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**

*** 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 Psalm 139:1-12 Jo Foard

Children's Moment LilliCate and Blair Roberts
Nursery (ages 5 & under) is available (116). A calming room (109), sensory room (115), and nursing room (114) are available. The Sanctuary offers rocking chairs and a PrayGround. Activity bags are available in the Narthex. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Second Scripture Reading Genesis 28:10-19a
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "In This Place" Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

Prayer

*** Response Praise Song** Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) Praise Team

Prayers of the People Rev. George Freeman

The Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Ministry: Waynesville Mission Trip

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

Offertory Holy Spirit Praise Team

*** Offering Praise Song**

*** Prayer**

*** Closing Praise Song** The Lion And The Lamb Praise Team

Blessing of Vacation Bible School Volunteers

*** 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** Hunter Browning

*** Call to Worship**
Creator God, you are in this place.
God of day and night, God of word and silence, you are in this place.
Saving God, guiding God, you are in this place.
God within us, you are in this place.
Even when we can't discern your presence, you are in this place.
Open our hearts to see you and to worship you, now and always.

*** Opening Hymn** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah UMH, 127

*** Opening Prayer** Rev. George Freeman
Almighty God, you came to Jacob in the wilderness, not in the sanctuary. You met him in his fear, not his strength. You found him in a place he did not choose, and you stayed. Forgive us when we look for you only in high, holy moments, or calm and familiar places. Open our eyes and show us the ground beneath our feet. Help us to anticipate your presence, everywhere we go. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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 Gwen Cox
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

First Scripture Reading Psalm 139:1-12

Children's Moment LilliCate and Blair Roberts
Nursery (ages 5 & under) is available (116). A calming room (109), sensory room (115), and nursing room (114) are available. The Sanctuary offers rocking chairs and a PrayGround. Activity bags are available in the Narthex. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Proclamation Song Surely the Presence of the Lord Chancel Choir
Jeanne Holly, Cello

Second Scripture Reading Genesis 28:10-19a
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "In This Place" Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

Response and Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Ministry: Waynesville Mission Trip

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

Offertory We are Not Alone Covenant

*** Doxology** UMH, 94

*** Prayer**

Sending Forth

*** Closing Hymn** Holy Ground TFWS, 2272

Blessing of Vacation Bible School Volunteers

*** Dismissal with Blessing**

*** Postlude**

** Please stand as you are able.*

The flowers on the altar are given by
Mike & Debbie Serra in memory of Diane McCord.

Prayer Circle for the week
Viv Jones, Kelly Hodges, VBS Volunteers & Participants,
Connie Wrba at the death of her mother, Theresa DiBenedetto.

2nd Quarter Stewardship Update
Total income to date is $498k; our total expenses are $500k.
Total Congregational Giving $475k, almost 50% to our Budget of $960k.
Giving from pledging church members is on pace ($342,545), and
$111,921 non-pledged funds have been received to date.

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.

RSVP

The Winter Challenge starts here! Join us for our VBS Kickoff Party TONIGHT, 5–6:30 pm, for hot dogs, chips, drinks, and a foam party! Everyone is welcome—even if you're not registered for VBS! Help our VBS mission project by bringing boxed pasta & sauce during the month of July.

UFO
*(**U**niquely **F**un **O**uting)*

Create • Connect • Smile!
Happiness Ministry, designed for uniquely abled adults, invites you to an afternoon of crafting and fellowship on July 25, 1–3 pm in Room 200.
Sign up to create or volunteer!

Men, Let's Retreat Together

Sign up for the Men's Retreat to Bear Mountain, July 31 - Aug. 2.
This great weekend includes golf (for those who love to play),river sittin', campfires, camping or cabin lodging, story-telling, and a lot of relaxation.

FIGHTING WORDS: THE ART OF DISAGREEING WELL

Thursday, August 6
6:00–8:00 PM
Soapstone UMC, Sanctuary

All are welcome!

Join Pastor Damion in learning how healthy disagreements can lead to greater understanding, stronger relationships and opportunities for healing.

In a world where disagreements can quickly turn into divisions, learning how to navigate difficult conversations is more important than ever. Whether the topic is politics, faith, family, social issues, or everyday decisions, this engaging lecture will explore practical ways to communicate with grace and understanding.

Register with the QR Code.

Looking Ahead at Future Dates

8/1: Sponges & Sisterhood Event, 10 am
8/5: Women's Dinner Out, Carolina Ale House, 6 pm
8/11: Tuesday Lunch Crew, Salt and Lime, 4800 Grove Barton Rd
8/14: Family Night @ the Durham Bulls Ball field,6:45 pm
8/15: Children's Carnival for uniquely abled pre-k - 5th grades, 10 am
8/22: Uniquely Fun Outing, Bowling & Pizza, 1-3 pm
8/23: Leadership Lunch, 12:30 - 2:30 pm
8/23: Backpack Blessing during worship services

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, July 19
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
5:00 pm VBS Kick Off
Monday, July 20
9:30 am VBS Morning Session
6:30 pm VBS Evening Session
Tuesday, July 21
9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114
9:30 am VBS Morning Session
1:15 pm Pilates, 200
6:30 pm VBS Evening Session
Wednesday, July 22
9:30 am VBS Morning Session
6:30 pm VBS Evening Session
Thursday, July 23
9:30 am VBS Morning Session
6:30 pm VBS Evening Session
Friday, July 24
9:00 am MOMCo Playdate, SUMC Playground
Saturday, July 25
1:00 pm UFO Craft Event

Receive Weekly Emails & Stay Engaged in the Life of the Church

Scan the QR Code for General Church Emails

Scan the QR Code for Family Ministries Emails

Pastors and Directors serving today:
Lead Pastor: Rev. Laura Fine Ledford, lfineledford@soapstoneumc.org
Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye, dquaye@soapstoneumc.org
Pastor of Congregational Care: Rev. George Freeman, gfreeman@soapstoneumc.org
Director of Music Ministries: Andrea Turner, aturner@soapstoneumc.org
Office hours: Monday — Thursday, 9 am — 3:30 pm, 919-846-2212

soapstone

UNITED METHODIST

July 19, 2026
8th Sunday after Pentecost

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.