



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. - Hebrews 11:1

October 5, 2024

Dear Friends,

Recently in worship, we shared stories of people from Soapstone UMC's past who walked by faith in sacrificial ways that laid a foundation for our present. A dentist, a United Methodist member at another church, offered Soapstone a generous deal on the beautiful corner lot where our church building now stands. A Baptist lumber business owner sold us the building materials at cost. A summer pastoral intern on a limited budget tithed her summer paycheck to the project. A passerby with no connection to Soapstone cleared the land for free. More checks came in from random strangers.

On Sundays this fall, we're exploring stories of Old Testament characters who walked by faith: Esther, a queen who risked it all to save her people. Job, who trusted God in a time of immense suffering. Ruth, a loyal daughter-in-law who faced an unpredictable future with courage. And Hannah, whose cries to God turned to shouts of joy.

Will you join this roll call of extraordinary people who walked by faith? This year, 136 households returned a commitment card as a witness of giving to God and as a way to support our ministries. We hope and pray to increase the number of households that will take a step out in faith and return a commitment card for God's ministry and mission at Soapstone UMC in 2025.

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On October 27, Commitment Sunday, we invite you to walk by faith as you place the enclosed commitment card on the altar as an act of worship. The cards turned in that day or submitted earlier online at <https://soapstoneumc.org/pledge> will help us formulate a church budget that allows us to worship, learn, fellowship and serve in ways that honor our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Paul Fitch

John Spencer

Generosity Team

Ann Jones

Finance Chair

Rev. Mitzi Johnson

Lead Pastor