

Soapstone Notes

Stay informed about events and updates! To receive our weekly emails, contact office@soapstoneumc.org or visit soapstoneumc.org/signups, click "Receive Church Emails." For urgent updates, like weather-related changes, text "update" to 919-689-4300 or reach out to the church office.

Calling all Tenor/Bass Voices! — Let's put together a men's choir while the ladies are on retreat. We will meet for one or two rehearsals and sing a really fun song on March 23. Rehearsals TBD based on availability. Contact Andrea Turner if you are interested.

MOMCo at Soapstone UMC — A time for all moms! Join us this Tuesday at 9:30 am in Room 108/110 for a warm and uplifting time of fellowship, encouragement, and prayer. We can't wait to welcome you!

Dismantling Racism Discussion — Watch "Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own" by Eddie Glaude, Jr. All are welcome to join this Wednesday, 7:30 pm on Zoom, for thoughtful discussion and ideas on how we can do our part to show kindness. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Mission Madness: Soapstone UMC Serves — Join us on Saturday, March 1, 10 am - 12 pm! Volunteer to pack meals, help in the Pollinator Garden, or clean up the grounds at Baileywick School. Donate items or assist with hygiene kits and more. Happiness Ministry needs help with Winter Games (2-4 pm). Every effort counts! Read more and sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Pancake Supper for All — Join us on Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-7 for an evening of food, fellowship, and crafts! Shrove Tuesday is the day of using up indulgent baking ingredients before the Lenten fast, traditionally a time when early Christians confessed and were "shriven" (absolved) of their sins.

Ash Wednesday Walk-Up Ashes — You are invited March 5 from 7:30-9:30 am or 4:30-6 pm, at Norwood entrance sidewalk. Park and walk up to receive ashes and prayer as a sign of repentance.

Ash Wednesday Service — Join us March 5 at 6:30 pm, room 200, Imposition of Ashes. We ready ourselves for the Lenten journey through repentance.

New Bible Thursday Night Study for Women — Join other ladies Thursday nights beginning March 6, 7 pm, Room 101/103 learning from a new study, "Luke in the Land", by Kristi McLelland. In this 7-week study you will follow Kristi through Israel studying snapshots from the Gospel of Luke to see where the stories of the Bible took place.

Lenten Study: "The Final Days" — Join us for a six-week Lenten study, March 9 to April 13, held on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am during the Sunday School hour. We'll be exploring "The Final Days" by Matt Rawle. Learn more and sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Pine Straw Sale — Join the fun at our Pine Straw Sale, Saturday, March 15. Order forms are available at the church office or online at soapstoneumc.org/pine-straw. Choose pickup or delivery. Volunteers needed to help load and deliver—come be a part of the fun! Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Substitute Preschool Teachers — Soapstone Preschool is looking for a few substitute teachers. If you love playing with little ones and want to hang out with us for a few hours during the day (and get paid!), please email Jessica Slessman.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, February 23

- 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
- 9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
- 12:15 pm Preschool Advisory Meeting in 108/110
- 12:15 pm Women's Retreat Planning Meeting in 101/103
- 2:30 pm Jesus in the Gospels on Zoom
- 4:00 pm Set In Stone Practice in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm Kids Rock & Youth Group

Monday, February 24

- 4:30 pm Jesus in the Gospels in 101/103
- 6:15 pm Youth Handbells in 117
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts at the Chapel
- 7:00 pm Disciple 1 Bible Study in 101/103
- 7:00 pm Soul Tenders in 200

Tuesday, February 25

- 9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group in 114
- 9:30 pm MOMCo in 108/110
- 1:15 pm Pilates in 200
- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts downstairs
- 7:00 pm Blue & Gold Banquet in 200
- 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting in 101/103 & Teams

Wednesday, February 26

- 9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study in 200
- 6:30 pm Ecuador Team Building in 201
- 7:00 pm Choir Practice in 119
- 7:00 pm Hospitality Committee in 108/110
- 7:30 pm Dismantling Racism Discussions on Zoom

Thursday, February 27

- 9:45 am Pilates in 200
- 6:30 pm Adult Handbells in 117
- 7:00 pm Arrow of Light Bridging for Troop 399 in 200
- 7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study in 101/103
- 7:30 pm Praise Team in the Sanctuary

Friday, February 28, No Church Events

Saturday, March 1

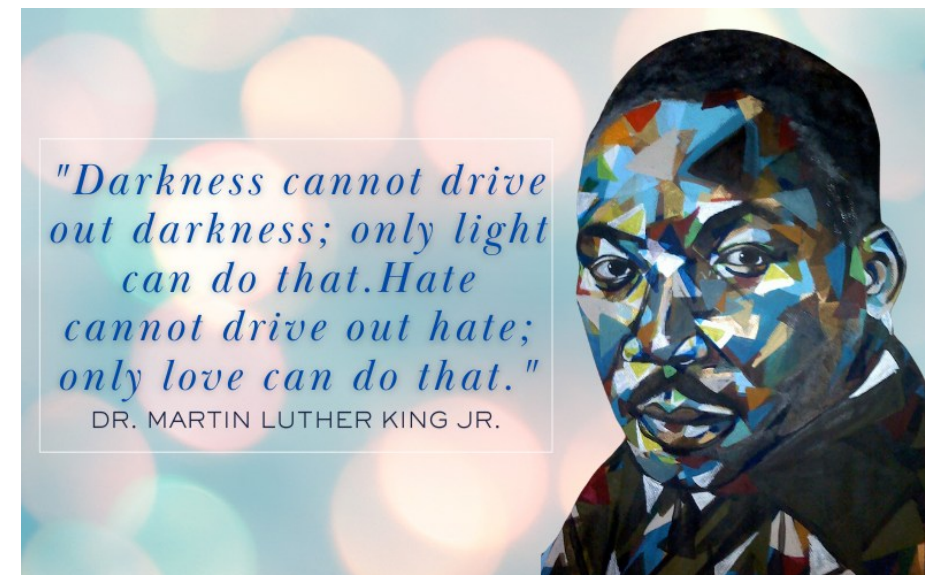
- 10:00 am Intrepid Hikers
- 10:00 am Mission Madness in the Narthex and 200

Office hours Monday — Thursday 9:00 am — 3:30 pm, 919-846-2212

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.

Pastors, Staff, and those serving today

Interim Lead Pastor: Rev. Dr. Suzanne Cobb, scobb@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: Julie Scroggs at 8:30 and Donna Mayo at 11:00



February 23, 2025 7th Sunday after Epiphany

We're so glad you've joined us today. This is your service and your time to praise, laugh, cry, pray and reconnect to the ways God is moving in our lives. Whether you come from a place of peace and wholeness or from the fringe with a heart of despair and confusion, know that you are loved and accepted by God and his son Jesus Christ and through the welcome embrace of the people of Soapstone.



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	Open Up the Heavens A Thousand Hallelujahs Praise Team
* Opening Prayer	Don Warsing
* 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>
First Scripture Reading	Genesis 45:3-11 & 15
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 6:27-38 The Word of God for us the people of God. Thanks be to God.
Sermon	"The Hard Part" Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
Prayer	
* Response Praise Song	Reckless Love Praise Team
Prayers of the People	Rev. Dr. Suzanne Cobb
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	Hunter Browning
* Offering Praise Song	
* Prayer	
* Closing Praise Song	Multiplied Praise Team
* Dismissal with Blessing	

11:00 Worship

Gathering

Chiming the Trinity	Andrea Turner
Welcome	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
Prelude	Hunter Browning
* Call to Worship	Come, all who seek the way of Christ, and hear His call: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. The Lord invites us to a love that is often Hard— one that blesses, forgives, and extends mercy. "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." As we gather in His name, let us reflect His grace, showing kindness even when it is undeserved. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." In this time of worship, may our hearts be transformed, our love be deepened, and our faith be renewed. We come to worship the God of boundless love, who calls us to love even when it is hard. Amen.
* Opening Hymn	Now Thank We All Our God UMH, 102
* Opening Prayer	Rev. Dr. Suzanne Cobb Gracious and merciful God, You have called us to a love that challenges us, a love that stretches beyond our comfort. As we gather in Your presence, we hear the words of Jesus: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." Lord, this is not easy. Our hearts resist, our wounds ache, and yet, You invite us to live in the fullness of Your grace. May we worship today as vessels of Your grace, giving without expectation, loving without condition, and trusting that You are at work in all things. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, 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 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	Donna Mayo
First Scripture Reading	Genesis 45:3-11 & 15
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	Give Me Oil in My Lamp Chancel Choir
Second Scripture Reading	Luke 6:27-38 The Word God for us the people of God. Thanks be to God.
Sermon	"The Hard Part" Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye

Response and Thanksgiving



* Responsive Hymn	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace TFWS, 2171
* Affirmation of Faith	UMH, 883
* Gloria Patri	
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	
* Doxology	UMH, 94
* Prayer	


Sending Forth


* Closing Hymn	O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee UMH, 430
* Dismissal with Blessing	
* Postlude	Hunter Browning
	+ + + <i>* Please stand as you are able.</i>

The flowers on the altar are given by Donna Dillingham in memory of Duane Dillingham.

✝ **Our prayer circle for the week:** Ken Tison, Tom Dunlap, Kim & Doug Harward, Troy & Sandra Canady, Bill & Sharon Foster.

 **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.