

Soapstone Notes

Lenten Study: "The Final Days" — Adults are invited to join our pastors for a Lenten study through April 13, on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am during the Sunday School hour in Room 200. We'll be exploring "The Final Days" by Matt Rawle.

Support Our College Students! — Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups to donate items for our College Exam Packs! Donations can be dropped off in the bin outside the church office through March 24. Also, be sure to stop by the table in the Narthex today to write notes of encouragement for our students.

Easter Lilies and Ferns — Make a donation towards flowers and ferns in honor or memory of a loved one for our Easter Sunday services. Dedications and donations are due by this Wednesday at soapstoneumc.org/give or to the office.

Happiness Ministry: Plant Activity — The NC State Extension Master Gardeners of Wake County invite the Happiness Ministry to a fun, hands-on event on March 29, 2-4 pm Room 200. We'll explore seeds, play games, decorate pots, enjoy snacks, and more! Register at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Small Group Training Event — Join us on Sunday, April 6, at 12:15 pm, Room 200 for a Small Group Training event designed for all members of small groups, whether leaders or members, as we focus on the transformations that can occur in our worship experience through small groups. Sign up by April 2 at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Enjoy Ice Cream and Support our Preschool — Join us at Soapstone Preschool Spirit Night at Two Roosters in the Greystone Shopping Center on Tuesday, April 8, 2—9 pm. Mention "Soapstone Preschool" when you purchase - 20% of proceeds benefit the preschool!

Join SUMC Secret Sisters! — Support and uplift other women through Secret Sisters (anonymous encouragement) or as an Encourager (notes & texts). Do one or both! Read more and sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups by March 29. Pick up your Secret Sister info April 6 in the Narthex. Let's lift each other up!

Let's Go to the Ball Field — Everyone is invited to watch the Durham Bulls take on the Nashville Sounds at Bulls Athletic Park on August 15, 6:35 pm. We will also be cheering on our very own Covenant Music group singing the National Anthem. Tickets are \$27 each. Sign up and read more details at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Men's Breakfast — Men of Soapstone UMC, we invite you to a breakfast on Saturday, April 19 at 8:30 am, in Room 101/103. This is a wonderful opportunity for the men of our church community to come together, share a meal, and strengthen our bonds of fellowship. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Palm Sunday Easter Cantata — Soapstone's Cantata Choir and Orchestra will present, *From "Amazing Love! Recalling Christ's Sacrifice"* music by Lloyd Larson and Joel Raney during the 8:30 and 11:00 am worship services on April 13.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday — April 17, 7 pm, Room 200, This service commemorates the Last Supper with preaching, hymns, and Holy Communion.

Good Friday — April 18, 10 am—2pm you're invited to self-guided prayer and reflection in a way that's meaningful to you. Walk the labyrinth in Room 200 as a symbolic journey of faith, or visit the Sanctuary for quiet meditation and prayer.

Easter Sunday — April 20, Three services with Holy Communion.

We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is risen, indeed!
6:30 am Sunrise Service, amphitheater near Old Creedmoor Road entrance
8:30 am and 11 am, Sanctuary Services

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, March 23

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
12:15 pm Preschool Advisory in 108/110
2:30 pm Jesus in the Gospels on Zoom
5:00 pm Kids Rock & Youth Group

Monday, March 24

4:30 pm Jesus in the Gospels in 101/103
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, March 25

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group in 114
9:30 am MOMCo in 108/110
1:15 pm Pilates in 200
7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meetings downstairs
7:00 pm SPRC in 101/103

Wednesday, March 26

9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study in 200
7:00 pm WOW Book Club on Zoom
7:00 pm Choir Practice in 119

Thursday, March 27

9:45 am Pilates in 200
6:30 pm Adult Handbells in 117
7:00 pm Lay Leadership in 202
7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study in 101/103
7:30 pm Praise Team in the Sanctuary

Friday, March 28

12:00 pm WOW Book Club at Manchester's

Saturday, April 5

10:00 am Intrepid Hikers
2:00 pm Happiness Ministry Plant Activity

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: Darleen Tibbs at 8:30 and David Hodges at 11:00



March 23, 2025
3rd Sunday in Lent

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

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| Chiming the Trinity | | |
| Welcome | Rev. Dr. Suzanne Cobb | |
| * Opening Praise Songs | Grateful Lord I Need You | 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 | Isaiah 55:1-9 | |
| 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 13:1-9 | |
| | The Word of God for us the People of God. Thanks be to God. | |
| Sermon | <i>"No Fruit?"</i> | Rev. Dr. Suzanne Cobb |
| Prayer | | |
| * Response Praise Song | Build My Life | Praise Team |
| Prayers of the People | Rev. George Freeman | |
| | Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand. Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled. | |
| 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 | |
| | * Prayer | |
| * Closing Praise Song | This Is Amazing Grace | Praise Team |
| * Dismissal with Blessing | | |

11:00 am Worship

Gathering

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| Chiming the Trinity | Andrea Turner |
| Prelude | I Know that Jesus Loves Me Kids Bell Choir |
| * Call to Worship | Wrap yourselves in the healing love of God! We seek God's presence in our lives. Know that God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence. Even though we have not produced the "fruits" of hope that God seeks, yet God forgives and heals our weakness. Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised! We will turn our lives again to the Lord, to serve and seek God's presence. Amen. |
| * Opening Hymn | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah UMH, 127 |
| * Opening Prayer | Rev. George Freeman Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning, Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead to peace and service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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

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| Prayer for Illumination | David Hodges |
| First Scripture Reading | Isaiah 55:1-9 |
| Special Music | Holy, Holy, Holy Kids Chime Choir |
| 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 | Wade in the Water Men's Ensemble |
| Second Scripture Reading | Luke 13:1-9 |
| | The Word of God for us the People of God. Thanks be to God. |
| Sermon | <i>"No Fruit?"</i> Rev. Dr. Suzanne Cobb |

Response and Thanksgiving

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| * Responsive Hymn | Just as I am, Without One Plea (vs 1-3) | UMH, 357 |
| * Affirmation of Faith | | UMH, 881 |
| * Gloria Patri | | UMH, 71 |

Prayers of the People

Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.
Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.

Lord's Prayer

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it down the row and back again.

Offertory

*** Doxology** UMH, 94

* Prayer

Sending Forth

*** Closing Hymn** Amazing Grace (vs 1-4) UMH, 378

* Dismissal with Blessing

*** Postlude** Paula Scicluna

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*Please stand as you are able.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.

† **Our prayer circle for the week:** Joan Catena, Kevin Geraghty, Gail Campbell, 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.

