

8:30 am Worship with Praise Music		
Assisted Listening Devices are available at the A/V booth.		
Chiming of the Trinity		
Welcome		Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
* Opening Praise Songs	Cornerstone Holy Spirit	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	Romans 12:9-21	Wonderfully Made Class
Children’s Moment		
<i>Nursery (ages 5 & under) is available (116). A calming room (111), movement room (115), and nursing room (114) are available.</i> <i>Activity items are available in the Narthex.</i> <i>Children must be accompanied by an adult.</i>		
* Second Scripture Reading		Matthew 16:21-28
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.		
Sermon	“Human Things”	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
Prayer		
* Response Praise Song	Lord I Lift Your Name On High	Praise Team
Prayers of the People		Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
The Lord’s Prayer		
Ministry Moment: Happiness Ministry		Julie Scroggs
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		
* Offering Praise Song		
* Prayer		
* Closing Praise Song	Lead On Good Shepherd	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		
Welcome		Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
* Prelude		Paula Scicluna
* Call to Worship		
We come as we are—human, imperfect, hopeful, afraid, joyful, and weary. We come to the God who meets us exactly where we are. We come with human logic: protect yourself, guard what you have, keep the score even. But we are not gathered here for human things. We are gathered to set our minds on the things of God. So let love be genuine among us. Let us hold fast to what is good. Come, let us worship the God who transforms ordinary people into a people of extraordinary love. We worship the God who teaches us how to live—and how to love—like Jesus.		
* Opening Hymn	Lord I Lift Your Name on High	led by Praise Team and Wonderfully Made Class
* Opening Prayer		
Rev. Laura Fine Ledford Gracious and loving God, we come before you as human beings. We come with all that is beautiful about us and all that is broken, asking you to reorder us. Teach us to be less consumed with our human things — our fears, our grudges, our need to be right, and safe and first — and set our minds instead on the things that are yours: love, endurance, honor, peace pursued even when it costs us something. Give us hearts willing to lose what we've been clutching, so that we might find the life you have for us. Help us do more than hear about Jesus; shape us a little more into his likeness. We pray this in the name of Christ, who calls us to take up our cross, follow him, and discover what it truly means to be human. 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. <i>As a forgiven and reconciled people, we exchange peace with others in the congregation.</i>		

Proclamation		
Prayer for Illumination		Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
The Lord be with you. And also with you.		
First Scripture Reading	Romans 12:9-21	Wonderfully Made Class
Children’s Moment		
Wonderfully Made Class <i>Nursery (ages 5 & under) is available (116). A calming room (111), movement room (115), and nursing room (114) are available.</i> <i>Activity items are available in the Narthex.</i> <i>Children must be accompanied by an adult.</i>		
* Second Scripture Reading		Matthew 16:21-28
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.		
Sermon	“Human Things”	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
Response and Thanksgiving		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord’s Prayer		
Ministry Moment: Happiness Ministry		Julie Scroggs
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	I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	TFWS, 2129
* Dismissal with Blessing		
* Postlude		Paula Scicluna
* Please stand as you are able.		
The flowers on the altar today are given by Matt & Jessica Slessman in celebration of Lily’s 13th birthday.		
Prayer Circle for the week Karen Shell and family at the death of her husband, Gary, Jim Mondo.		

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.



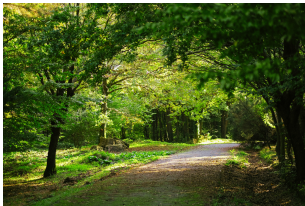
Calling all rising 6th–12th graders!

Meet us at Goodberry's (13260 Strickland Rd.) tonight from 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!



September Crafting Ministry: Chrismons for Vietnam

Join the Crafting Ministry on September 2, 4 pm, Room 200. We'll create Chrismon ornaments for children in Vietnam to decorate during the December mission trip to Vietnam. Anh Nguyen will also share about the upcoming trip.



Greenway Walkers — New This Fall

Interested in a weekly greenway walk? We're forming a group for November–April and want to hear from those interested so we can choose the day and time—Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday—that works best for the group. Interested? Contact Anh Nguyen at 919-815-7691 or anhnguyen515@gmail.com.



Fridays with Friends

A welcoming day for adults with disabilities to connect, serve, create, learn life skills, and have fun! Meets every other Friday, 10 am–3 pm at Soapstone UMC. Lunch is \$5. We also need 4–5 volunteers each gathering to help make the day special. Contact the church office to learn more or volunteer!



Welcome our New Interim Director of Children and Family Ministries

We're excited to share that Blair Roberts will be stepping in as our Interim Director of Children and Family Ministries, beginning Tuesday, September 1. Blair is committed to serving through the end of the year, providing steady leadership, supporting our volunteers, and helping our children continue to grow in faith and connection at Soapstone UMC. Read her full bio on the website and in the e-news.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

- Sunday, August 30

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
9:45 am Coffee with the Pastors, 200
9:45 am Safer Sanctuaries Training, Sanctuary
3:45 pm Set In Stone Practice, Sanctuary
5:00 pm Youth Outing at Goodberry's, 13260 Strickland Rd.

Monday, August 31

9:30 am MOMCo Coffee & Chatt, Beow's Coffee & Cafe
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Chapel

Tuesday, September 1

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114
1:15 pm Pilates, 200
6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting, 101/103
7:00 pm Missions Committee, 108/110
7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting, 111

Wednesday, September 2

9:00 am Coffee & Conversation for Preschool Parents
4:00 pm Crafting Ministry, 200
6:00 pm Eagle Boards of Review, 111 & 114
6:00 pm Youth Handbells, 117

Thursday, September 3

9:45 am Pilates, 200
6:30 pm Adult Handbells, 119
7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study, 101/103
7:30 pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary

Friday, September 4

10:00 am Fridays with Friends, 200

Saturday, September 5, No Church Events Scheduled

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!

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

soapstone



UNITED METHODIST

August 30, 2026

14th 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.