

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 Song	Open The Gates Praise Team
* Opening Prayer	Don Warsing
First Scripture Reading	Acts 7:55-60 Julie Scroggs
Children's Moment	Danny Peck <i>Nursery available (5 & under). Activity bags and sensory items are in the Narthex. Room 109 offers a calming space with a livestream; children must be accompanied by an adult.</i>
* Second Scripture Reading	John 14:1-14 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.
Sermon	"The Way" Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Prayer	
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 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>
Celebration of Ministry:	Clarine's House Erik Parker
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	
* Offering Praise Song	
* Prayer	
* The Great Thanksgiving	<i>Please follow the 11 am order of worship.</i>
* Closing Praise Song	Lead On Good Shepherd Praise Team
* Dismissal with Blessing	

11:00 am Traditional Worship

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

Gathering

Chiming the Trinity	Andrea Turner
Welcome	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Prelude	Hunter Browning
* Call to Worship	Jesus says, I am the way, the truth, and the life. We gather, drawn by that invitation – not only to find our way, but to be found by it. We worship the One who not only shows us where to go – but who to become. Let us lift our hearts to the God whose likeness we are learning to bear. Thanks be to God!
* Opening Hymn	The Church's One Foundation (vs 1, 2, 4) UMH, 546
* Opening Prayer	Ever-faithful God, we gather today carrying all that makes us human: joy, hope, worry, grief. In our daily lives, we want to resemble you more than we do – to love the way you love, to see the way you see, to bear in our ordinary days some trace of your likeness. Meet us here. Form us by your presence. Be for us what you have always promised to be: present before we arrive, faithful beyond what we can see, and patient with all that we are. We ask this trusting in your way, your truth, and your life. Amen.

Proclamation and Response

Prayer for Illumination	Donna Mayo
First Scripture Reading	Acts 7:55-60
Children's Moment	Danny Peck <i>Nursery available (5 & under). Activity bags and sensory items are in the Narthex. Room 109 offers a calming space with a livestream; children must be accompanied by an adult.</i>
Proclamation Song	I'll Fly Away Chancel Choir
* Second Scripture Reading	John 14:1-14 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.
Sermon	"The Way" Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
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 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>
Celebration of Ministry:	Clarine's House Erik Parker
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, 621
* Prayer	

Holy Communion

* The Great Thanksgiving	UMH, 15
The Lord's Prayer	
Sharing the Bread and Cup	
Songs During Communion	Let Us Break Bread Together UMH, 618 Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast UMH, 616

Prayer After Communion

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn	When We All Get to Heaven UMH, 701
* Dismissal with Blessing	
* Postlude	Hunter Browning

* Please stand as you are able.
The altar flowers are given in celebration of our college graduates.

1st Quarter Soapstone Stewardship Update

Thank you for supporting Soapstone with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

- Total income to date is \$267,000; our total expenses are \$248,000.
 - Giving from pledging church members is on pace with 25% of 2026 pledges and \$63,000 non-pledged funds received to date.
- Questions about giving? Contact Financial Secretary, Katie Cable.



Donna Freeman, Natalie Scott Burnette, at the death of her father, William Eugene "Gene" Scott, Jr., Gary & Karen Shell, 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 on 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.

Children & Youth Ministry: Share Your Voice - As we prepare for new leadership, we'd love your input—what matters most to your family, and what hopes you have for our children and youth. Join us today at 12:30 pm — Parents of Children (*nursery provided*) and tonight at 6:45 pm — Youth & Youth Parents, both in Room 200.

Carolina Rebuild Teams - Join us in repairing a home in Eastern NC on May 11-15 and/or May 25-29. We'll continue work on a house started in January for a 91-year-old woman who has lived there nearly 80 years and faithfully cared for neighborhood children over the years. Contact Greg Cain, gcain3190@gmail.com.

Tuesday Lunch Crew Potluck - Join TLC at Soapstone UMC Tuesday, May 12, 12 pm, Room 200, for a potluck. Bring a dish to share. Cold cuts and drinks are provided.

New Summer Volunteers (Children, Youth, or Happiness Ministry) - Complete Safe Sanctuary training May 14, 7 pm, June 28, 9:45 am, or July 16, 7 pm. If trained Fall 2025 to January 2026, no need to repeat.

BBQ & Dessert Sale, Friday, May 15 - Families & friends, you are invited to pick up food to take home. Lunch (11:30 am–1 pm) tubs of pork BBQ, \$9, tubs of banana pudding, \$4, & coleslaw, \$3. Dinner (4 – 7 pm) Chicken or pork BBQ, & sides, \$11/plate or \$9 a tub. Tubs of banana pudding \$4 & coleslaw \$3.

Zumba for Moms - Take a break and join us for Zumba & Lunch on Saturday, May 16, 11:15 am–2 pm, Room 200. Come move, laugh, play a game, and enjoy some great fellowship together. A healthy lunch will be provided.

End-of-the-School-Year Youth Events, May 17 - Join friends for fun outings. Middle Schoolers at TreeRunner. High Schoolers at Topgolf (*sign up online*).

VBS Registration is Now OPEN! - Get Ready, Challengers! Mark your calendars for July 19-23 and gear up for an unforgettable week of excitement for children ages 3 through 5th grade! Don't miss out, register today!

Youth Summer Camp (Breakaway) - Join other youth at Louisburg College June 22-27 for a week of faith, fun, & fellowship! Students in grades 6–12 will enjoy worship, small groups, mission projects, games, and more. Come grow, connect, and make a difference!

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, May 3

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
9:45 am Guest Speaker, Erik Parker, Sanctuary
12:30 pm Children's Ministry Vision Meeting, 200
2:30 pm Christian Believer, online
4:00 pm Set In Stone (Youth Praise Band), Sanctuary
5:00 pm Tween Ice Cream and Games, downstairs
5:00 pm Youth Group, 200
6:45 pm Youth & Parent Vision Meeting, 200

Monday, May 4

5:00 pm Wexford HOA Meeting, 108/110
6:00 pm Youth Handbells, 117
6:30 pm Boy Scouts at the Chapel
7:00 pm Soul Tenders, 200

Tuesday, May 5

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group in 114
9:45 am MOMCo Bible Study, 108/110
1:15 pm Pilates in 200
6:00 pm Christian Believer, 109
6:30 pm Cub Scout Committee Meeting, 101/103
7:00 pm Missions Committee, 108/110 & Teams
7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting, 111

Wednesday, May 6

9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, 200
4:00 pm Crafting in 200
6:00 pm Eagle Boards, 111
7:00 pm Choir Practice, 119

Thursday, May 7

9:45 am Pilates in 200
1:15 pm MomCo Playdate, playground
6:30 pm Adult Handbells, 117
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary

Friday, May 8, No Church Events

Saturday, May 9

11:00 am Cub Scout Carwash Fundraiser, parking lot

Pastor and Directors serving today:

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

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.



May 3, 2026 5th 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.