

## 8:30 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** Paula Scicluna
- \* Call to Worship**  
We are here today carrying the week's noise – the rushing current of deadlines and demands, the relentless pace that tells us we cannot stop.  
**Still us, Good Shepherd.**  
Like sheep who need still water to drink, we need a place where the current slows. We need a voice we recognize.  
**Speak to us, Good Shepherd.**  
So let us worship the One who knows what we need, who draws us to still waters, and promises us goodness and mercy, all of our days.  
**Lead us, Good Shepherd.**
- \* Opening Hymn** He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought (vs 1-3) UMH, 128
- \* Opening Prayer** Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye  
**Good and gracious God, we confess that we are not always easy to lead. We scatter. We rush toward noise. We follow voices that do not know us and drink from waters that do not satisfy. And still you call out to us. Still, you find us where we have wandered and bring us back to green pastures, to the quiet places where our souls can finally breathe. We are grateful to be here – not because we found our way, but because you found us. Receive our worship this morning as the offering of creatures who know they are cared for beyond what they deserve. In the name of the one who is both gate and shepherd. Amen.**
- \* Confession and Words of Assurance**  
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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 23 Darleen Tibbs

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

**Proclamation Song** The Lord is My Shepherd Chancel Choir

**\* Second Scripture Reading** John 10:1-10  
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "The Good Shepherd" Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

### Response and Thanksgiving

**\* Affirmation of Faith** UMH, 881

**\* Gloria Patri** UMH, 71

#### 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** Psalm 23 Covenant

**\* Doxology** UMH, 94

**\* Prayer**

### Sending Forth

**\* Closing Hymn** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us UMH, 381

**\* Dismissal with Blessing**

**\* Postlude**

\* Please stand as you are able.



Greg Barry, Wesley Barry, Gail Campbell, Joan Cavin,  
Gary & Karen Shell, Dan & Dolly Daniel,  
Lucy & Jim Mondo



### 10th Annual Strawberry Festival – May 2 | 11 am–2 pm



One of Soapstone's most loved traditions is back!

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon for all ages at our 10th Annual Strawberry Festival. Enjoy a bake sale, face painting, cake walk, silent auction, bubble station, and more!

#### Serve 1 hour and Play for 2

There are plenty of ways to volunteer— Use the QR code to help with setup, cleanup, parking, baked goods, or activity stations.



Our Youth will be running a taco booth to support Youth Missions, so youth—be sure to sign up and be part of the fun!



*Most importantly, spread the word—invite your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers. You won't want to miss it!*

### Spring BBQ Sale – May 15 | Support, Serve & Savor!

It's almost BBQ time at Soapstone UMC! This event, hosted by the United Methodist Men, is more than a meal—it's a chance to serve together and support meaningful missions both within our church and throughout the community.

We need helping hands to cook, chop, and serve— use the QR code to sign up and be part of the fellowship!  
*Childcare will be available on May 14, 6:30–8:30 pm for volunteers.*



#### Pick-Up Times & Menu:

- 11 am–1 pm: BBQ tubs (\$9), cole slaw tubs (\$3)
- 4–7 pm: Full plates (\$11) with your choice of BBQ pork or chicken, plus green beans, potatoes, and a roll;  
BBQ tubs or 2-piece chicken (\$9)

Funds raised support missions like providing books for Baileywick Elementary, scholarships, disaster relief, and mission trips.  
*Be sure to invite your friends, neighbors, and coworkers— great food for a great cause!*

### 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.

#### Sundays with One Worship Service:

We will have one 10 am Worship Service on May 24 & July 5.  
We will not have Sunday School.

#### Spiritual Formation Survey

As our community continues to grow, we're excited about what God is doing here at Soapstone—and we want you to be part of what comes next.

The Adult Council is creating new opportunities for spiritual growth during the week, but we need your input to make them meaningful and relevant.

Use the QR Code and take just a few minutes to complete our survey TODAY and tell us what would help you deepen your faith—whether that's classes, small groups, or new ways to connect.

Your voice matters!



#### Teacher and Staff Appreciation

Soapstone will partner with Baileywick Elementary on May 6 to encourage staff during the final weeks of school. We'll provide muffins and goody bags, and you can help by donating items like gum, mints, candy, Post-Its, pens, snack bars, or \$10 gift cards. Drop donations in the "Soapstone" bin in the Norwood Foyer through May 3.

Thank You for Your Support!



#### Looking Ahead at Future Dates

- May 3, Children's Ministry Parent Vision Meeting, 12:30 pm
- May 3, Youth & Parent Vision Meeting, 6:45 pm
- May 9, Cub Scout Carwash Fundraiser, 11 am
- May 12, Tuesday Lunch Crew Potluck, 12 pm
- May 15, BBQ Sale, 11 am - 1 pm & 4 - 7 pm
- May 16: Zumba Class for Moms, 11 am
- June 7, High School Senior Sunday, 11 am
- June 20, Uniquely Fun Outing, Water Games, 1 pm
- June 21, Farewell Gathering for Danny Peck
- June 22-27, Youth Breakaway
- July 20-23, Vacation Bible School (*registration opens May 2*)
- July 25, Uniquely Fun Outing, Craft Event, 1 pm
- July 30-August 2, Men's Retreat
- August 22, Uniquely Fun Outing, Bowling & Pizza Event, 1 pm

### Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

#### Sunday, April 26

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services  
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages  
2:30 pm Christian Believer, online  
5:00 pm Youth Group (*ends at 6:30 pm*)  
5:00 pm Books that Stick With Pastor Laura, 101/103

#### Monday, April 27

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

#### Tuesday, April 28

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114  
9:30 am MOMCo Meeting, 108/110  
1:15 pm Pilates, 200  
5:30 pm Lay Leadership Committee, 114  
6:00 pm Christian Believer, 109  
6:30 pm Cub Scout Den Meetings, downstairs  
7:30 pm Social Justice Meeting, online

#### Wednesday, April 29

9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, 200  
6:00 pm Eagle Boards, 111, 114  
7:00 pm Choir Practice, 119  
7:30 pm Dismantling Racism Book Discussion, online

#### Thursday, April 30

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  
7:00 pm MOMCo Moms Night Out, Zinhouse  
7:30 pm Praise Team in the Sanctuary

#### Friday, May 1

10:00 am MOMCo Playdate, Strickland Rd Park

#### Saturday, May 2

11:00 am Strawberry Festival (*ends at 2 pm*)

#### Pastors and Directors serving today:

Lead Pastor 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



### April 26, 2026 4th Sunday of Easter

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.