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** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Praise Team

During the praise song, the ushers will invite you forward to hang Chrismons on the trees.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Michelle Snyder, Jacob, and Ella BJ & Roger Snyder

Sung Response A Thrill of Hope

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye

*** 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 80:1–7, 17–19 James Bernstein

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** Mark 13:24-37

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

Sermon "A Thrill of Hope: Keep Awake" Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Ministry Moment: Celebration of Pilgrimage Lily Slessman

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it down the row and back again.

Offertory Come Now Our King Praise Team

*** Offering Praise Song**

*** Prayer**

*** Closing Praise Song** He Shall Reign Forevermore 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** Hunter Browning

*** Opening Hymns** Hail to the Lord's Anointed UMH, 203
People, Look East UMH, 202

During the hymns, the ushers will invite you forward to hang Chrismons on the trees.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Lindsey Schreckengost and Caroline Dieguez

Sung Response A Thrill of Hope

Confession and Words of Assurance Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye

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 Jim Galloway

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

First Scripture Reading Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

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 Bring Us Hope Chancel Choir
Jeanne Holly, cello

*** Second Scripture Reading** Mark 13:24-37

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

Sermon "A Thrill of Hope: Keep Awake" Rev. Laura Fine Ledford

Response and Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People Rev. Dr. Damion Quaye

The Lord's Prayer

Ministry Moment: Celebration of Pilgrimage Lily Slessman

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Please sign the Fellowship Pad, pass it down the row, and back again.

Offertory

*** Doxology** UMH, 94

*** Prayer**

Sending Forth

*** Closing Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH, 211

*** Dismissal with Blessing**

*** Postlude**

** Please stand as you are able.*

An Ole' Time Gospel Christmas

Get ready to sing, tap your toes, and celebrate! Join us Saturday, December 5, at 4 pm in Soapstone's Chapel *(10301 Old Creedmoor Rd)* for a joyful Christmas sing-along featuring familiar carols and gospel favorites. Bring a friend and enjoy good music, light refreshments, and the warmth of the season!

The Music of Christmas Concert

Make a joyful sound this Christmas! Join us Sunday, December 6, at 3 pm in the Sanctuary for The Music of Christmas concert, a beloved Soapstone tradition. Our choirs and instrumental ensembles come together for an afternoon of beautiful music celebrating the joy, hope, and wonder of Christ's birth. Stay afterward for cookies and cocoa provided by Children's Ministry in the Narthex! Bring family and friends and celebrate the season with us!

Prayer Circle for the week

Carolina Rebuilding Ministry Team

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.



Sunday School for Adults, 9:45 am, Room 200
Join our pastors on Sundays during Advent for a class inspired by *"A Thrill of Hope"* sermon series. Together, we'll explore the season and prepare our hearts for Christmas.



Be Part of the Live Nativity: One Night Only!
Step into the Christmas story and help bring it to life! Join us for our Drive-Through Live Nativity on December 14, 6:30–7:30 pm. We need volunteers to fill the scenes and make this special tradition come alive. Sign up with the QR code. All are welcome!

Insight Christmas Party | December 4 | 12–3 pm
Help make Christmas special for the youth at the Insight Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center in Butner! We still need 18 items from our Amazon Wish List, a few more volunteers to prepare and drop off mac & cheese, cornbread, or seasoned green beans, and BP gift cards to bless the center's staff. This Sunday is your last chance! Stop by the Insight table in the Narthex to learn more, donate, or sign up to help. Thank you for sharing the joy of Christmas!



Tween Holiday Sock Exchange
December 13 | 4–5 pm | Rooms 101/103
4th and 5th graders, join us for some holiday fun! Bring one wrapped pair of fun holiday socks for a festive gift exchange. Light refreshments will be served. Come ready to celebrate and have some fun!



Life Together Groups | Interest & Placement Survey
We're excited to introduce Life Together Groups, small communities where you can grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and support one another through life. Through fellowship, prayer, and shared experiences, these groups offer a place to connect and grow together. Visit the website or use the QR code to complete the brief survey to help us find a group that's a good fit for you. Your responses will be used only for group placement.

Looking Ahead at Future Dates

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, 4:30 pm
12/21: Longest Night Worship Service, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
More details & dates coming soon!

***Give Online** — Every gift helps us serve and grow together.*

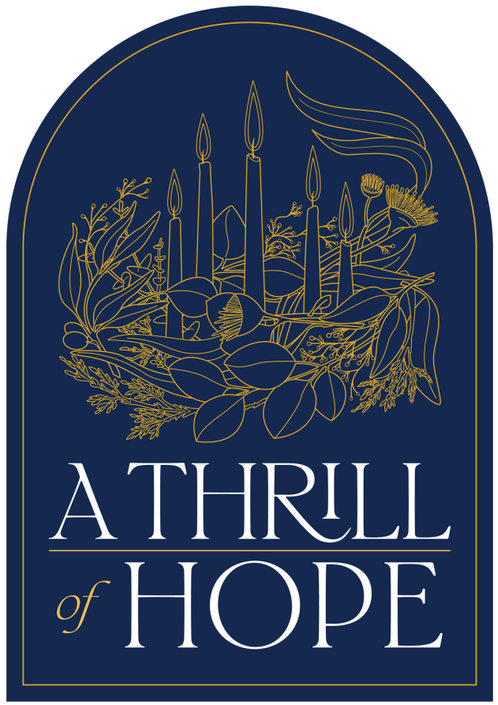
Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

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

Sunday, November 29
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
4:00 pm Set In Stone, Sanctuary
5:00 pm Kids' Rock & Youth Group
Monday, November 30
6:30 pm Soul Tenders, 200
6:30 pm Troop 399, Chapel
Tuesday, December 1
9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group, 114
1:15 pm Pilates, 200
7:00 pm Missions Committee, 108/110
7:00 pm Worship Committee, 111
Wednesday, December 2
9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, 200
2:00 pm Greenway Walkers, off-site
4:00 pm Crafting Small Group, 200
6:00 pm Youth Handbells, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Grief Share, 101/103
6:00 pm Eagle Boards of Review, 111 & 114
6:30 pm Pack Committee Meeting, 108/110
7:00 pm Choir Practice, 119
Thursday, December 3
9:45 am Pilates, 200
6:00 pm OTG Singers, 200
6:30 pm Adult Handbells, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study, 101/103
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
Friday, December 4
9:30 am MomCo First Friday Playdate, Forest Ridge Park
10:00 am Fridays with Friends, 200
Saturday, December 5
10:00 am Intrepid Hikers, Umstead Sycamore Loop
4:00 pm OTG Sing-A-Long, Chapel

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
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 29, 2026
1st Sunday of Advent

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