

Soapstone United Methodist Church

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Welcome! It is a joy to gather and celebrate God's gift of love and everlasting life given in Christ. We pray that the energy and wonder generated by the youngest among us will wake up your heart and soul in new and unexpected ways. If this is your first time at Soapstone or at any church, we welcome your hopes, dreams, and questions. Come again and contact us at 919-846-2212 or office@soapstoneumc.org.

Home for the Holidays — This year our challenge offering will benefit the North Carolina Conference Storm Relief. One hundred percent of the money collected goes to recovery (purchase of supplies to rebuild homes and churches). To donate to the Christmas Challenge, please put Christmas Challenge OR Home for the Holidays in the memo line of your check. Online donations are welcome. Search "home" on the church website for a link to online giving and look for the "Christmas Challenge" line item.

Sunday, December 29 — Please make plans to attend our one worship at 10:00 am. Michael Parisher, our Pastoral Intern, will be preaching the sermon. There will be no Sunday School but childcare will be available for ages 5 and under during worship.

Holiday Office Hours — The church office will be closed December 25-January 1. If you need assistance, please contact the Director for your ministry area (email addresses below). Office staff will check email sent to office@soapstoneumc.org.

Considering Baptism? — Baptism is a Holy Sacrament and a gift of grace offered to God's children of every age. On Sunday, January 12, we will celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday which will include a Liturgy of Remembering our Baptism. If you have not been baptized and are considering this for yourself or your child, January 12 would be an especially appropriate day. If you are interested, please contact the pastor.

Preschool Registration — Registration for the 2020-2021 preschool year will open to Soapstone members January 27 and the general public February 3. Classes are available for children age 15 months through age 5. Please contact the director, Beth Dickinson (bdickinson@soapstoneumc.org) or visit our website <http://soapstoneumc.org/preschool/>

MOPS — Soapstone's Mothers of Preschoolers group meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. Childcare is provided for little ones not in preschool. If you would like more information, please contact Gretchen Shea at g Shea@soapstoneumc.org.

Kids Rock — Children age 4 through 5th grade are welcome to participate in our Kids Rock program on Sunday evenings, 5:00-6:30 pm. Several Kids on a Mission nights are planned throughout the year. Children in choir will begin rehearsing for the May musical. For more information, please contact Andrea Turner at aturner@soapstoneumc.org.

Vacation Bible School 2020 — Mark your calendars now for July 26-30. Our theme is "Knights of North Castle" and children age 3 through 5th grade are welcome. Registration will open at our Strawberry Festival on Saturday, May 2.



illustration by Georgia Rettmer



Contact Us (Church Office 919-846-2212)

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Founded in 1837

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2019 4:30 pm

How the Service Works—Tonight the children will bring the *Good News* in song and story. We are all invited to respond by giving our offerings, sharing in communion, and by taking the joy of Christ's light and love to everyone we meet. Following the Christmas Pageant everyone will be invited and guided by our ushers to come forward. Soapstone families will be serving communion and giving you a glow stick for you to take back to your seat to hold high as we sing "Silent Night" together.

Thank you for returning costume items! Please return the animal ears, halo, crown and shepherd's headdresses to the Children Council's members standing by the Sanctuary doors. We will trade you a candy cane for your costume item.

Gathering and Praise

Welcome		Pastor Laura Stern
Prelude	Christmas Processional	Kids Rock Choirs
* Praise Song	It's Christmas	Praise Team
Opening Prayer (unison)		Michael Parisher
O God, whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem those days long ago, lead us to that same poor place, where Mary laid her tiny Child. And as we look on in wonder and praise, make us welcome him in all new life, see him in the poor, and care for his handiwork—the earth, the sky and the sea. O God, bless us again in your great love. We pray for this through Christ our Lord. Amen.		
Special Music	The Little Drummer Boy	Kids Rock Choirs
Scripture	Luke 2:8-15	Savannah Conway
Homily	Let's Go and See (Children are invited to remain seated with their families.)	Danny Peck

Proclamation

Spontaneous Christmas Pageant

The Angels Entrance	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
The Shepherds Entrance	The First Noel
The Kings Entrance	We Three Kings
The Holy Family Entrance	Away in a Manger (all 3 verses) Children will return to their seats.

Thanksgiving and Communion

Announcements and Passing of the Friendship Pad

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon
Lexie Duncan, Hayden Kizakevich, Lilly Kate Turner, Savannah Turner

Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow on screen

A Great Thanksgiving for Children on screen

Communion Hymns

Angels We Have Heard on High	238
O Little Town of Bethlehem	230
O Come, All Ye Faithful	234
What Child Is This?	219

Prayer after Communion

God, thank you for this holy meal where Jesus invites us and joins us all together. Help us to live the way Jesus taught us to live. Help us to love God, love others, and love ourselves. Amen.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn Silent Night 239

Dismissal with Blessing

Congregational Benediction Joy to the World / Our God Saves on screen

Pageant and Worship Service Participants

Baby Jesus:	Xander Winoski
Mary & Joseph:	Christy & Trey Winoski
Lead Angels:	Carver Vaughn & Isabella Hendrickson
Lead Shepherd:	Graham Woodward
Lead Wise Person/King:	Bailey Scarlett
Star Carrier:	Rachel Rauth
Pastor:	Rev. Laura Stern
Narrator:	Danny Peck
Music:	Soapstone Praise Team