

Celebrating Our Ministry Winter 2024-2025



Open Hearts * Open Minds * Open Doors

 **Foundry**
United Methodist Church

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A Message From the Pastor

At the threshold of the new year, Isaiah 43:19 comes to my mind:

Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up;
don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness.

We have prayed our Breakthrough Prayer for about two and a half years. We have prayed for the revitalization of our church. Through VBS we have been blessed by a new family. Ericka, Erick, and Colleen Ignacio joined the church and joined the children's ministry team. Their gifts, talents, and passion for the children have contributed to the vitalization of our church. Ericka has brought her musical talent to our worship. Colleen and Ericka have been actively involved in the children's

Under the leadership of Watkins Bracey we formed a Stewardship Committee and started our annual stewardship campaign in October 2024. At the UMM's Christmas Tree Sale, more younger and new church members joined this mission compared with the past years. We sold out 238 trees in three days and all the benefits will be used for the local community missions. We are hopeful and excited at God's doing new things for our church.

In this new year of 2025, I want to challenge my beloved church family to bring a person to the church. We are going to install an evangelism tree at the narthex with blank cards. Please pick up one card, write the name of a person whom you want to invite and hang it on the evangelism tree. Then pray for that person without ceasing, have a meal with him or her, and encourage him or her to come and worship with us. Please continue to pray our Breakthrough Prayer three times a day and look forward to new things God is doing for our church.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor JaeHaeng Choi



A Message From Your Stewardship Team

STEWARDSHIP
& ABUNDANCE

*Fishing for
Abundant
Living*

John 21:6



Our Stewardship theme last fall was “**Fishing for Abundant Living**” based on the scripture **John 21:6**...the familiar story of the disciples fishing all night and catching nothing. Jesus tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat...and their harvest was greater than they could have imagined. Isn't that just like Jesus? Ask...Listen...believe...trust...and be overwhelmed with His generosity!

As an update, we received 29 pledge commitments for 2025 which included financial and ministry interest. The financial part of the pledges was approximately \$163,000. Our goal was 50 pledges and \$240,000. History indicates another 25 individuals who support the church each year who we expect will continue to do so. Combined giving totals approximately \$258,000 towards our 2025 operating budget of \$297,000. A heartfelt thanks to each of you for your planned and continued financial support!

Remember our goals as we move forward – they are: 1) expand participation in ministry areas, 2) increase visitation and membership, 3) continue small group growth, 4) expand children's ministry, 5) increase financial support, and 6) seek new mission opportunities.

Again, remember Jesus and his generosity and thank you for your support and being a part of our Foundry church family!

Your Stewardship Team

Pastor Choi, Watkins Bracey, Mary Leeds, Doug Hudson, Page Cockrell





A Message From Your Finance Chair

Dear Foundry Family and Friends,

To keep you informed, below is a brief financial update through November along with other comments regarding 2025.

Finance Update Jan thru Nov 2024:	Actual
General Fund Offerings & Receipts	\$222,296
General Fund Expenditures	\$223,871
Current Deficit/Shortfall	(\$1,575)
Dedicated Fund Offerings	\$40,193

We have been very supportive of ministries within our community, U.S. disaster relief, our missionary, and certain other needs. We raised \$40,193 through November. We expect more donations to be received through December.

We were unable to support all ministries within our Virginia Methodist Conference. We provided \$5,082 in support towards our requested obligations of \$46,704. However, more donations are expected from the Christ Child offering.

With your help, we plan to provide regular monthly support to our Virginia Conference in 2025.

We received a donation of \$5,000 from Beach Ford in December as a thank-you and appreciation for being a good neighbor especially during the recent large construction project.

Our 2025 Operating Budget is \$297,266 or \$814 per day. It costs a minimum of \$655 per day to maintain our church facility and provide weekly worship services.

Our pledge commitments for 2025 along with other expected offerings currently total approximately \$258,000, a shortfall of \$39,000 towards our budget of \$297,000. Please make every effort to fulfill your pledge for 2025.

Most importantly, a sincere thanks for your generosity and continued support of Foundry's ministries. Each of you support our church in your own way – time, talents, services, prayers and financial gifts. Every type is vital and important to our ministries as we are in ministry together sharing the good news of our faith with others.

Watkins Bracey
757-408-9533 (cell)
watkins.bracey@gmail.com

2024 Tax Year Offerings

Please note the final date for 2024 church offerings is January 12, 2025 Checks must be dated in 2024.

2025 Offering Envelopes Now Available in the Narthex

A Message From Your Missions Chair

The fall and winter season have seen the usual “flurry” of Missions activities, beginning with the **Annual Apple Sale**.

We realized a profit of \$1880, all of which will be donated to Wings of Caring Aviation Ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We hope to contribute towards the purchase of a new turbine-



powered airplane which can use

more widely available jet fuel. Jacques Umembudi, our missionary on that project, has extended his thanks and has written:

* Mission/church aviation plays a great role not only to spread the Good News where access by road is very limited but also to provide quick responses in case of medical emergencies... It is a breath, a sign of hope for people living in remote areas. Seminary professors, medical teams, relief teams, even state officials depend a lot on church aviation for their quick mobility upcountry...

* [Foundry UMC has] been, for years, a very strong partner in mission. Your outreach ministry has always been very appreciated. Seminary professors, medical teams, relief teams, even state officials depend a lot on church aviation for their quick mobility upcountry...

Thanks to everyone who purchased, sold, picked up, bagged, sorted, and distributed apples. This was the eighth year of the sale and it has seen its ups and downs in terms of sales, but not dedication or enthusiasm. The pandemic significantly reduced sales and they have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

On the other hand, we have a contingent of loyal customers in the congregation and the community who appreciate the high quality of the products from Dickie Brothers Orchard and Ann's Apple Butter and understand that our profits go toward an extremely worthwhile cause. Any ideas to increase sales in the future would be greatly appreciated!





Food Pantry is experiencing its typical pre-holiday spike in guest numbers. We recognize that we all typically purchase a lot more food in preparation for Thanksgiving and Christmas and our guest families are no different. Thanks to your financial support, we now purchase or receive food from Operation Blessing, Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia, and Walmart, in addition to donated food. We received a mind-boggling amount of food donated

by the Hampton Roads Community to the Foodbank's Mayflower Marathon, just in time for Thanksgiving when our food stores were getting low. Each food shipment is an exercise in logistics, heavy (and light) lifting, allocation of storage spaces, and the cheerful willingness and cooperation of all the volunteers who make it happen. You should see the scurrying around when food is removed from the trucks, deposited in a freezer or on a pantry shelf, or set aside for repackaging into smaller portions for distribution. If you haven't been in on this action, give it a try! Yes, many hands make light work, but I for one also have a great time in camaraderie with my Foundry friends. Contact Chris Work, Tom Brabrand, or Scott Mahrenholz to see how you can be a part of the action.



We have hosted **JCOC dinners** in October and December and are signed up for six dinners in 2025. Again, the key ingredients to this bimonthly project are logistics, cooperation, generosity, and fellowship. Become a part of this important ministry which is so appreciated by our JCOC dinner guests.





Nancy and Emily Norman have once again taken the reins in making sure that families referred to us by the Department of Social Services benefit from **Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas baskets, and Angel Tree** gifts. Be sure to pick up a shopping list in the Narthex or take one or more Angels from the tree to help make a deserving family's Christmas a bit brighter. And give Nancy and Emily a high five for their ongoing dedication to this ministry.



What's coming up in 2025? All of this, and more. We will be having a potluck lunch early in the year to host Lynnhaven River Now in an educational program which will help all of us to become good stewards of the environment. In addition to the wonderful planting of native trees and a rain garden on the western parcel of our property, we aspire to become a Pearl Faith Community. This is a dedication to serving God through gratitude to the natural world. Details to follow!



As I write this lengthy year-end report, I realize that with each ministry, the benefits accrue to both the recipients and the givers. Experience the joy of kindness, generosity, and involvement in improving the lives of others. You will be twice (thrice?) blessed!

Blessings and be well! Chris

Thank You Foundry Family & Friends!



A Thank You Message from the UMM Chair

The UMM wish to thank all of the volunteers for their wonderful support in setting up the tree lot and assisting with the tree sales. Your generosity helped us raise over \$11,500 which will be distributed to worthy causes.



Thank You Foundry Family & Friends!

UWF
Pies & Dessert
Famous Auction



Pies
Cakes
Cookies
Breads

Bakers ready your recipes.
Let us know what delicious dessert you will be baking
so we can showcase your creations!
Contact Judy Mitchell at foundryumc@foundryumcvb.org

Pie-Dessert Auction
Sunday, November 24th.
Bidding from 10:40 am - 12:25 pm
All the dough goes to the mission projects!

A Thank You Message from the UWF Chair

We Can't Say Thank You Enough!
Due to the generosity of our congregation,
UWF's final total for our
Pie/Dessert Auction was \$976!

&

Many Thanks to the faithful members
who bring snacks to share each Sunday.!



FOUNDRY'S CHRISTMAS TRADITION

ANGEL TREE GIFTS



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

**Because of your generous donations, we were able to provide a really nice
Christmas for 11 'adopted families'**

**They received a turkey or ham with all the fixings and we were able to get
108 gifts for 44 family members!**

Your outpouring love to the community is beyond anything that can be said.

Foundry Season of Love



Welcome Karen Reno-Cobb!



Christmas Cantata





CHILDREN'S COOKIE DECORATING PARTY

12:30pm - 1:30pm

DECEMBER 8, 2024

FOUNDRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2801 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

RSVP BY 1ST DECEMBER
CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 757-340-0595
OR EMAIL: FoundryUMC@foundryumc.org



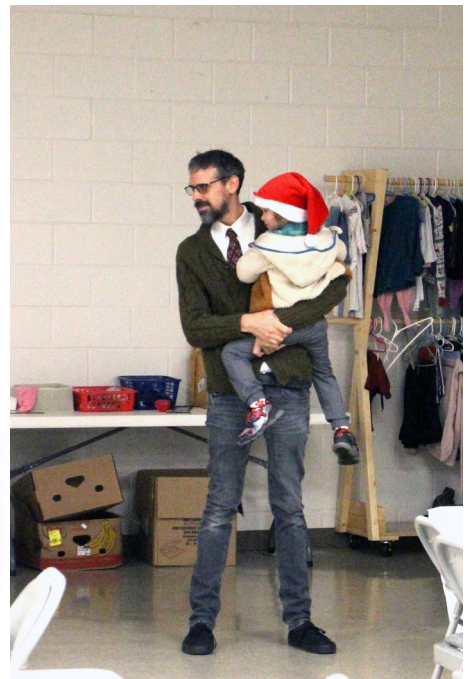
A Visit From Santa



Celebrating Foundry's Children's Ministry



Oh What Foundry Fun! Music & Arts & Crafts & Tree Decorating!





IN MEMORIAM
2024



Rachel Cahill

November 15, 1986 - February 5, 2024



Teddy Harris

October 2, 1935 - May 27, 2024



Linda Ann Way

May 19, 1937 - June 10, 2024



Flo Boyce

September 20, 1929 - June 21, 2024



Jim VanArnam

January 31, 1943 - October 13, 2024



Foundry United Methodist Church
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Rev. Dr. JaeHaeng Choi, Pastor

Ministry Contacts

Ministry Areas:

1. Angel Tree – Emily Norman
2. Apple Sales – Chris Work
3. Clothes Closet – Helen Smith or Ginney Lewis
4. Food Pantry – Tom Braband or Scott Mahrenholz
5. Operation Blessing / Food Bank – Tom Brabrand or Scott Mahrenholz
6. Lynnhaven Elementary School – Judy Mitchell or Mary Leeds
7. Holiday Food Baskets – Nancy Norman
8. JCOC Dinners – Chris Work
9. Red Cross Blood Drive – Scott Mahrenholz
10. Christmas Trees – Bill Crosby or Watkins Bracey
11. Children's Ministry / VBS – Pastor JaeHaeng
12. UWF Desert Auction – Judy Mitchell or Mary Leeds
13. Promise Keepers Men's Group – Page Cockrell or Watkins Bracey
14. Missionary Support – Chris Work
15. Ushers / Worship Assistants – Nancy Norman