

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	Praise What A Beautiful Name	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	Ephesians 1:15-23	Darleen Tibbs
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		Luke 24:44-53 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.
Sermon	"In the Waiting"	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Prayer		
* Response Praise Song	Yes I Will	Praise Team
Prayers of the People		Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
The Lord's Prayer		
Celebration of Ministry: Women's Retreat		Becky Fouts
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	Who Else Set In Stone
	* Offering Praise Song	
	* Prayer	UMH, 94
* Closing Praise Song	Desert Song	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	It is Well	Youth Handbells
* Call to Worship	Clap your hands, all you peoples – shout to God with loud songs of joy! God reigns over all the earth; we gather to sing praise! We are here in the in-between – after resurrection, before the Spirit descends, wondering what God might do next. In the waiting, we will praise your name! Lift your voices. Open your hands. God has gone up with a shout – and we are not waiting alone.	
* Opening Praise Song	I Believe	Set In Stone
* Opening Prayer		Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye God of every in-between moment: you met the disciples in their bewilderment and called it a threshold, not an ending. We are a waiting people, too. We wait for healing, for clarity, for courage, to see what you are unfolding. Meet us here, and fill us with your presence that we might leave, like those first disciples, with great joy. 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. <i>As a forgiven and reconciled people, we exchange peace with others in the congregation.</i>	

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination		Gwen Cox The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray:
First Scripture Reading		Ephesians 1:15-23
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	What a Beautiful Name	Covenant
* Second Scripture Reading		Luke 24:44-53 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.
Sermon	"In the Waiting"	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

Response and Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Ministry: Women's Retreat Becky Fouts

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

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

Offertory	Who Else	Set In Stone
* Doxology		UMH, 94
* Prayer		

Sending Forth

*** Closing Praise Song** Build Your Kingdom Here Set In Stone

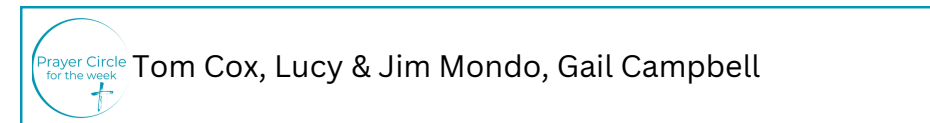
*** Dismissal with Blessing**

*** Postlude**

* Please stand as you are able.

The rose on the altar is given in celebration of Benjamin Taylor Miller, born May 6, 2026, to Chloe & Justin Miller, grandson of Kim and Craig Miller

The flowers on the altar are offered in celebration of the college students in the Secret Pals program, each flower designed in the colors of the student's school.



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!

Mark your calendars! We will gather for ONE combined Worship Service at 10 am on:

May 24 – Memorial Day Weekend (**NEXT SUNDAY**)

July 5 – July 4th Weekend

We look forward to worshipping together as one church family!

Please note: There will be NO Sunday School on these Sundays.

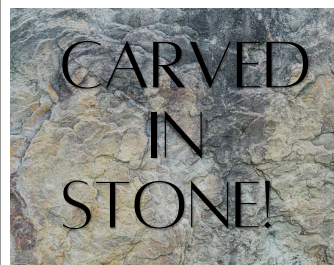
Support Miracle Sunday

Join United Methodists around the world for a special one-time offering supporting theological education for future clergy leaders across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. Together, we can help prepare and encourage the next generation of pastors and church leaders. If you would like to give through Soapstone UMC, give online, soapstoneumc.org/give, or designate your gift "Miracle Sunday" in the offering plate today. *Please make checks payable to SoapstoneUMC.*



Check out Pastor Damion's podcast, Carved in Stone!

Each episode explores honest conversations about faith, Scripture, and real-life questions with humility and hope. It's a thoughtful space to listen, learn, and grow wherever you are. Check it out wherever you listen to podcasts or find it on our website, soapstoneumc.org/podcast



Breakaway 2026: "You've Got a Friend in Me"

June 22-27 at Louisburg College

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to an unforgettable week of worship, friendships, games, mission projects, and late-night fun. Grow in your faith, make memories, and experience the best week of summer! Register by June 1.

Looking Ahead at Future Dates

5/31: 5th Sunday Food Collection

6/3: Crafting Ministry: Craft Swap, 4 pm

6/7: Senior Sunday, 11 am

6/7: VBS Decorating & Praise Team Practice Starts, 5 pm

6/9: TLC at Milton's, 11:30 am

6/11: Women's Dinner Out at Rudinos, 6 pm

6/20: Uniquely Fun Outing, Water Games, 1-3 pm

6/21: Farewell Gathering for Danny Peck

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, May 17

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

12:15 pm College Secret Pal Reveal Lunch, 200

12:15 pm Children's Council, 108/110

2:30 pm Christian Believer, online

5:00 pm Books that Stick with Pastor Laura, 101/103

5:00 pm High School Hangout at Top Golf

5:00 pm Middle School Hangout at TreeRunner

7:00 pm Finance Meeting Room, 108/110

Monday, May 18

5:30 pm Lay Leadership, 101/103

6:30 pm Boy Scouts, at the Chapel

Tuesday, May 19

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114

9:30 am MOMCo Bible Study, 108/110

2:00 pm Pilates, 200

6:00 pm Christian Believer, 109

7:00 pm Church Council, 108/110

Wednesday, May 20

9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, 200

9:00 am Preschool Spring Sing, Sanctuary

6:00 pm Eagle Boards, 111, 114

7:00 pm Choir Practice, 119

7:00 pm Women's Book Club, Online

Thursday, May 21

9:45 am Pilates, 200

9:45 am Preschool Spring Sing, Sanctuary

10:00 am MOMCo Playdate, Pleasant Grove UMC playground

1:15 pm MOMCo Playdate, SUMC Playground

6:00 pm District Committee Meeting, 201, 202, outside

Friday, May 22, No Church Events

Saturday, May 23, No Church Events

Pastors 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 am – 3:30 pm, 919-846-2212



May 17, 2026 Ascension Sunday

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.