

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	Glorious Day	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	Psalm 133	Emily Day
Children’s Moment	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye <i>Nursery (ages 5 & under) is available (116). A calming room (111), movement room (115), and nursing room (114) are available. Activity items are available in the Narthex. Children must be accompanied by an adult.</i>	
* Second Scripture Reading	Matthew 15:20-28 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	“The Weight of a Word”	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Prayer		
* Response Praise Song	Goodness Of God	Praise Team
Prayers of the People		
The Lord’s Prayer		
Ministry Moment	North Raleigh Ministries	
Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings	Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it down the row and back again.	
	Offertory	
	* Offering Praise Song	
	* Prayer	
* Closing Praise Song	I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever	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	Hunter Browning	
* Call to Worship	In the beginning, God spoke, and the world came into being. Let us worship the One whose word brings life. We have been given the gift of speech - to bless, to heal, to call one another by name. May our words reflect the One who made us. Let us worship the God who hears every voice, and who calls us to speak with truth and with love.	
* Opening Hymn	O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs 1-4)	UMH, 57
* Opening Prayer	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye Loving and most gracious God, You speak and bring life. Your words are meant to build up, and not tear down. We thank you for every kindness spoken over us, every truth offered gently, every silence held with care when we needed to be heard rather than fixed	
* Confession and Words of Assurance	The leader ends with " ... In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven." 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	Cindy Stone The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray:	
First Scripture Reading	Psalm 133	
Children’s Moment	Nursery (ages 5 & under) is available (116). A calming room (111), movement room (115), and nursing room (114) are available. Activity items are available in the Narthex. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	

Proclamation Song	Let the Words of My Mouth	Chancel Choir
* Second Scripture Reading	Matthew 15:20-28 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	“The Weight of a Word”	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Response and Thanksgiving		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord’s Prayer		
Ministry Moment	North Raleigh Ministries	
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, 94
* Prayer		
Sending Forth		
* Closing Hymn	My Faith Looks Up to Thee	UMH, 452
* Dismissal with Blessing		
* Postlude		
 <i>* Please stand as you are able.</i> 		
The flowers on the altar today are given in honor of the students returning to school and in celebration of Soapstone's commitment to support, encourage, and invest in them wherever their educational journey may lead.		



Prayer Circle
for the week

Family and friends of Joan Cavin, who died on 8/8/26.
A service will be held in the Sanctuary on 8/21/26 at 2 pm.



Family and friends of Joan Cavin, who died on 8/8/26. A service will be held in the Sanctuary on 8/21/26 at 2 pm.

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.



Bowl with Happiness Ministry

Created especially for uniquely abled adults, our Uniquely Fun Outings (*UFO*) are a chance to connect, have fun, and enjoy time together! Join us for an afternoon of bowling, pizza, laughter, and fellowship on August 22, 1–3 pm in Room 200. Sign up to participate or volunteer – we'd love to have you be part of the fun!



Backpack Blessing – Sunday, August 23

Bring your backpack to either worship service as we pray a blessing over students, teachers, school staff, and families as they begin a new school year.



Leadership Lunch for all Committee Members:
Let's Kick Off a Great Year Together!

A huge thank you for serving at Soapstone UMC! We can't wait to gather all committee members on Sunday, August 23, 12:30–2:30 pm for lunch, laughter, encouragement, and a look at what's ahead. Please RSVP by August 19 so we can save you a seat (and plenty of lunch!).



Use the QR code to register!



Join Our Pastors

Visitors to Soapstone are invited to join us Sunday, August 30, at 9:45 am in Room 202 for coffee, conversation, and connection with our pastors. Learn more about life at Soapstone, ways to get involved, and how God is at work in our community.

- Looking Ahead at Future Dates
- 8/30: Safer Sanctuaries Training, 9:45 am

8/30: Ministry Fair, after both worship services

8/30: Youth Group Outing: Goodberry's, 5 pm

9/7-9/11: Carolina Rebuilding Ministry Work Week

9/8: Tuesday Lunch Crew, 12 pm, potluck at SUMC

9/11: Women's Ministry Movie Night, "War Room", 5:30 pm

9/12: Christmas Cantata Rehearsals Begin, 9 am

9/13: Rites of Passage: 3rd Graders receive Bibles, during worship

9/13: Connections Class, 9:45 am

9/13: Fall Kickoff for families in Kids Rock & Youth Group, 4 - 6:30 pm

9/13: Safer Sanctuaries Training, 5:45 pm

10/3: Women's Event: Blooms & Fellowship, 10 am

Look for more info on these events and more dates soon!

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

- Sunday, August 16

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

9:45 am Insight's Juvenile Assessment Interest Meeting, 108/110

7:00 pm Finance Committee, 108/110

Monday, August 17

6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Chapel

7:00 pm MOMCo Moms Night Out, Relish

Tuesday, August 18

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114

1:15 pm Pilates, 200

5:30 pm Outdoor Worship Planning, 101/103

7:00 pm Church Council, Online

Wednesday, August 19

10:00 am MOMCo Pool Party Playdate (Wood Valley Pool)

6:00 pm Eagle Boards of Review, 111 & 114

Thursday, August 20

9:45 am Pilates, 200

7:30 pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary

Friday, August 21

2:00 pm Memorial Service for Joan Cavin, Sanctuary

Saturday, August 22

7:45 am Teaching Biblical Faith, 108/110

1:00 pm Uniquely Fun Outing, Bowling & Pizza, 200

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



- 10/4: One 10 am Worship Service at Norwood Gardens
- 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

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

soapstone



UNITED METHODIST

August 16, 2026

12th 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.