

SEPTEMBER 2025



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Lean In and Belong

We all yearn to be part of a community of cherished belonging. We all need practice letting down our guard, giving and receiving love, trusting that we are valued, and holding fast to our shared belonging in God.

Being part of Foundry offers chances to practice receiving care and then offering it, creating a community. But these opportunities are wasted if left unexplored. I can name times in my life when I didn't benefit because I failed to lean in and connect more deeply. Perhaps you can, too.

As we move into fall, I encourage you to consider where you are being led to lean in at Foundry. Pastor Jonathan and his team always create a robust and diverse menu of classes. New small groups are forming. Training is available to serve with our children and youth. Our choirs and worship teams are growing and offer many ways to participate. Care and prayer teams, Stephen Ministry, retreats, administration, event planning, fundraising — all these are opportunities to extend care and support. And our long list of direct service and advocacy activities — from feeding missions to I.D. Ministry to ESL classes to Washington Interfaith Network — offer countless ways to make a difference.

All these and more bring you into relationships with others in ways that help you feel seen, known, valued — so you know you belong. And they give you a chance to offer those gifts to others, too.

On the recent John Wesley, Asbury, Foundry civil rights pilgrimage I learned that, at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. insisted every member be able to say what they were doing in the church. Everyone was to have a role, everyone was to have a place to serve and to learn, everyone was to know that they were cherished, needed, and that they belonged.



This isn't just something the church needs to thrive. It is what we all need — to belong, to grow, to anchor ourselves in life's storms. Things are rough in so many ways right now. We need one another. We need the church. The community and the world need us to be the church.

Pray about where God is leading you to lean in and connect more meaningfully. Because you belong — to God and among this people of God. Thanks be.

Peace,
ginger+

FIND YOUR PLACE AT FOUNDRY!

Do you wonder about where you might "lean in" at Foundry? Find your answer by completing our Congregational Engagement Survey. It gives you an opportunity to determine – and for us to see – where your skills, talents and passions meet Foundry's needs. Visit foundryumc.org/survey.

Gather and Grow

KATE COVENTRY

Recently, our centering moment during Sunday worship focused on Foundry's core values of singing, praying, and studying with passion, intellect, and energy.

One way I've been able to experience the value of studying is by participating in a Foundry class, the Disciples Bible studies. Disciples is a school-year-long program (34 weeks) in which we read the Bible and the accompanying workbook and then gather to discuss each week.



The entire course involves four years of study, with the first covering the entire Bible (don't worry, you don't actually read the whole Bible!) although there is a lot of reading in this first course. The other three classes focus on particular books in the Bible. You can take them in any order.

This year, we will be reading **Disciples II: Into the Word Into the World**, which focuses on how to apply biblical principles to daily life and ministry. We will read Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts.

The leader provides the historical context of the books we read. That helps us better understand the text and its meaning at the time it was written. The workbook includes exercises that we sometimes do together. We enjoy comparing our various translations and discussing their differences. One of our members often asks Chat GPT what scholars from top divinity schools have to say about a particular verse. As the years have passed, our conversations have deepened along with our knowledge.

Most importantly, our discussions are honest. Folks often admit that they struggled with a particular passage or share how a passage has been misused with hurtful results. We grapple with how Bible passages have been misused to justify slavery, poverty, sexism, racism, and homophobia. I particularly am pained by how the phrase "the poor will always be with us" is used as an excuse to not actually tackle poverty. As an all-female group last year, we took issue with some of Paul's statements on women.

Another important benefit of the Disciples course is that by gathering every week, we truly get to know each other. We close each session with prayer. Our class has supported each other through job losses, federal employment drama, and the loss of a family friend.

Kate Coventry has attended Foundry for more than 12 years and is a leader with the Sacred Resistance Team, specifically focused on homelessness advocacy. She works to end homelessness and poverty in DC and enjoys reading, knitting, and walking around DC.

Foundry Forward

SEPTEMBER 2025 ACTION ITEMS

Tuesday & Wednesday, September 2 & 3

Interested In Confirmation?

Is your youth ready to grow deeper in faith? Confirmation is an elective class for all youth starting in 7th grade and older who want to explore their faith, Christianity, and Methodism. Join us for a virtual information session: Tuesday from 5:30–6:30 p.m. or Wednesday, 7:30–8:30 p.m. We are also looking for Confirmation Mentors—caring adults who will walk alongside youth during this journey. If you're interested, please attend one of the info sessions as well! **For questions or the link to the meeting, contact Natalie Harvey** nharvey@foundryumc.org.

Saturday, September 6

Join Our Sunday School Team!

We need Sunday School teachers and substitutes! If you love helping children grow in faith, building community, and sharing God's love, join us. You will make a difference! Training is held this morning and next Saturday morning at Foundry. **Sunday School Classes for children and youth begin September 14th!** **For more information or to sign up, contact Natalie Harvey at** nharvey@foundryumc.org

And families with children in PreK3 – 6th grade are invited to our FAMILY MINISTRIES OPEN HOUSE from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Norman & Frances Prince Fellowship hall **today and next Saturday, September 13!** You can see your children's classroom, meet their teachers, set up for Sunday check-in and learn about the curriculum.

Sunday, September 7

Love Boldly!

Today we begin a three-Sunday series exploring the new vision of the United Methodist Church, whose mission is to form disciples of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to love, serve and lead, solidarity with the most vulnerable. Pastor Ginger will preach, drawing on 1 John 4:16b-21 and Luke 10: 25–37.

Wednesday, September 10

Job and Mark

This year-long Disciple-like Bible study (Sept 10, 2025 — May 20, 2026) is designed for folks who have a solid foundation of Bible study through the Disciple Bible Studies or similar studies. We are calling it "Disciple VII" and will focus on the book of Job (Fall/Winter) and the Gospel of Mark (Spring), meeting Wednesday evenings 6:30–8 on Zoom.

Register here: foundryumc.org/job-mark-bible-study

Saturday, September 13

Sunday School Teacher Training and Family Open House

Today is our second training session for anyone interested in becoming a Sunday School teacher or substitute for the fall. **Sunday School for children in PreK3 – 6th grade starts tomorrow.** If interested, please email Natalie Harvey, Director of Family Ministries at nharvey@foundryumc.org. Families with children in PreK – 6th grade are also invited to come to our second Family Open House (see September 6 for details.)

Sunday, September 14

Serve Joyfully!

Continuing our exploration of the new vision of the UMC, Pastor Ginger preaches on the topic of service, using as her texts Psalm 100 and John 13: 12–17. With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy.

Social Principles of the UMC.

This six-week class will examine the social teachings of the United Methodist Church as a way of deepening our Christian commitment to loving God and our neighbor. We will reflect together on topics including creation care, economic justice, community life, peace, and human rights. It will be taught by Jessie Smith and Jonathan Brown, in Room B2, at 10:10 a.m. Registration is coming soon.

The Jesus Challenge. Twenty-one Days of Loving God and Neighbor.

is a journey that helps us become more attentive to our relationship with God and others. Through daily reflections and weekly conversations, we'll move from self-sufficiency to God-reliance—discovering what it means to love God and love others as ourselves. Join Doug Steele and others today at 10:10 a.m. in Room 203. Bring an open heart and see where this journey leads. Register at foundryumc.org/jesus-challenge

Pastor's Coffee.

If you would like to know more about joining Foundry, come to Pastor's Coffee today, in person or virtually at 10:15 a.m. in Room 101 or online. This is an opportunity to begin the journey toward membership: you will meet with clergy, learn more about our church, and move onto next steps in *A Disciple's Path*. Register at foundryumc.org/pastors-coffee.

Tuesday, September 16 & Thursday, September 18

Disciple Fast Track: Old Testament

Explore the foundational stories and enduring wisdom of the Hebrew Bible in this 12-week Disciple Fast Track course. This engaging study offers a sweeping overview of the Old Testament, helping participants connect ancient scripture with their lived faith today.

Two session options are available: Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. beginning November 17 or Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. beginning November 18. Whether you're new to Bible study or returning for deeper insight, this course provides space for thoughtful reflection, learning, and community. Register at foundryumc.org/fast-track-morning for the morning sessions and foundryumc.org/fast-track-evening for the evening sessions. The in-person sessions will both meet in Room 203 at Foundry. Both morning and evening sessions will take place in-person in Room 203 at Foundry and on-line.

Wednesday, September 17

Into The Word Into The World

Join Katie Lundy online this fall for a transformative 34-week Bible study experience meeting Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm. Participants will journey through the biblical narrative chronologically, guided by theme words, key verses, and engaging explorations of major biblical figures and events. **Register at** foundryumc.org/disciple2

Sunday, September 21

Lead Courageously!

Today we complete our series on the UMC's new vision as Pastor Ginger preaches on leadership, using as her texts Esther 4:1–17 and Psalm 27:1–5, 13–14. We are called to resist and dismantle systems of evil, injustice and oppression, striving for peace, justice and reconciliation.

Tuesday, September 23

Foundry Board Meeting

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

Sunday, September 28

Homecoming!

And the Thirtieth Anniversary of Foundry becoming a Reconciling Congregation.

To celebrate the role of Foundry in our lives and this important anniversary, we today welcome Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth as our guest preacher. Bishop Bridgeforth is the residential bishop of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area which includes the conferences of Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and the Pacific Northwest.

We will worship together at one service at 10 a.m. and then celebrate at a Foundry Potluck lunch afterwards!

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.