

## 8:30 am Worship with Praise Music

Assisted Listening Devices are available at the A/V booth.

**Chiming of the Trinity** Andrea Turner

**Welcome** Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

**\* Opening Praise Songs** Build Your Kingdom Here Praise Team  
Raise A Hallelujah

**\* Opening Prayer** Don Warsing

**\* Passing of the Peace**  
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**  
*As a forgiven and reconciled people, we exchange  
peace with others in the congregation.*

**First Scripture Reading** Deuteronomy 24:17-22  
Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye

**Children's Moment** Danny Peck  
*Nursery available (5 & under). Activity bags and sensory items are  
in the Narthex. Room 109 offers a calming space with a livestream.*

**\* Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 19:13-15 Luke Slessman  
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "The Good News is: Protection and Care for the Vulnerable."  
Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

**Prayer**

**\* Response Praise Song** For The Sake Of The World Praise Team

**Prayers of the People**

**The 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**

**\* Offering Praise Song**

**\* Prayer**

**\* Closing Praise Song** All The People Said Amen Praise Team

**\* Dismissal with Blessing**

## 11:00 am Traditional Worship

Assisted Listening Devices are available at the A/V booth.

### Gathering

**Chiming of the Trinity** Andrea Turner

**Welcome** Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

**Prelude** Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service  
Cornerstone Ringers

**\* Call to Worship**  
We gather as people who have received good news —  
**the news that God sees the vulnerable, the forgotten, the overlooked.**  
We gather as people who have known mercy  
**the mercy of a God who commands justice, not as a burden,  
but as a blessing.**

In the harvest fields, God said: leave something behind for the stranger,  
the widow, the orphan.

**God always makes room at the table for those the world pushes aside.**

When the crowds pressed close, Jesus said: let the children come.

Do not stop them.

**God always welcomes those whom others turn away.**

This is the good news we carry:

**God protects. God welcomes. God calls us to do the same.**

**Let us worship this good news God.**

**\* Opening Hymn** Christ for the World We Sing (vs 1, 2, 4) UMH, 568

**\* Opening Prayer** Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye  
**Generous God, you have never stopped noticing those on the edges  
and providing for those in need. Forgive us when we have walked past  
without seeing, and without stopping. Open our eyes and open our  
hands, to offer what you ask. May this time of worship move us from  
hearing to doing, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, the good news  
made flesh. Amen.**

**\* Confession and Words of Assurance**  
The leader ends with " ... In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven."  
**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.**  
*As a forgiven and reconciled people, we exchange  
peace with others in the congregation.*

### Proclamation

**Prayer for Illumination** David Hodges  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

**First Scripture Reading** Deuteronomy 24:17-22

**Children's Moment** Danny Peck  
*Nursery available (5 & under). Activity bags and sensory items are  
in the Narthex. Room 109 offers a calming space with a livestream.*

**Proclamation Song** Jesus Loves Me Chancel Choir  
Sydney Cable, soloist

**\* Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 19:13-15 Caroline Dieguez  
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "The Good News is: Protection and Care for the Vulnerable."  
Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

### Response and Thanksgiving

**Sacrament of Baptism** Maddox Jovian Manchester  
*Son of Becca & Franklin Manchester, brother of Marshall and Milo.*

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**  
*Please sign the Fellowship Pad, pass it down the row, and back again.*

**Offertory**

**\* Doxology** UMH, 95

**\* Prayer**

### Sending Forth

**\* Closing Hymn** For the Healing of the Nations (vs 1 & 4) UMH, 428

**\* Dismissal with Blessing**

**\* Postlude** Hunter Browning  
  
\* Please stand as you are able.

The flowers on the altar are given by Debbie Serra  
in honor of her dad, Tommy Baggett, for his birthday.



The birth of Curtis Michael StClair, grandson of  
Vicky StClair, Joan Cavin, Women's Retreat Participants,  
Gary & Karen Shell, Dan & Dolly Daniel, Lucy & Jim Mondo

### Visiting for the first time? We're glad you're here!

Please text "Welcome" to 919-689-4300, scan the QR code, or write your name and phone number in the attendance pad. We'd love to greet you by text and email. Stop by the Welcome Center to receive a gift and learn more about us!



### Upcoming News & Events

Sign up for events and learn more by visiting our website.

### Scholarship Program & Read-A-Thon

We are collecting a Special Offering through March 15 to support a Scholarship Program that assists graduating seniors active in SUMC ministries. Check out the website for more information. The goal is to raise \$15,000, and we are just over \$3,800. You can use the Special Offering envelopes in the attendance pads to give or give online or with the QR Code.



From March 15-22, we're hosting a **Read-A-Thon** to support the SUMC Scholarship Program. It's simple, fun, and open to all ages. Stop by the table in the Narthex to learn more. Whether you love to read a little or a lot, every page turns into an opportunity!



### Worldwide Regionalization in the United Methodist Church

All are welcome to learn from Danny Peck discusses the worldwide regionalization of the United Methodist Church on Wednesday, March 18, 7 pm in the Sanctuary.



### Bishop Leonard Fairley Speaking and Book Signing

Join us March 22, 5-7 pm in the sanctuary, for a book signing with former Soapstone UMC pastor and UMCSA Resident Bishop Leonard E. Fairley, author of Silver Linings. Bishop Fairley will speak before the signing, with books available for purchase and refreshments provided. Purchase in advance at [advocatesc.org](http://advocatesc.org) or at the event.



### Dr. Lester Ruth Speaks on Christian Nationalism

Whether the concept of Christian Nationalism is completely new to you or something you've been curious about for a while, you have an opportunity to explore some new perspectives together with Dr. Lester Ruth when he joins us at Soapstone on Monday, March 23, 7 - 8:30 pm.

### Palm Sunday Canata

Our Cantata Choir and Orchestra present "Blessed (A Holy Week Journey through the Beatitudes)" by Joel Raney, with words by Pamela Stewart, on March 29 at both worship services.



### Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

Zoom & Microsoft Teams links can be found at [soapstoneumc.org/calendar](http://soapstoneumc.org/calendar)

#### Sunday, March 15

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services  
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages  
9:45 pm Coffee with the Pastors, 202  
2:30 pm Christian Believer, online  
3:00 pm End Of Life Lenten Series, 200  
4:00 pm Set In Stone, Sanctuary  
4:30 pm Summer Mission Trip Info Session, 201  
5:00 pm Kids Rock & Youth Group (ends at 6:30 pm)

#### Monday, March 16

6:00 pm Youth Handbell Practice, 117  
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, at the Chapel  
7:00 pm Soul Tenders, 200

#### Tuesday, March 17

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114  
9:30 am MOMCo Bible Study, 108/110  
1:15 pm Pilates, 200  
6:00 pm Christian Believer, 109  
6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting, Sanctuary  
7:00 pm Church Council, 202

#### Wednesday, March 18

9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, 200  
6:00 pm Eagle Boards, 111, 114  
7:00 pm Choir Practice, 119  
7:00 pm United Methodist Regionalization, Sanctuary  
7:00 pm Women's Book Club, Zoom

#### Thursday, March 19

9:45 am Pilates, 200  
1:15 pm MOMCo Playdate, SUMC Playground  
6:30 pm Adult Handbells, 117  
7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study, 101/103  
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary

#### Friday, March 20 (Women's Retreat)

12:00 pm Women's Book Club, Manchesters

#### Saturday, March 21 (Women's Retreat)

9:00 am Intrepid Hikers

### Pastors and Directors serving today:

Lead Pastor: Rev. Laura Fine Ledford, [lfineledford@soapstoneumc.org](mailto:lfineledford@soapstoneumc.org)  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye, [dquaye@soapstoneumc.org](mailto:dquaye@soapstoneumc.org)  
Director of Music Ministries: Andrea Turner, [aturner@soapstoneumc.org](mailto:aturner@soapstoneumc.org)  
Director of Family Ministries: Danny Peck, [dpeck@soapstoneumc.org](mailto:dpeck@soapstoneumc.org)

**Office hours:** Monday – Thursday, 9 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.



### March 15, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent

We're so glad you've joined us today. 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.

### 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.

soapstone  
UNITED METHODIST  
[soapstoneumc.org](http://soapstoneumc.org)