

## 10:00 am Traditional Worship

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

### Gathering

Chiming of the Trinity	Kelly Hodges
Welcome	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
* Prelude	Paula Scicluna
* Call to Worship	
Arise, shine, for your light has come. <b>The glory of God is rising upon us.</b> Lift up your eyes and see how the star shines, and leads us into the gift of God's presence. <b>Let us worship the Light of the world, now and always.</b>	
* Opening Hymn	Blessed Assurance UMH, 369
* Opening Prayer	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Holy God, Light of every nation, you put stars in the sky that point toward you, and lead us to experience your mysterious grace. Surprise us today with the same light that surprised the Magi, and help us to find you in dreams, and detours, and the ordinary goodness of life. We pray this in the name of the Christ child, the light of the world. Amen.	
<b>Proclamation and Response</b>	
Prayer for Illumination	James Bernstein
The Lord be with you. <b>And also with you.</b> Let us pray:	
First Scripture Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6
Children's Moment	
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	Make it Well Praise Ensemble
Second Scripture Reading	Matthew 2:1-12
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>	
Star Word Testimonies	Billy Dibbert, Katie Rawson, and Chris Bowley

### Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Table	
Confession and Words of Assurance	
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. <b>Glory to God. Amen.</b>	
* Passing of the Peace	
The peace of Christ be with you. <b>And also with you.</b> <i>As a forgiven and reconciled people, we exchange peace with others in the congregation.</i>	
Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings	
<i>Please sign the Fellowship Pad, pass it down the row, and back again.</i>	
Offertory	
* Doxology	UMH, 621
* Prayer	
<b>Holy Communion</b>	
* 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	
<b>Sending Forth</b>	
* Closing Hymn	Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us UMH, 381
* Dismissal with Blessing	
* Postlude	
	<i>* Please stand as you are able.</i>
	The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of Bill & Rebecca Poston's 40th wedding anniversary.



Ellen Schloemer

The Kendall family at the death of Ben's stepfather, Ata.

The Smith family at the death of Steve's sister, Lindsey.



### Family Camping Weekend at Camp Don Lee | September 18-20

Soapstone UMC is exploring a Family Camping Weekend at Camp Don Lee, and we'd love to know who is interested! The weekend will include faith-filled activities, fellowship, family fun, and plenty of time to enjoy Camp Don Lee's offerings, including canoeing, sailing, swimming, archery, and more. Families will stay in climate-controlled cabins, and meals will be provided from Saturday breakfast through Sunday breakfast. If you are interested in attending, please use the QR code to sign up. A formal registration will be sent out if there is enough interest.

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**Register to participate to volunteer for VBS**  
Morning Session – 9:30 am - Noon July 20-23  
Age 3 – Kindergarten  
Evening Session 6 -8 pm  
Kindergarten - 5th grade



**Only a few open spots left for our morning and evening Challengers!**



**Join the VBS Praise Team for our morning & evening assemblies during VBS!**

Open to Students in Grades 3-12  
Upcoming Rehearsal:  
July 12, 5-6 pm

### Church Family, Be Part of the VBS Adventure! Volunteers Needed!

Vacation Bible School is almost here, and we'd love your help! Whether you have a few hours or several days, there's a place for you to serve. Use the QR code to volunteer as a Shepherd for a Challenger group, or help with crafts, science, games, decorations, or behind-the-scenes support. Not available during VBS? You can still make a difference by donating needed supplies—visit the Donation Board in the Narthex.

#### Decoration Prep Week:

July 13-16 | 10 am-noon (*Preschool Hall Preparation*)  
July 17 | 4-6:30 pm (*Final Decorating*)  
July 18 | 10 am (*Final Decorating*)

*Come be part of helping children experience God's love through an unforgettable week of fun and faith!*

**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.

**College Secret Pal Registration**

Calling all college students! Sign up by July 15 to be matched with a Soapstone Secret Pal who will encourage you and send treats throughout the school year. Scan the QR code to register, and don't forget to send us a recent photo of yourself!



**Ladies, You're Invited to Dinner Out!**

Join us this Wednesday for great food and even better company! Come connect with other women over dinner at some of our favorite local spots. July 8, 6 pm, at Milton's, (8853 Six Forks Rd).



**"Interested in helping underserved youth learn about the love of Jesus?"**

Join others on one of the Sundays listed below to learn about this mission opportunity and the help we need. Use the QR code & sign up to visit the Insight Crisis & Assessment facility with other SUMC volunteers.



**Insight's Juvenile Assessment Interest Sessions at Soapstone UMC:** July 12 or August 16  
9:45 - 10:45 am  
Room 108/110



**Soapstone UMC Goes to the Ball Park!**

We'll be watching the Durham Bulls take on the Memphis Redbirds at Bulls Athletic Park on August 14, 6:45 pm. Tickets are \$27 each.



**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.

**Looking Ahead at Future Dates**

- 7/14: Tuesday Lunch Crew, Outback, 7500 Creedmoor Rd
- 7/25: Uniquely Fun Outing, Crafting, 1-3 pm
- 8/5: Women's Dinner Out, Carolina Ale House, 6 pm
- 8/6: Fighting Words: The Art of Disagreeing Well, Lecture, 6 pm
- 8/11: Tuesday Lunch Crew, Salt and Lime, 4800 Grove Barton Rd

**Opportunities for Worship and Ministry**

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

**Sunday, July 5**

10:00 am Worship Service

**Monday, July 6, No Church Events**

**Tuesday, July 7**

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114

1:15 pm Pilates, 200

6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting, 108/110

**Wednesday, July 8**

10:00 am VBS Prep

2:00 pm Dementia Support Group, 108/110

6:00 pm VBS Prep

6:00 pm Women's Dinner Out, Milton's

6:00 pm Eagle Board of Reviews

**Thursday, July 9**

9:45 am Pilates, 200

1:15 pm MOMCo Mom's Night Out, Pickled Onion

**Friday, July 10, No Church Events**

10:00 am VBS Prep

**Saturday, July 11, No Church Events**

soapstone



UNITED METHODIST

**July 5, 2026**

**6th 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.

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](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)

**Office hours:** Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 3:30 pm, 919-846-2212

[soapstoneumc.org](http://soapstoneumc.org)