

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.

Sunday, December 26 — Please make plans to attend our one worship at 10:00 am. There will be no Sunday School, children of any age are welcome in worship. Bring any left over goodies to the Narthex to share.

Holiday Office Hours — The church office will be closed December 27-January 3.

Considering Baptism? — Baptism is a Holy Sacrament and a gift of grace offered to God's children of every age. On Sunday, January 9, 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 9 would be an especially appropriate day. If you are interested, please contact the pastor.

Preschool Registration — Registration for the 2022-2023 preschool year will open to current preschool families on January 19, Soapstone UMC members on January 24, and the general public on January 26. Classes are available for children ages 15 months through 5. Please contact Jessica Slessman or visit soapstoneumc.org/preschool for more information.

Sensory-Friendly Epiphany Service — Happiness Ministry hosts this service on Sunday, January 9, 4:00 p.m., for children preschool through 5th grade with any sensory sensitivity. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

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 Spring Musical. For more information, please contact Andrea Turner.

Vacation Bible School 2022 — Mark your calendars now for July 17-21, the theme is *Food Truck Party*. Children age 3 through 5th grade are welcome. Registration will open Spring 2022.

Summer Camp at Chestnut Ridge — Save the dates July 25-29 for summer camp for ages preschool to rising 6 grades. Look for more details soon.



Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021

Pastors and Staff

Lead Pastor: Rev. Mitzi Johnson, mjohnson@soapstoneumc.org

Pastor of Visitation: Rev. George Freeman, gfreeman@soapstoneumc.org

Director of Discipleship & Missions: Dr. Jon Tschanz, jtschanz@soapstoneumc.org

Director of Family Ministries: Danny Peck, dpeck@soapstoneumc.org

Director of Music: Andrea Turner, aturner@soapstoneumc.org

Director of Preschool: Jessica Slessman, jslessman@soapstoneumc.org

Nursery Coordinator: Paxton Blizzard, pblizzard@soapstoneumc.org

Communications Coordinator/ Financial Secretary:

Katie Cable, kcable@soapstoneumc.org

Administrative Assistant: Christi Melton, cmelton@soapstoneumc.org



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Founded in 1837

Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 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 Rev. Mitzi Johnson

Prelude Christmas Processional Kids Rock Choirs

* Praise Song Oh What a Glorious Night Set In Stone

Opening Prayer (unison)

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 Lullaby on a Silent Night Kids Rock Choirs

Scripture Luke 2:8-15

Homily Let's Go and See Danny Peck
Children remain seated with their families.

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 He Shall Reign Forevermore Set In Stone

Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

A Great Thanksgiving

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

Pageant and Worship Service Participants

Angel 1: Carver Vaughn
Angel 2: Hayden Kizakevich
Mary & Joseph: Abbie Taylor & Ian Johnson
Lead Shepherd: Graham Woodward
Lead Wise Person: Kendall Taylor
Star Carrier: Bella Hendrickson
Pastor: Rev. Mitzi Johnson
Narrator: Lilly Kate Turner