

Soapstone Notes

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

Advent Devotionals — This Advent season we invite you to download a free devotional or use our devotional calendar at soapstoneumc.org/advent-devotionals. If you would like a printed devotional for \$3, please contact the church office at office@soapstoneumc.org. (We will be closed Wednesday, November 27, 12 pm - Sunday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.)

Sunday School for Adults: "An Unlikely Advent" — During Advent all adults will join together in one Sunday School class, 9:45 am in Room 200 learning from "An Unlikely Advent" by Rachel Billups. Books are available for purchase (\$10) in the Narthex and church office or pay online at soapstoneumc.org/give. Stop by during office hours or reach out to Pastor Damion to make other arrangements.

Christmas Challenge 2024 — Christmas Challenge donations can be given online, soapstoneumc.org/give, or on Christmas Eve in the offering plate. This year we are supporting Family Promise, NC Disaster Relief, and The Methodist Home for Children. The choice is yours. Every gift makes a difference.

Afternoon Advent Wreath Workshop — Embrace the Christmas spirit by crafting a wreath from fresh evergreens this Wednesday at 4 pm in Room 108/110. Bring \$6 (per person) for the wreath form and pins. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Taizé Services — Our Pastors invite you to enjoy the peace and beauty of candlelit Taizé-style services of meditation, prayer, and silence, Wednesdays, December 4 & 11, 6:30 -7 pm at our Chapel.

Drop and Shop — Parents, need a few hours for kid-free shopping? We've got you covered! Join us Saturday, December 7, from 9 am to noon. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

An Ole Time Gospel Christmas — Join OTG for a traditional sing-a-long at the Chapel, 10301 Old Creedmoor Road, Saturday, December 7, 6 pm.

The Music of Christmas — This annual concert, held on Sunday, December 8, 4 pm, includes almost all of Soapstone's voice and instrumental ensembles as well as the choir. They are excited to share this wonderful presentation of some of our favorite music of the Christmas season.

Family Promise in December — We are hosting the families by providing dinner and gift cards. Please sign up to provide a meal to families, December 15-20 at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

A Christmas TLC — Join Tuesday Lunch Crew December 10, 12 pm for our annual Christmas potluck lunch in Room 200. Bring a dish to share. Ham and drinks will be provided. Help us plan ahead and sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

"A Merry Mingle" Women's Event — Ladies, you are invited! Come and mingle with fellow SUMC women for an afternoon of fun, laughter, and great company December 14, 2 pm Room 200. Bring a \$10 gift card in a small gift bag and a sweet or savory treat to share. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

"A New & Glorious Morn!" Cantata — Our Cantata Choir and Orchestra will present this cantata filled with music of hope and promise in our regular Sunday morning worship services on December 15.

Drive Through Live Nativity — On Monday & Tuesday, December 16 and 17, drive through our parking lot between 6:30 and 7:30 pm to experience depictions of the Christmas story while listening to the story with the provided QR code.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, December 1

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
4:00 pm Set In Stone in the Sanctuary
5:00 pm Kids Rock & Youth Group

Monday, December 2

9:30 am Lectionary Study in 202
5:30 pm Disciple 4 in 108/110
6:30 pm Boy Scouts at the Chapel
7:00 pm Soul Tenders in 108/110
7:00 pm Worship Committee in 200

Tuesday, December 3

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group in 114
1:15 pm Pilates in 200
6:00 pm Grief Share in 202
6:30 pm Cub Scout Committee Meeting in 101/103

Wednesday, December 4

4:00 pm Crafting Ministry in 200
6:00 pm OTG Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
6:30 pm Taizé Service at the Chapel
7:00 pm Choir Practice in 119
7:00 pm AA in 101/103

Thursday, December 5

9:45 am Pilates in 200
6:00 pm Prison Ministry in 111
6:30 pm Adult Handbells in 117
7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study in 101/103
7:30 pm Praise Team in the Sanctuary

Friday, December 6

10:00 am MOMCo Playdate at Baileywick Park

Saturday, December 7

9:00 am Drop-N-Shop
10:00 am Intrepid Hikers at Umstead Sycamore Loop
6:00 pm OTG Sing-A-Long

Pastors, Staff, and those serving today

Lead Pastor: Rev. Mitzi Johnson, mjohnson@soapstoneumc.org
Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye, dquaye@soapstoneumc.org
Pastor of Visitation: Rev. George Freeman, gfreeman@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: Ashley Taris, nursery@soapstoneumc.org
Office Administrator: Rebecca Mitchell, rmitchell@soapstoneumc.org
Communications Coordinator/ Financial Secretary:
Katie Cable, kcable@soapstoneumc.org
Scripture Readers: James Berstein at 8:30 and Jim Galloway at 11:00



December 1, 2024
1st Sunday of Advent

In the season of Advent, we launch another year of living into the story of Jesus and the church that emerges out of his life and ministry. This Advent, journey with us through the preparations and the passion of the story, so we can embrace the presence and promise of the Christ who comes. Come, let us adore him!



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. Dr. Damion Quaye
* Opening Praise Songs	O Come O Come Emmanuel Advent Hymn Praise Team <i>During the songs, the ushers will invite you forward to hang Chrismons on the trees.</i>
* Opening Prayer	Don Warsing
Lighting of the First Advent Candle	Peter, Carey, Hannah, & Joseph Westgate <i>Please follow the 11 am order of worship.</i>
First Scripture Reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16
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	Luke 21:25-36 The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Sermon	"Weight of the World" Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
Prayer	
* Response Praise Song	Come Now Our King Praise Team
Prayers of the People	Rev. Mitzi Johnson
Invitation to the Table	
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>
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	Hunter Browning
* Offering Praise Song	
* Prayer	
The Great Thanksgiving, Please follow 11 am order of worship	
* Closing Praise Song	He Shall Reign Forevermore Praise Team
* Dismissal with Blessing	

11:00 Worship

Gathering

Chiming the Trinity	Andrea Turner
Welcome	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
Prelude	Hunter Browning
Lighting of the First Advent Candle	Bill & Ann Tinkler From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah." Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.
Fear, anxiety, and suspicion surround us on every side, but we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.	
We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.	
<i>The first candle is lit.</i>	
* Opening Hymns	People, Look East UMH, 202 Hail to the Lord's Anointed UMH, 203 <i>During the hymns, the ushers will invite you forward to hang Chrismons on the trees.</i>
* Opening Prayer	Rev. Mitzi Johnson O Lord, we await the surely-coming days when diseases are cured, when weapons are beaten into tools for rebuilding, when our mountains and coasts are free from hurricanes, and when nations are free from war. We look for the surely-coming days when we all will see with clarity your image stamped on all people. Lord, we your people, who have walked in darkness look for the light of your shalom of love, peace, health, and well-being. Amen.

Proclamation and Response

Prayer for Illumination	Jim Galloway
First Scripture Reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16
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	Bring Us Hope Chancel Choir Jeanne Holly, Cello
Second Scripture Reading	Luke 21:25-36 The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Sermon	"Weight of the World" Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
* Responsive Hymn	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH, 196
Prayers of the People	
Invitation to the Table	
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 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>

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	
* Doxology	Be Present at Our Table Lord UMH, 621
* Prayer	
The Great Thanksgiving	UMH, 15
Lord's Prayer	UMH, 895
Breaking of the Bread	
Giving of the Bread and Cup	
Songs During Communion	O Come, O Come Emmanuel UMH, 211 Emmanuel, Emmanuel UMH, 204
Prayer After Communion	
Sending Forth	
* Closing Hymn	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates UMH, 213
* Dismissal with Blessing	
* Postlude	Hunter Browning
	+ + + <i>* Please stand as you are able.</i>

The Altar: Throughout Advent, enjoy a rotating display of nativity sets representing various art forms and cultures. Today's set was a favorite of Helen Keller, late wife of Don Keller, and will also be displayed in the Norwood foyer. May these sets draw you more deeply into the story of Jesus' birth.

Our prayer circle for the week:	: Troy & Sandra Canady, Meg Ripper & family, Charlie Cable, Harry & Kathy Klauda, Tim Sauls, Cindy Stone, Gary Shell, Bill & Sharon Foster, Kim Harward, Tom Cox, Dennis Dallin.
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.