

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	Praise the Lord	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	Exodus 31:1-6	Jim Galloway
Children’s Moment - Backpack Blessing	Blair Roberts <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	Romans 12:1-8 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	“Gifts for the Body”	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Prayer		
* Response Praise Song	Send Me	Praise Team
Prayers of the People	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye	
The Lord’s Prayer		
Ministry Moment: Sunday School Invitation	Timothy Gonzales	
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	Paula Scicluna
	* Offering Praise Song	
	* Prayer	
* Closing Praise Song	Here I Am, Lord	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	Paula Scicluna	
* Call to Worship		
Christ calls us to offer our whole selves as a living sacrifice.		
We are not our own; we belong to the mercy of God.		
Each of us carries a gift, unearned and unrepeatable, given for the sake of the whole.		
We are one body, many members, bound together in love.		
Let us worship the God who calls us, transforms us, and sends us out together.		
We worship the living God!		
* Opening Hymn	Forward Through the Ages	UMH, 555
* Opening Prayer		
Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye		
Almighty and loving God, you do not ask for burnt offerings or empty gestures; instead you ask for us: for our attention, our habits, our ordinary lives, laid down as an act of worship. You call us out of the world's mold and into a mind made new, out of isolation and into a body where every member belongs. Meet us here and remind us that the body is not whole until every member is known and valued, and that the gifts you have given us, however ordinary they seem, are enough.		
We pray in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.		
* 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		
Jeanne Moore		
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray:		
First Scripture Reading		
Exodus 31:1-6		

Children’s Moment - Backpack Blessing

Blair Roberts

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

I'm gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Chancel Choir

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 12:1-8

This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Gifts for the Body”

Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

Response and Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Ministry Moment: Sunday School Invitation

Timothy Gonzales

Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

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

Offertory

* Doxology

UMH, 94

* Prayer

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn

Here I Am, Lord

UMH, 593

* Dismissal with Blessing

* Postlude

Paula Scicluna

* Please stand as you are able.

The flowers on the altar today are given by

Becky Fouts in celebration and thankfulness

for her beautiful sister, Judy, on her recent birthday!

Prayer Circle for the week

Gary & Karen Shell, Jim Mondo, Family of Joan Cavin,

LeighAnne Bowen at the death of her mother, Patricia Harley.

Vivian Mast at the death of her dad, Robert Kwee on 8/11/26.

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.

**MINISTRY FAIR**

Growing Closer to God Together
Attend a Ministry Fair, Sunday, August 30, after both services. All adults are invited to the Narthex to learn more and sign up for Fall Sunday School classes, small groups, and Bible studies. Group leaders will be there with materials and ready to answer any questions you have.

**SAFER SANCTUARIES**

Upcoming Training
Help us keep our children, youth, and vulnerable adults safe! All volunteers serving in Children's, Youth, or Happiness Ministries are required to complete annual Safer Sanctuaries training. Sign up for an upcoming training:
• August 30 at 9:45 am • September 13 at 5:45 pm

**Coffee with our Pastors**

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.

Use the QR code to register!


Calling all rising 6th–12th graders!
Meet us at Goodberry's (13260 Strickland Rd.) on Sunday, August 30, 5–6 pm for a sweet treat and to meet your **NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR, Erin Shiflett!**
Bring a friend and just show up—no registration needed!

5th Sunday Food Drive: August 30
Help fill the shelves at North Raleigh Ministries! Bring non-perishable food items to the collection carts in the Narthex or Norwood foyers. See the website for a full list of what items are needed most.

Looking Ahead at Future Dates
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
9/12: Loss of Spouse Session, 2 pm
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
9/16: GriefShare Begins (13-week class), 6 pm
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 23
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
12:30 pm Leadership Meeting and Lunch, 200
4:00 pm Set In Stone Practice, Sanctuary

Monday, August 24
8:30 am Preschool Staff Training Meeting, 200
9:30 am MOMCo Coffee & Chat, Beow's Coffee & Cafe
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Chapel

Tuesday, August 25
9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114
9:00 am Preschool Staff Training - Active Attack, 200
1:15 pm Pilates, 200
7:00 pm SPRC, 202 & Online

Wednesday, August 26
9:00 am CPR Training, 200
6:00 pm Eagle Boards of Review, 111 & 114
7:00 pm Choir Practice, 119
7:30 pm Dismantling Racism Book Discussion, online

Thursday, August 27
9:45 am Pilates, 200
6:00 pm Preschool Parent Open House, Preschool Hall

Friday, August 28, No Church Events Scheduled

Saturday, August 29
8:00 am First Born Church: Women's Conference Day, 200 & Kitchen

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, lfineledford@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 23, 2026
13th 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.