

Soapstone Notes

To receive our e-news, contact the church office at 919-846-2212/office@soapstoneumc.org.

Costa Rica Mission Trip Now More Affordable! — NEW!!!! We are offering a \$700 scholarship to offset the cost for the first 10 that sign up. To be considered for the scholarship sign up by Monday, April 29. Adults and youth serve as a volunteer in Los Chiles, Costa Rica to help those in need of access to clean water, June 29– July 6. Cost per person is less than \$1300, with the scholarship. Sign up at www.avs.ngo/register. Soapstone UMC is in the drop-down list. Pastor Jon will reach out to each person that has signed up by Tuesday, April 30 before he purchases plane tickets.

Upward: Wesleyan Formation in Three Movements Study — Join Pastor Jon for a three-week study Wednesday nights 6 pm, beginning May 1, on the book *Upward: Wesleyan Formation in Three Movements* by Paul Chilcote and Steve Harper. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Extra Musicians Needed — Do you play the drums or guitar? Praise Team is in search of instrumentalists who can fill in when our regular folks are out. Contact Andrea if you are interested.

Volunteers needed for Soapstone Adult Library — Two skill sets needed; one group to set guidelines and select books, another to manage operations and maintain our library app. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups to become part of the library team. Questions, contact Bill Poston at poston844@gmail.com.

Youth Mission Week, Summer 2024 — Youth who have completed grades 6 –12, join our Carolina Rebuilding team in Plymouth August 12 –16, making low-income homes dry, safe and secure. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Strawberry Festival — Our Strawberry Festival is May 4, 11 am—2 pm. We welcome all to enjoy a vendor fair, food, bounce houses, and of course strawberries and much more! Can't make it that day? Consider donating a gift card to our gift card tree or baked goods. Sign up to volunteer or donate items at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Register for Youth Breakaway — This is for youth grades 6-12 grade sponsored by our Conference Youth Ministry at NC Wesleyan College June 24– 29. Register at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Car Wash Fundraiser — Support Cub Scout Pack 399 and swing by their carwash fundraiser in the Norwood parking lot. May 11, 11 am—3 pm. (*Rain date May 18*)

Children's Musical — Join us Sunday, May 12, at 9 am for a special Mother's Day breakfast. Following breakfast, we will have *one* worship service at 10 am to hear "*The Greatest Hymn on Earth*". Our children have worked hard this spring and are looking forward to sharing this message with you!

Carolina Rebuilding — Volunteer with our Carolina Rebuilding Ministry Team in Eastern NC any or all of May 13-17. Email Greg Cain, gcain3190@gmail.com to sign up.

Monday Morning Lectionary Class — Join our pastors for prayer and discussion, on the scriptures related to the upcoming week's worship and sermon as we go deeper with the text and learn from one another. Room 202, 9:30-11.

Dementia Workshop — Speaker Lisa Levine, a director at Dementia Alliance of NC's, will provide information and answer questions May 23, 2-4 pm, Room 200. Register online at soapstoneumc.org/signups for this free workshop.

Calling all Performers to Soapstone's Got Talent Show — Do you have a hidden talent waiting to shine? This is your chance to dazzle the congregation and share your passion in a fun and supportive environment. Let Andrea know by July 1 if you plan to participate. The stage awaits you on August 25, 4 pm! Read more at soapstoneumc.org/soapstones-got-talent.

Join our Library Team — A library team is needed to manage our library. Set guidelines, select books, ensure smooth operations, and manage library app. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

All Zoom & Microsoft Teams links can be found at soapstoneumc.org/calendar

Sunday, April 28

- 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
- 9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
- 9:45 am Newcomer Brunch in 200
- 12:15 pm Preschool Advisory Committee in 108/110
- 2:30 pm Disciple 4 on Zoom
- 4:00 pm Set In Stone in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm Kids Rock & UMYF

Monday, April 29

- 9:30 am Lectionary Study in 202
- 4:30 pm Disciple 4 in 101/103
- 6:15 pm Youth Handbells in 117
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts at the Chapel

Tuesday, April 30

- 9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group in 114
- 1:15 pm Pilates in 200
- 7:00 pm Creation Care Team Meeting in 108/110

Wednesday, May 1

- 9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study in 200
- 6:00 pm Upward: Wesleyan Formation Study in 109
- 7:00 pm Lay Leadership Meeting in 108/110

Thursday, May 2

- 9:45 am Pilates in 200 followed by a coffee social
- 7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study in 101/103
- 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice in the Sanctuary

Friday, May 3

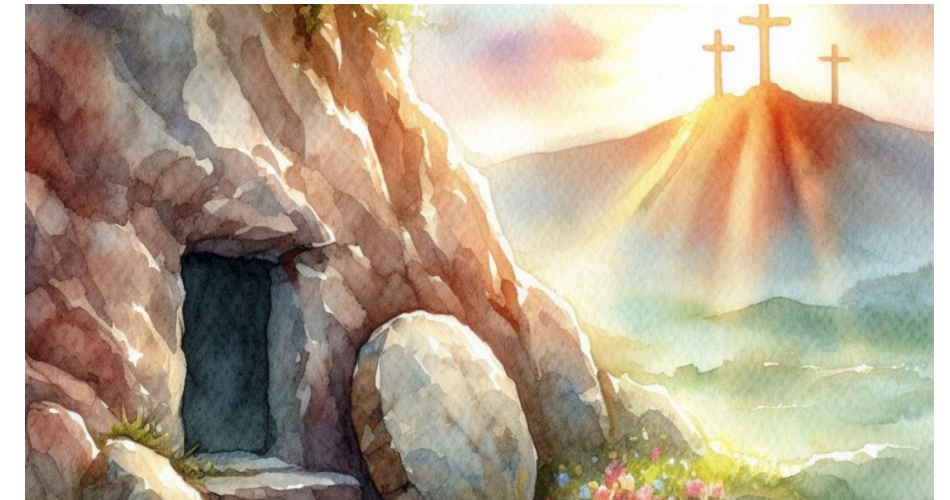
- 10:00 am MOPs at Strickland Road Park

Saturday, May 4

- 11:00 am Strawberry Festival

Pastors, Staff, and those serving today:

- Lead Pastor: Rev. Mitzi Johnson, mjohnson@soapstoneumc.org
- Pastor of Visitation: Rev. George Freeman, gfreeman@soapstoneumc.org
- Pastor of Discipleship & Missions: Rev. Dr. Jon Tschanz, jtschanz@soapstoneumc.org
- Director of Family Ministries: Danny Peck, dpeck@soapstoneumc.org
- Director of Music: Andrea Turner, aturner@soapstoneumc.org
- Director of Preschool: Jessica Slessman, jslessman@soapstoneumc.org
- Nursery Coordinator: Rebecca Mitchell, nursery@soapstoneumc.org
- Communications Coordinator/ Financial Secretary:
Katie Cable, kcable@soapstoneumc.org
- Administrative Assistant: Deana Castagna, dcastagna@soapstoneumc.org
- Scripture Readers: Danny Wever at 8:30 am and Jim Galloway at 11:00 am



April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter

Easter is more than a day.

It's a season of 50 days, a "week of weeks," ending with Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (Acts 2). In this season, we lean into what it means to say, "Christ is risen" and how we, the Church, are his body.

We are easter people. Alleluia!



Worship - Learn - Fellowship - Serve

We are a "Lighthouse Congregation" committed to living fully into our identity as a United Methodist Christian community that practices habits of hospitality and encircles all whom we encounter with Christ's love.

www.soapstoneumc.org

8:30 am Worship

Chiming the Trinity	Andrea Turner
Welcome	Rev. Mitzi Johnson
* Opening Praise Song	Open the Eyes of My Heart Praise Team
* Opening Prayer	Don Warsing
* Passing of the Peace	The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you. <i>As a forgiven and reconciled people, we exchange peace with others in the congregation.</i>
First Scripture Reading	John 15:1-8
Children's Moment	Danny Peck <i>Childcare is available for ages 5 and under. Meet a nursery worker at the Sanctuary doors.</i>
Second Scripture Reading	1 John 4:7-21
Sermon	"No Fear in Love" Rev. Mitzi Johnson
Prayer	
* Response Praise Song	Sinking Deep Praise Team
Prayers of the People	Rev. Dr. Jon Tschanz
Lord's Prayer	
Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings	<i>Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it down the row and back again.</i>
Offertory	Word of God Speak Praise Team
* Doxology	
* Prayer	
* Closing Praise Song	God of Wonders Praise Team
* Dismissal with Blessing	

11:00 am Worship

Gathering

Chiming the Trinity	Andrea Turner
Welcome	Rev. Mitzi Johnson
Prelude	Amazing Grace Flute Quartet
* Call to Worship	A: In worship, we celebrate the diversity of God's love. B: Young and old, tall and short, black and white and brown. All: Let our differences remind us of the power of God's creative love. A: In our prayers, we affirm the support of God's hopeful love. B: In our songs and hymns, we affirm the vitality of God's joyful love. All: In our worship, we affirm the abundance of God's forgiving love. A: Together, we give thanks that God loves us. B: Together, we remember God calls us to love. All: Together, we proclaim that God is love.
* Opening Hymn	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling UMH, 384
* Opening Prayer	Rev. Dr. Jon Tschanz Lord, help us in our living and our loving. May your love for us bring us peace and courage, and bless us with your mercy. Strengthen us that our lives will shine as beacons of your love, so that all the world may come to know you and give thanks that we are yours. Amen.
* Confession and Words of Assurance	<i>The leader ends with " ... In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven."</i> In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.
* Passing of the Peace	The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you. <i>As a forgiven and reconciled people, we exchange peace with others in the congregation</i>

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination	Jim Galloway
First Scripture Reading	John 15:1-8
Children's Moment	Danny Peck <i>Childcare is available for ages 5 and under. Meet a nursery worker at the Sanctuary doors.</i>
Proclamation Song	The Sparrow's Song Chancel Choir
Scripture Reading	1 John 4:7-21
Sermon	"No Fear in Love" Rev. Mitzi Johnson

Response and Thanksgiving

* Responsive Hymn	Abide with Me (vs 1-3) UMH, 700
Reception into the UMC and Soapstone	UMH, 38 <i>We welcome Meg & Randy Ripper, Ken & Judy Tison, and Katie Rawson as new members.</i>
Commendation and Welcome	<i>See congregational responses on screen</i>


Prayers of the People	
Lord's Prayer	
Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings	<i>Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it down the row and back again.</i>
Offertory	Blessed Assurance Cornerstone Ringers
* Doxology	UMH, 94
* Prayer	


Sending Forth


* Closing Hymn	I Need Thee Every Hour (vs. 1-3) UMH, 397
* Dismissal with Blessing	
* Postlude	Paula Scicluna
	+ + +
	*Please stand as you are able.


The flowers on the altar are given by Bailey and Colin Scarlett in honor of their sister Lily's 18th birthday.

Our prayer circle for the week: McIntyre Family, Dick Chase, Gary & Karen Shell, + Becky Arrington, David Bowen, Pat Humphrey-Kloes, Joe Booth, Dennis Dallin, David Stephens, Mike Wenhart & family, General Conference.

Guests: Thank you for joining us. If you are visiting with us today for the first time text the word **"Welcome"** to 919-689-4300, scan the QR Code, or fill out the attendance pad with your name and phone #'s so that we may welcome you by text and email. Please stop by the welcome cart for a gift and information. 

We love children: All children are welcome in Sanctuary worship no matter how wiggly. Please uphold our Safe Sanctuary policy by accompanying your child any time they are in the building. Our staffed nursery is available in Room 116 for children 5 and under. 

Sensory Friendly: Children's activity notebooks, sensory bags, & listening devices are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. Our Sensory Room (109) provides a soothing place to sit with an overwhelmed child and to access the service via livestream. 

Listening Devices: Devices for the hearing impaired are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. 

After-Hours Pastoral Care Line: If you have an urgent need for pastoral care when the church office is closed, please call 919-256-8336 and leave a message for the pastor or staff person on call. 