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 Praise Team

*** Opening Prayer** Don Warsing

*** 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.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 19:1-10 Emily Day

Children's Moment 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.

*** Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 2:1-6
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "By Way of the Star and Scripture" Rev. Jonathan Park

Prayer

Response Praise Song For The Sake Of The World Praise Team

Prayers of the People Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings
Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it down the row and back again. The Special Offering will go towards Bibles & Backpacks. Please use the envelopes in the attendance pads; make checks payable to Soapstone UMC.

Offertory Paula Scicluna

*** Offering Praise Song**

*** Prayer**

*** Closing Praise Song** My Lighthouse 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** A Gospel Hymn Ring Cornerstone Ringers

*** Call to Worship**
The heavens are telling the glory of God;
the night sky is bright with promise.
God's word is a lamp to our feet;
its light shows us the way.
God makes room for every seeker,
and promises to guide us home. Thanks be to God! Amen!

*** Opening Hymn** To God Be the Glory UMH, 98

*** Opening Prayer**
God of starlight and scripture, you have never left your people without a sign. You set lights in the heavens, spoke your promises through the prophets, and drew strangers from far countries to kneel before a child in Bethlehem. Turn our faces toward you again. Give us the courage of the magi to set out, the humility to ask for directions, and the joy of arriving where Christ is found. In Jesus' name 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 Donna Mayo
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

First Scripture Reading Psalm 19:1-10

Children's Moment 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 Blest Be the Tie Chancel Choir

*** Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 2:1-6
This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "By Way of the Star and Scripture" Rev. Jonathan Park

Response and Thanksgiving

*** Affirmation of Faith** UMH, 881

*** Gloria Patri** UMH, 71

Prayers of the People Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings
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Offertory

*** Doxology** UMH, 94

*** Prayer**

Sending Forth

*** Closing Hymn** The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve TFWS, 2241

Commissioning of Vietnam Mission Team

*** Dismissal with Blessing**

*** Postlude** Paula Scicluna

** Please stand as you are able.*

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ryan David Maynard by his parents, Amy and Gary.

Prayer Circle for the week

Beth Chase, at the death of her husband, Dick, on 11/10;
Jim Mondo; Rebecca Galloway;
Youth Ministry, Pilgrimage participants;

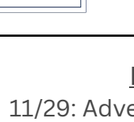
Visiting for the first time? We're glad you're here!
Please text "Welcome" to 919-689-4300, scan the QR code, or write your name and phone number in the attendance pad. We'd love to greet you by text and email. Stop by the Welcome Center to receive a gift and learn more about us!

Upcoming News & Events

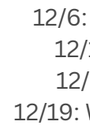
Sign up for events and learn more by visiting our website.

Christmas Challenge Congregational Vote
The Missions Committee needs your input! Help us choose which three organizations Soapstone will support for our annual Christmas Challenge. Vote in the Narthex with the ballots or with the QR code.

Last Day to Vote!



ADVENTure: Advent Wreath-Making & Jesse Tree Ornament Exchange
Saturday, November 28 | 10 am–12 pm | Room 200
Kick off Advent with a family-friendly morning of crafts, fellowship, and treats! Make an Advent wreath, exchange Jesse Tree ornaments, and enjoy time together. Register using the QR code!



Have Evergreens to Share?
We need evergreen trimmings for wreath-making! Smith Raynor will gladly pick up any you've already cut. Text her at 919-791-5256.

Help Make Christmas Special at Insight!
Soapstone is hosting a Christmas party for youth at the Insight Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center on December 4! Help spread some Christmas cheer through donations, gifts, or volunteering. We need help with food, games, setup, and more! Scan the QR code for donation links and volunteer opportunities, or stop by our Narthex table on Sundays in November.



Advent Devotional: "A Thrill of Hope"
As we journey through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, *"A Thrill of Hope"* invites us to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the hope of Christ. If you would like a printed copy, please email kcable@soapstoneumc.org or add your name to the sign-up list in the Narthex. A copy will be printed for you for $1 and available on November 22nd

Looking Ahead at Future Dates

11/29: Advent Adult Sunday School, Room 200, 9:45 am
12/5: Ole Time Gospel Sing-a-long, 4 pm, Chapel
12/6: The Music of Christmas Concert, 3 pm
12/13: Christmas Cantata, both services
12/14: Drive-Thru Live Nativity, 6:30 pm
12/19: Women's Christmas-themed Event, 1 pm
12/20: Christmas Caroling
More details & dates coming soon!

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, November 15
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
12:30 pm Newcomers' Lunch, 200
5:00 pm Kids' Rock *(ends at 6:30 pm)*
5:00 pm One-and-Done Book Study with Pastor Laura, 101/103
5:00 pm Finance Meeting, 108/110
Monday, November 16
6:00 pm Prison Ministry, 108/110
6:00 pm Monday Night Formation, firepit
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Chapel
7:00 pm Soul Tenders, 200
Tuesday, November 17
9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114
1:15 pm Pilates, 200
7:00 pm Church Council Room 108/110
7:00 pm MomCo Moms Night Out, Tasu Asian
Wednesday, November 18
9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, 200
2:00 pm Greenway Walkers, Offsite
6:00 pm Youth Handbells, 117
6:00 pm Grief Share, 101/103
6:00 pm Eagle Boards of Review, 111 & 114
7:00 pm Women's Book Club, Zoom
7:00 pm Choir Practice, 119
7:00 pm McTavish HOA Meeting, 108/110
Thursday, November 19
9:45 am Pilates, 200
5:30 pm Stonemoor HOA Meeting, 200
6:00 pm OTG Singers, 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, November 20
10:00 am Fridays with Friends, 200
12:00 pm Women's Book Club, Manchester's
Saturday, November 21
10:00 am Cantata Practice, Sanctuary
10:00 am Intrepid Hikers, Wilkerson Nature Preserve/Falls Lake Trail

Love Lived Out: Stewardship Campaign
Thank you to all who have pledged to financially support the life of Soapstone UMC in 2027. It is not too late to pledge. Pledge cards are in the attendance pads, or pledge online at soapstoneumc.org/pledge.

Pastors and Directors serving today:
Guest Preacher: Rev. Jonathan Park
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
Director of Children & Family Ministries: Blair Roberts, broberts@soapstoneumc.org
Office hours: Monday — Thursday, 9 am — 3:30 pm, 919-846-2212

Soapstone
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost

At Soapstone,
God's love welcomes us as we are.
We belong to Jesus and to one another.
We live God's love in the world.
soapstoneumc.org