

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. Dr. Damion Quaye	
* Opening Praise Songs	Grateful Nobody Loves Me Like You	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	Philippians 1:21-30	Joan Catena
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	Matthew 20:1-16 This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	“People Problems”	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
Prayer		
* Response Praise Song	Reckless Love	Praise Team
Prayers of the People	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford	
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. Today is the last day we’ll collect a special offering for Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry. Please use the envelopes in the Fellowship Pad, and make checks payable to Soapstone UMC with Special Offering in the memo.</i>	
	Offertory	
	* Offering Praise Song	
	* Prayer	
* Closing Praise Song	Your Love Awakens Me	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. Dr. Damion Quaye	
* Prelude	Paula Scicluna	
* Call to Worship		
Come, whether you have worked all day, or arrived at the last hour.		
We come, trusting in the generosity of God.		
Come, those who have received much, and those who wonder if there will be enough.		
We come, knowing that God’s grace is not measured by our deserving.		
Come, those who rejoice easily for others, and those who struggle when someone else receives the blessing we wanted.		
We come, asking God to free us from comparison and resentment.		
Come, for the kingdom of God is not built on keeping score.		
It is built on mercy, generosity, and grace.		
Let us worship the God whose love makes room for us all.		
* Opening Hymn	O Church of God, United (vs 1, 3-4)	UMH, 547
* Opening Prayer	Rev. Laura Fine Ledford	
Generous God, we come before you with all our people problems.		
We confess that we know how to keep score. We notice who got there first, who worked the hardest, and who, in our eyes, got more than they deserved. Remind us that your kingdom is not a competition. Your grace is not a wage we earn. Your love is not a prize reserved for those who arrive first. Make us people who can celebrate when others are blessed, welcome those who arrive late, forgive those who frustrate us, and extend the same grace to others that you have so freely given to us. In the name of your precious Son 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.		
<i>As a forgiven and reconciled people, we exchange peace with others in the congregation.</i>		
Proclamation		
Prayer for Illumination	Minnie Dukes	
The Lord be with you. And also with you.		
First Scripture Reading	Philippians 1:21-30	

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>		
Proclamation Song	Yes, My Jesus Loves Me	Chancel Choir
* Second Scripture Reading	Matthew 20:1-16	
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.		
Sermon	“People Problems”	Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye
<i>Response and Thanksgiving</i>		
* Responsive Hymn	Help Us Accept Each Other (vs 1 & 3)	UMH, 560
* Social Creed <i>Please follow the screens.</i>		
* Gloria Patri		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord’s Prayer		
Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings		
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Offertory		
* Doxology	UMH, 94	
* Prayer		
<i>Sending Forth</i>		
* Closing Hymn	They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love	TFWS, 2223
* Dismissal with Blessing		
* Postlude	<i>* Please stand as you are able.</i>	
The flowers on the altar today are given in memory of Jason Geraghty.		
Prayer Circle for the week  Sarah Lancaster, at the death of her aunt. 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.



Tween's Ministry Kickoff Tonight!

4th & 5th graders and parents, join us tonight at 6:45 pm in Room 200 for pizza, games, and a fun start to a new season together!



Pilgrimage: November 13–15! Registration is open!

Soapstone youth join youth from across the NC Conference in Rocky Mount for an exciting weekend of worship, music, friendship, and fun! This year's theme, "Serve Joyfully," will inspire us to live out our faith by serving others with joy. Come be part of something bigger with guest speaker Charlie Conder! Early bird prices through September!



MOMCo Meets This Tuesday!

All moms are welcome to join us at 9:30 am in Room 108/110 for fellowship, encouragement, and conversation about motherhood and life. Childcare is available with advance registration.



Mission Fair on September 27

Come and learn how to join in mission! This is a fair to share opportunities for mission work this year at Soapstone. Groups will offer information about these opportunities in the Narthex between worship services.



Register online!

Planning for Your Future

Join 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 care levels, financial considerations, and planning ahead.



Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, September 27, 4–4:30 pm

Join us in the parking lot in front of the church to celebrate God's love and care for all creatures! Bring your pets for a special blessing. Pets of all kinds are welcome; please keep them on a leash or in a carrier. Pets may also remain in your car. Rain or shine.



One Church, One Worship Service:

Sunday, October 4 | 10 am | Norwood Gardens

Join us as one church family for outdoor worship at Norwood Gardens! Enjoy music from Kids' Rock, Chancel Choir, and Praise Team, celebrate Holy Communion, and stay afterward for lunch, kids' activities, and fellowship.



Give Online

— Every gift helps us serve and grow together.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, September 20

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

12:15 pm Preschool Advisory Committee, 108/110

4:00 pm Set In Stone Practice, Sanctuary

5:00 pm Connections Class, 101/103

5:00 pm Kids' Rock & Youth Group (ends at 6:30 pm)

6:45 pm Tween's Pizza Night, 200

Monday, September 21

6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Chapel

7:00 pm Invitation to the New Testament, 108/110

Tuesday, September 22

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114

9:30 am MOMCo Meeting, 108/110

1:15 pm Pilates, 200

6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting, Sanctuary

7:00 pm SPRC, 202

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

9:45 am Pilates, 200

6:00 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary, 108/110

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 25, No Church Events

Saturday, September 26, No church events scheduled

Looking Ahead at Future Dates

9/30: Dismantling Racism Discussion (online only), 7:30 pm

10/9: Fall BBQ Sale, 11 am -1 pm & 4 - 7 pm

10/11: One and Done Book Study, "Start with Hello", 5 pm

10/13: Tuesday Lunch Crew, Carolina Ale House, 11:30 am

10/24: Gleaning (all ages welcome)

10/25: Trunk or Treat, 5-6:30 pm

11/1: All Saints' Services, 8:30 & 11 am

11/15: Newcomer's Lunch, 12:15 pm

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

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



UNITED METHODIST

September 20, 2026

18th 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.