

Soapstone Notes

Are You Making New Year's Resolutions?

Have one of your New Year's Resolutions be to grow in your faith! The Adult Council invites you to join a Sunday School class, take a new study, or join a small group.

Adult Sunday School in 2021

- Transitions Sunday School will begin the study of Irresistible - Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World by Andy Stanley on January 10.
- Always Open will start the new year on January 3 using Disciplines 2021 published by Upper Room.
- Lost & Found will be continue their study of the book of Isaiah.
- Wonderfully Made will continue to use Access! which is based on the lectionary and church seasons.

New Studies

On Sundays beginning January 24 at 4:30, we will offer a four-week study called Bible 101. On Monday nights beginning January 25 at 7:00 pm, we will offer a six-week study called Soul Reset. You can order your copy of Soul Reset from Cokesbury. It is currently on sale for \$10.99.

New Small groups

We are still working to schedule a new GriefShare group and a discussion group for parents of school-age kids. Full details will be available in the Enews on January 6.

Join the United Methodist Men for a thirty-minute virtual gathering on January 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The Men's Leadership Team will present a plan for small groups launching in mid-January. All men of Soapstone are invited!

On-Going Small Groups

Our Wednesday Morning Ladies and our Thursday Night Ladies are open to new members joining. The WOW Book Club and our Dismantling Racism groups will announce their January books and meeting dates in the January 6 Enews. Contact Gretchen Shea for more information on these groups.

Virtual and Outdoor "on the porch" Worship service, next Sunday

Scripture Focus: Matthew 2:1-12, "Home By Another Way."

You are invited to drive-in or bring chairs and sit outside as weather permits. The service will include a Celebration of New Appointment welcoming our new pastor, Reverend Mitzi Johnson to Soapstone.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry Week of December 29, 2019

Sunday, December 27 (church office closed)
11:00 am Worship Service (online only)

Monday, December 28 (church office closed)
7:00 pm BSA Troop 399 Meeting at the JCC small pavillion

Tuesday, December 29 (church office closed)
9:00 am Intercessory Prayer on Zoom
7:00 pm SPRC on Zoom

Wednesday, December 30 (church office closed)

Thursday, December 31 (church office closed)

Friday, January 1 (church office closed)

Saturday, January 2 (church office closed)

Sunday, January 3 (Pastor Mitzi's first Sunday)
11:00 am Worship Service "on the porch" and online
2:30pm Disciple I Bible Study on Zoom

End of Year Giving

The end of the year is coming. Some of you have said you will be out of town near the end of the year. Others of you have said you won't know about your total giving ability until you know the size of your bonus or other financial results. Church members face these year-end issues every year, and our church is happy to work with you to achieve your giving goals. Perhaps you would like to give to a particular ministry or project, some examples may be the Cornerstone building project, the Christmas Challenge, or the General Fund.

Here are options and timelines available.

- Give at one of the remaining worship services: Thursday December 24 (Christmas Eve services).
- Mail your check to 12837 Norwood Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 postmarked by 12/31/20.
- Contribute online here.
- Use your bank's bill pay system and have your check dated 12/31/20 or before.
- Give to the upcoming year's General Fund, mark in the memo line giving for 2021.

Thank you for making a difference in countless lives in this community by your continual support!

Natalie Scott, Chairman, Finance Committee

If you have questions, please contact our Financial Secretary, Katie Cable

Contact Us (Church Office 919-846-2212)

Reverend Laura Stern, Pastor (919-909-8581).....lster@soapstoneumc.org
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Jessica Slessman, Preschool Directorjslessman@soapstoneumc.org
Andrea Turner, Director of Music Ministries.....aturner@soapstoneumc.org



We're so glad you've joined us today.

This is your service and your time to praise, laugh, cry, pray and reconnect to the ways God is moving in our lives.

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 and through the welcome embrace of the people of Soapstone.

soapstone
UNITED METHODIST

12837 Norwood Road Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-2212
www.soapstoneumc.org www.facebook.com/soapstoneumc

Founded in 1837

December 27, 2020

Online Worship

Assisted Listening Devices are available at the A/V booth

Gathering and Praise

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome Danny Peck

Prelude Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song) Lisa Magno

* Morning Prayer

God of glory, your splendor shines on a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the World is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders for all for whom there is no hope. Amen.

* Opening Song O Come All Ye Faithful (Medley) Covenant

Proclamation

Scripture Reading Luke 2:22-40
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Moments with the Children Danny Peck

Sermon Prophets in Between Danny Peck

Proclamation in Song Little Drummer Boy
Timm Sauls and Victoria Voight, vocalists

Response and Offering

Prayers of the People Gretchen Shea
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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Announcements Gretchen Shea

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer Gretchen Shea

* Doxology Offering Song Praise Band

Sending Forth

* Closing Praise Ding Dong Covenant

* Dismissal with Blessing

* Postlude My Master, See, the Time Has Come Danny Peck, guitar

Liturgist: Gretchen Shea

Scripture Reader: Lilly Scarlett

If you are our guest for the first time today, please e-mail office@soapstoneumc.org to let us know you are watching! We hope that you have been blessed by worshipping at Soapstone. We have been blessed by your presence.

The Scripture focus for Sunday, January 4 is
Matthew 2:1-12

**Cornerstone: Where
God and Community**



Charge Conference approves next steps for Cornerstone –
We are excited to be moving forward with construction on our second floor space! Charge conference approved increasing the Cornerstone budget from \$700,000 (approved in 2019) to \$1,060,000 (approved last night). The increase in budget will allow us to install the necessary fire protection (a hybrid of sprinklers and fire barriers), which will make the entire church safer, and the best part – it will enable us to open our second floor for youth and community programming in 2021!

Come to the Stable

By Eileen Keenan

Come to the stable,
This sweet Baby to see...
God's Precious Son,
HOPE for you and me.

There's an aura about Him
That just seems to glow!
It's a thing called 'LOVE'
That He wants you to know.

You surely can't keep it
Or your heart will burst!
Share it gladly with others,
Remembering HE gave it first!

A little spark kindles
And then grows to a flame
And it grows like wildfire
In Jesus' Name!

O, come to the stable
See the Babe from above,
He is the Savior of Joy
And Abundant Love.

Come to the stable
And linger a while.
Oh, look very closely...
You're making Him smile!

Bring Him your gifts
That He's given you...
Just give of your BEST
Any less won't do!

O, come to the stable
The Redeemer to see...
God's only son...
LOVE for you & me!

