

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	God So Loved What A Beautiful Name	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	Ezekiel 3:1-3	Darleen Tibbs
Presentation of 3 rd Grade Bibles		
Children’s Moment	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 14:1-12 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	“As Sweet As Honey”	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Prayer		
* Response Praise Song	Firm Foundation (He Won't)	Praise Team
Prayers of the People		
The Lord’s Prayer		
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
Blessing of Sunday School Teachers		
* 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		
In the beginning was the Word.		
And the Word was sweet as honey.		
God has given us a Word to nourish us, not a weapon to harm.		
Today we open ourselves to receive it again.		
Let us worship the God who still speaks, and still feeds us.		
* Opening Hymn	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	UMH, 89
* Opening Prayer		
Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye		
God who speaks,		
you gave your Word to the prophet on a scroll,		
and told him to eat it before he ever spoke it aloud.		
He said it was sweet in his mouth.		
We long for that sweetness too.		
Let your Word take root in us before it ever leaves our lips.		
Keep us from using it to judge or using it to harm.		
Feed us first, then let us speak,		
through your Son, the Word made flesh, we pray. 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	David Hodges	
The Lord be with you. And also with you.		
First Scripture Reading	Ezekiel 3:1-3	
Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles		

Children’s Moment	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 14:1-12 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	“As Sweet as Honey”	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford
Response and Thanksgiving		
* Responsive Hymn	Thy Word is a Lamp	UMH, 601
* Affirmation of Faith		
* Gloria Patri		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord’s Prayer		
Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings <i>Please sign the Fellowship Pad, pass it down the row, and back again.</i>		
Offertory		
Nothing Gonna Stumble My Feet		
Covenant		
* Doxology		
UMH, 94		
* Prayer		
Sending Forth		
* Closing Hymn	Wonderful Words of Life	UMH, 600
Blessing of Sunday School Teachers		
* Dismissal with Blessing		
Benediction		
May All Our Alleluias		
Covenant		
* Postlude		
* Please stand as you are able.		
The flowers on the altar today are given by Mike & Debbie Serra in honor of Grandparents Day		



The family of Joan Johnson at the death of her sister. Dolly Daniel, Carol Ames, Jim & Lucy Mondo, Karen Shell.

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.

Fall Kick-Off for Families – TONIGHT, 4–6:30 pm.
Enjoy a free dinner, games, bounce house, cornhole, & fellowship from 4–5 pm. From 5–6:30 pm, kids and youth (ages 4–12th grade) attend Kids’ Rock & Youth Group while parents hear ministry updates & what’s ahead this fall.



Special Offering
Through Sept. 20, we'll collect a special offering for Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry (SVCM), supporting neighbors with food, clothing, housing, utilities, transportation, and financial assistance.



Planning for Your Future
Join independent, board-certified patient advocate Audrey Gastmeyer, September 27, 2:30–4:30 pm, Room 200 for a practical overview of senior living and care options, including aging in place, Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing. Learn about levels of care, financial considerations, and how to plan ahead with confidence—whether for yourself or a loved one. Register online.

One Church, One Worship Service:
Sunday, October 4 | 10 am | Norwood Gardens
Let’s come together as one church family for a special morning of outdoor worship at Norwood Gardens! Enjoy music from our Kids’ Rock children, Chancel Choir, and Praise Team as we worship, celebrate Holy Communion, and give thanks together. After worship, stay for lunch, activities for the kids, and time to connect.

Looking Ahead at Future Dates
9/13: Safer Sanctuaries Training, 5:45 pm
9/16: GriefShare Begins (13-week class), 6 pm
9/27: Mission Fair, after worship services
9/27: Blessing of the Animals Service, 4 - 4:30 pm
10/4: One Worship Service at Norwood Gardens, 10 am
10/9: Fall BBQ Sale, 11 am -1 pm & 4 - 7 pm
10/24: Gleaning (all ages welcome)
10/25: Trunk or Treat, 5-6:30 pm
11/1: All Saints' Services, 8:30 & 11 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, September 13
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
9:45 am Connections Class, Sanctuary
10:00 am Confirmation parent meeting, 115
12:15 pm Children's Council, 108/110
12:30 pm Congregational Care, 111
3:30 pm Set In Stone Practice, Sanctuary
4:00 pm Fall Kickoff Dinner for all families
5:00 pm Fall Kickoff for Kids’ Rock & Youth Group (ends at 6:30 pm)
5:30 pm Safer Sanctuaries Training, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Finance Meeting, 108/100 & Teams

Monday, September 14
5:45 pm Girl Scout Troop #1387, 101/103
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Chapel
7:00 pm Soul Tenders, 200
7:00 pm Invitation to the New Testament, 108/110

Tuesday, September 15
9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114
1:15 pm Pilates, 200
5:00 pm Outdoor Worship Service Planning, 101/103
6:00 pm Boy Scout Court of Honor, 200
6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Church Council, 108/110 & Teams
7:00 pm Byrum Woods HOA, 101/103

Wednesday, September 16
9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, 200
6:00 pm Eagle Boards of Review, 111 & 114
6:00 pm Grief Share, 101/103
6:00 pm Youth Handbells, 117
7:00 pm Choir Practice, 119
7:00 pm Women's Book Club, online

Thursday, September 17
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 18
10:00 am Fridays with Friends, 200
12:00 pm Women's Book Club, Manchester’s

Saturday, September 19, No church events scheduled

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
Interim Director of Children's Ministries: Blair Roberts, broberts@soapstoneumc.org

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

soapstone



September 13, 2026
17th 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.