

One Church. One Service.



*October 4, 2026
19th Sunday after Pentecost*



soapstone
UNITED METHODIST
soapstoneumc.org

Gathering

Chiming of the Trinity

Andrea Turner

Welcome

Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

*** Prelude**

*** Call to Worship**

Taste and see that God is good.

Happy are those who take refuge here.

On the road to Emmaus, as bread was broken, eyes were opened.

Open our eyes, too, God who meets us at the table.

This is the day the crowded table draws us together.

We worship the God who makes room for all!

*** Opening Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (*vs 1 & 2*)

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee!

*** Opening Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Damion Quayle

God of the open road and the open table, you walk beside us even when we don't recognize you, and make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread. Gather us in today, and feed us, that we might know the goodness of your love. Amen.

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Jeanne Moore

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

First Scripture Reading

Psalms 34:1-8

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant,
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

*** Second Scripture Reading**

Luke 24:13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Sermon

"Crowded Table"

Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

Response and Thanksgiving**Song of Response: Crowded Table**

Chancel Choir, Praise Team Band, and Kids' Rock Choirs

*Please join us in singing the chorus.***I want a house with a crowded table and a place by the fire for ev'ryone.****Let us take on the world while we're young and able****And bring us back together when the day is done.****Prayers of the People**

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Confession, Pardon, 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.

*** The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor continues...

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor continues...

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

As you come forward, please feel free to share your financial gifts at the offering boxes located next to the Communion Table and on the left side of the worship space, closest to the garden center. You may also use the QR code on the back to give online.

There are six Communion stations today, located around the perimeter of our worship space.

Gluten-free elements are available in front of the Communion Table. If you need elements brought to your seat, please alert an usher.

Prayer following Communion

Sending Forth

House Of The Lord

**We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God, He holds the victory**

***Chorus:* There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
(Oh-oh, oh) we shout out Your praise**

*** Dismissal with Blessing**

*** Postlude**

**We sing to the God who heals
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away**

Chorus

**We were the beggars
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven, accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise**

Repeat

Chorus (Repeat twice)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



Kids Rock (*ages 4 – grade 5*) Sundays, 5-6:30 pm

Come make music, sing your heart out, and ring those handbells! Plus, join “Kids on a Mission” a few times each year to help with exciting local projects that make a difference right here in our community.

Youth Group, (*grades 6–12*), Sundays, 5-6:30 pm.

Come for the fun, stay for the community! Play wild games, listen to great music, serve others through hands-on mission projects, and connect with friends. In age-based small groups, you’ll have real conversations about faith, life, and what it means to follow Jesus in the world today.



Monday Night Formation



Come for the conversation, the food, the fellowship, and a fresh look at the road Paul traveled. Bring a friend.

All men are welcome!

The Road: Grit, Grace, and the Journeys of Paul

Men, life doesn’t always go according to plan. Join the United Methodist Men for a new four-part series exploring the adventures of the Apostle Paul—and what his experiences can teach us about navigating the challenges of life today. Through stories of shipwrecks, arrests, cultural clashes, and unexpected turns, we’ll talk about grit, resilience, faith, and integrity in the real world.

When: 1st & 3rd Mondays in October & November 6–7:30 pm

Where: Fire Pit, behind Soapstone UMC

What to Expect:

- Good food
- Honest conversation
- No heavy theology or homework
- No pressure



One and Done Book Study with Pastor Laura

Looking for a simple way to connect, reflect, and enjoy good conversation? Join Pastor Laura for an evening of discussion and reflection around books that invite us to notice, connect, belong, and find hope in everyday life.

Sunday, October 11, 5-6:30 pm, Room 101/103

“Start with Hello” by Shannan Martin.



Fall BBQ Sale, October 9, 11 am–1 pm and 4–7 pm

Our United Methodist Men sponsor this bi-annual fundraiser, serving up lunch and dinner.

All adults and youth are invited to sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups and come out to have fun while volunteering.

Park & Play | 5–6 pm. Families, come purchase your BBQ dinner and stay awhile! Enjoy your meal together at the picnic tables while the kids play on the playground. Parents/guardians, please plan to stay and supervise your children. It's a great chance to enjoy good food, fellowship, and a little playtime together!

Lunch Includes: Tubs of pork BBQ, \$9, & tubs of banana pudding, \$4, & coleslaw, \$3.

Dinner Includes: chicken, pork BBQ, & sides, \$11/plate. Desserts & drinks available.



Gleaning Day | October 24!

All ages are welcome to join Soapstone for the NC Yam Jam with the Society of Saint Andrew. We'll gather at Soapstone between 8:30–8:50 am, then carpool at 9 am to a local farm to glean the fields starting at 10 am. Come ready for fresh air, good company, and making a difference! Sign up with the QR Code.



Trunk or Treat, October 25, 5-6:30 pm

Come gather with our Soapstone community for an evening of costumes, laughter, and fun! Decorate your kid-friendly trunk and fill it with treats to share, or simply bring the kids in costume and enjoy the festivities. We'll gather in the front parking lot at SUMC for an evening of treats, food, fellowship, and plenty of fun. All are welcome!



Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, October 4

10:00 am Worship Service

4:00 pm Set In Stone Practice, Sanctuary

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

Monday, October 5

6:30 pm Troop 399 Parent Meeting, 101/103

6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Chapel

6:30 pm Youth Council Meeting, 202

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

7:00 pm Soul Tenders, 200

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114

1:15 pm Pilates, 200

6:30 pm Cub Scout Committee Meeting, 101/103

7:00 pm Missions Committee, 108/110 & Teams

7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting, 111

Wednesday, October 7

8:30 am Preschool Costume Exchange, 101/103

9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, 200

4:00 pm Crafting Ministry, 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, October 8

8:30 am Preschool Costume Exchange, 101/103

9:45 am Pilates, 200

6:30 pm Banana Pudding Making, Big Kitchen

6:30 pm Adult Handbells, 119

7:00 pm Trustees Meeting, 108/110

7:00 pm MomCo Moms Night Out, Salt & Lime (*4800 Grove Barton Rd*)

7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study, 101/103

7:30 pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary

Friday, October 9

11:00 am BBQ Sale (*ends at 1 pm*)

4:00 pm BBQ Sale (*ends at 7 pm*)

5:00 pm Park & Play at BBQ Sale, Preschool Playground (*ends at 6 pm*)

6:30 pm Confirmation Retreat, 200

Saturday, October 10

9:30 am Confirmation Retreat, 200

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

Give Online – Every gift helps us serve and grow together.