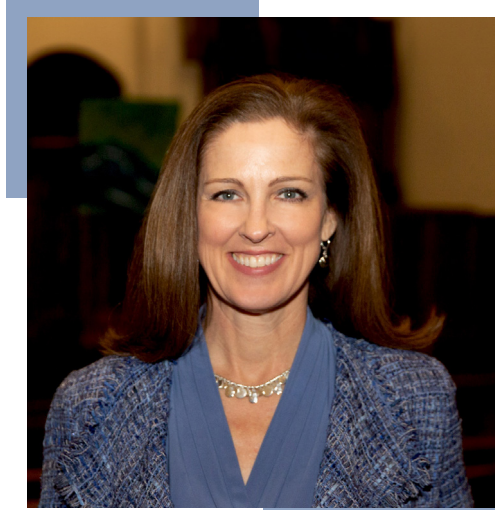
This year I've been on the road – a lot. Between ministry and family trips, I've earned some serious frequent flier miles! It got me thinking about life's journey.

There are so many twists and turns along the way — delays, turbulence, and missed connections. But also — the laughter of companions, the joy of new experiences, and beautiful vistas around corners you didn't mean to turn. Journeys expand our horizons. They provide opportunities to practice patience and to experience exhilaration.

The spiritual journey is like that. Ups and downs, highs and lows, but always a path stretching out ahead, around, and within us just waiting to be explored.

As United Methodist followers of Jesus, we have guides. John Wesley advocated a balanced Christian life incorporating acts of piety – devotional practices like prayer and worship – and acts of mercy – charitable acts and efforts toward social justice – as essential "means of grace" through which we might grow more Christlike. He taught that inner devotion and outward service are inseparable and necessary, with works of mercy often taking a priority in one's spiritual growth, as they demonstrate love for God through love for neighbor. In addition, we covenant within our local congregation to practice generosity through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

This fall and next year, there will be many opportunities for you to move into new places along your spiritual path: enhancements to our worship experiences, classes, service and leadership opportunities, choirs,



small groups, the invitation to take seriously the spiritual discipline of financial stewardship, and the launch of Foundry's strategic vision to provide focus and energy for years to come.

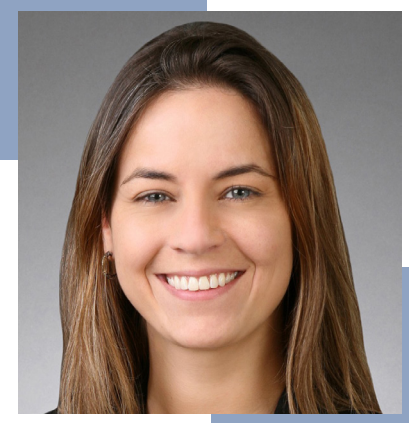
All of these are "means of grace." Here are four things I invite you to do along the way:

- Show up! Be present in worship to connect with others and deepen relationship with God.
- Participate in at least one study or small group this year.
- Pray about where you are called to serve, and do it!
- Pray about Foundry's importance in your life and estimate what you can give to sustain our congregation that helps you grow in trust and faith.

The journey is long and wonderful, difficult and beautiful. Let's go together! And to make the journey even more fun – **bring a friend!**

See you on the way!
ginger+

Asking and Hoping for More



GWEN WILLIAMSON

These are challenging times for our city, our nation, and our world, and there are many drains on our individual and collective resources. When we are already giving so much, how do we think about giving to Foundry in the coming year?

The theme for this year's annual stewardship campaign is "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow," and as the great hymn reminds us, God's great faithfulness provides the hope we need to make it through today and plan for the future. In the countless ways God faithfully shows up amid the fray, hope pushes us through again and again.

In the month of October we will hear from members of our community whose lives have been impacted by Foundry and its programs. For many, Foundry is a touchstone of the hope found in God's faithfulness.

From our transcendent worship services to social justice activities, ministry teams, small groups, and special events like Foundry Camp, we at Foundry are blessed with many opportunities to nourish our hope. These opportunities are funded entirely by our gifts of time and talent, and crucially, our financial contributions.

So, please join me in committing to support Foundry with your financial gifts in the coming year. As you are able, the Stewardship Committee encourages you to increase your pledge from the prior year. It will be an investment in hope!

Gwen has been in Washington, DC for 25 years and at Foundry since 2009. She and her wife, Eleanor Mayer, were married at Foundry in 2017. Gwen is currently Chair of Foundry's Stewardship Committee.

The Foundry Budget and the Path to Financial Health - October 12, 12:30 p.m.

As we begin our fiscal year and financial stewardship campaign, join Foundry Board President Guy Cecil, Pastor Ginger, and members of the Foundry Board for an overview of the 2025-2026 Foundry Budget and a plan for the short and long-term financial health of our congregation. We will gather in the Frances and Norman Prince Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 12, at 12:30 p.m. We hope you can join us.

Scholarship and Stewardship

MARGIE MCKELVEY

It's fall! The new school year is well underway, and Foundry is about to begin its stewardship campaign.

Stewardship takes many forms. This year, eight students in our Foundry family are benefitting from earlier stewardship gifts which established and now fund several Foundry scholarships.

The Alida Smith Memorial Scholarship is for study at any post-secondary institution while the Edward W. Bauman Scholarship is for those studying in seminary for Christian ministry. These scholarships — which total \$8,525 this year — are made possible by two endowments generously created by Foundry members in the past as part of their faithful stewardship and support of our church. Here is a bit about them:

Dr. Alida Smith, who died in 1977 at the age of 97, was an educator in Washington, DC, teaching Latin at Central High School (now Cardozo High School). She also earned a law degree and, although she never actively practiced law, she was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court. She was an active member of Foundry for many years. The old baptismal font now in one of the Foundry classrooms was donated by Smith and her brother David in honor of their mother. The scholarship fund in her honor was established by her sister-in-law, Grace H. Smith, in 1978.

Reverend Dr. Bauman, who died in 2021 at the age of 94, served as the senior minister of Foundry UMC from 1964–1992. When he arrived in 1964, the church was racially segregated and did not welcome Black members; a year after Dr. Bauman arrived, it moved to do so. Dr. Bauman encouraged the formation of mission groups to tackle social justice issues such as hunger and homelessness.

He sparked controversy in 1977 when he preached on "The Gay Life" as part of a series on love and marriage. In that sermon which was also broadcast on the Bauman Bible Telecast he said, "the spirit of Christ will enable us to express compassion and acceptance toward the homosexuals among us." Another somewhat controversial sermon noted that Judaism, Christianity, and Islam each worshipped the same God. In 1979, Time magazine named Dr. Bauman one of the nation's top seven preachers based on his ability to "convey, along with solid content and skillful delivery, the sense of overwhelming conviction."

Meet your current Scholarship Mission Team and consider joining us: Henry Curry, Nathalie Harvey (ex officio – Director of Family Ministries), Parker Low, Margie McKelvey (chair), Cathy O'Sullivan, and Steve Zagami.

We would welcome more mission team members. Interested?

Please contact Margie margaret_mckelvey@yahoo.com.

Meet Foundry's 2025-2026 Scholars!



MICAH KIM BERNARD

is working on her PhD in nursing at Marymount University in Arlington, VA.



BENJAMIN MUSASIZI

is in his third year at Drew Theological Seminary in Madison NJ.



OWEN CRUMPLER

is a sophomore at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA studying engineering.



ANGELINE PINO

is pursuing her master's degree in speech language pathology at Nova Southeastern University.



JAMES IVESON

is a freshman at Florida International University in Miami, FL, planning to study biology.



PHILLIP WHEELER

is a freshman at the University of Virginia, planning to study architecture.



NOAH LEONARD

is beginning a master's in public policy at George Washington University, here in DC.



JACKIE WRIGHT

is in her second year at Wesley Theological Seminary in DC.

Foundry Forward

OCTOBER 2025 ACTION ITEMS

Sunday, October 5

Bright Hope for Tomorrow

This stewardship season, we'll reflect on how God's mercy renews us, how our generosity sustains Foundry as a source of daily strength, and how our gifts plant seeds of hope for the future. Our preacher is our own T.C. Morrow, using texts from Lamentations 3:19–26 and Matthew 6:24–33. Join us as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and remember, rejoice, and respond: trusting that with God's help, our church will continue to be a beacon of hope for generations to come.

Also today, the Stephen Ministry invites you to learn practical ways of relating in various care situations. Ella Cleveland will lead the discussion which begins today and continues each Sunday through November 9 at 10:10 a.m. in the Davenport Center. Join this study at <http://foundryumc.org/caring-assertiveness>

Sunday, October 12

Strength for Today

Drawing on Isaiah 40:28–31 and John 15: 1–11, Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli will preach on the theme of strength, and how we find renewed strength in God's presence and in community. We will also reflect on how giving and serving help build resilience and capacity to meet today's needs.

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Saturday, October 18

Fall Great Day of Service

Join us today between 8 a.m. and noon for our great green day of service! Sign up here to spend part of this day in direct environmental service with your Foundry friends and put your faith into action! Families and friends, volunteer together! More information, email jackie@foundryumc.org

Sunday, October 19

Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Today, Pastor Ginger will preach on how hope is made tangible through the various ministries and missions that our pledges support, as well as progress toward the future we envision for Foundry. Her texts are Romans 15:1–6, 13 and Matthew 5:13–16. Today is also Laity Sunday, and you'll learn when the sales of poinsettia and Advent greens will begin.

The Philosophy of Tolkien.

What makes J.R.R. Tolkien's classic *Lord of the Rings* tale so admired? Around the world an untold number of readers have enjoyed this classic series. To explore answers, join Anthony Gaines Cirelli for an eight-week study and discussion. Class begins today at 10:10 a.m. in Room 203. Register [here](#).

Baptism Orientation.

And after the 11:15 a.m. service, anyone interested in learning more about infant or adult baptism in the United Methodist Church, is invited to an information session from 12:30 to 1:30. More information? email Family Ministries Director Natalie Harvey, nharvey@foundryumc.org

Sunday, October 26

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Recognizing that all we have is what God has given us, we decide how and in what measure we can give it back through our support for Foundry Church. Pastor Ginger uses 1 Chronicles 29:10-14 and John 6:1-13 as today's texts.

We also need to remember that Daylight Savings Time begins next weekend and that next Sunday, November 2, is All Saints Day.

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

Tuesday, October 28

Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's Board convenes its monthly meeting at 7 pm. If you are interested in attending, use this Zoom [link](#).

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

You Also Need To Know...

CHECK OUT

New additions in the Foundry Library (room 201)! These include a number of books to support our various programs, social justice work and studies.

STAY IN TOUCH

Foundry has a new rapid response text messaging service which we will use for urgent announcements only – weather or unexpected change to service or event. To opt in to receive messages, text the word **foundry** to (202)-858-1040

CHILDREN & YOUTH PARTICIPATION SURVEY

Foundry needs more children and youth participating actively in worship – reading scripture, serving as ushers, acolytes, communion servers and more. So, parents and children, please take a moment to fill out the Children & Youth Participation Survey and let us know what your child or youth would like to do as part of our worship services. You will find the survey at <http://foundryumc.org/youth-worship-participation>

CALLING ALL YOUTH VOLUNTEERS.... to help in different ways on Sundays.

You could help set up Sunday morning worship, or work at the Welcome Desk or in the Community Commons/Café. Other possibilities are helping with Children's Worship or Sunday School. Or you could serve in the AV booth! If you are interested email Ms. Natalie at nharvey@foundryumc.org, with your interest choice, your grade and your general availability. If you need community service hours for school or a college application, here's a good way to earn them.