# Soapstone Notes

To receive our e-news, contact the church office at 919-846-2212/office@soapstoneumc.org.

**Kids Rock & UMYF** — Both groups will begin back on Sunday nights at 5:00 on Sunday, January 9. We hope you all will join us.

**Considering Baptism?** — 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.

**Bell Ringers Needed** – We need two more adults, practices are on Thursdays, 6:30-7:30. We have 3 openings in our youth handbell choir as well, practicing on Monday nights, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Reading music is not required! Contact Andrea Turner.

**Discipleship Intensives/ Room 115** — You are invited to explore the discipleship aspects of ongoing ministries and missions at Soapstone during the Sunday School hour. We will discuss Creation Care in January, drop ins are welcome.

**Warmth For Wake** — The Soapstone United Methodist Men will be hosting a Warmth for Wake event for Saturday morning January 8, 2022. Read more and sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

**Sensory-Friendly Service** — Happiness Ministry is hosting a service to celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 9 at 4:00 pm. This service is for children preschool through 5th grade with any sensory sensitivity. If you are interested in attending or want to volunteer signup at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

**Tuesday Lunch Crew** — TLC welcomes everyone Tuesday, January 11, 11:30 a.m., to pull up a chair with friends and enjoy a meal at Milton's Pizza and Pasta.

Mothers Of PreschoolerS (MOPS) — This group is open to all moms with young children. Join us Tuesday, January 11 at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to sign up go to soapstoneumc.org/signups.

**Helen Keller Prayer Shawl Ministry** — Wednesday, January 5 at 12:00 p.m. or Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m., join others in knitting or crocheting prayer shawls to be given to those needing comfort. No experience needed, we can teach you.

**Thursday Night Study for Ladies** — Join this new study, *Encountering God* by, Kelly Minter, beginning Thursday January 13 at 7:00 p.m. in person and on Zoom. Learn more at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

Membership Inquiry Class - January 23 and 30, 9:45-10:40, Room 109. This two-session class provides information on the United Methodist Church, the mission and ministries of Soapstone UMC, and the membership process. Register at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

**Dismantling Racism Discussion in January** — Start reading now and join us Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 pm, on Zoom, discussing *Why We Can't Wait* by Martin Luther King, Jr. Sign up at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

**WOW Book Club** — Women are invited to read one or both books being offered, Walking Across Egypt, by Clyde Edgerton and Before I Leave: Wisdom from the Stories of Six Women Over Eighty, by Jenney Edgertson. Discussions are January 26, 7:00 p.m. and January 28, 6:30 p.m.

**Prayer Bracelets & Fellowship** — Ladies of all ages are invited to join for a time of fellowship as we make prayer bracelets, Saturday, January 29, 1:00—4:00. Sign up to join us at soapstoneumc.org/signups.

**Palm Sunday Cantata Rehearsals** — Save the date, Saturday, January 29 at 9:00 a.m. will be our first cantata rehearsal. We hope you will sing with us.

# Opportunities for Worship and Ministry Week of January 2

# Sunday, January 2

8:30 am & 11:00 am Worship Services

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

2:30 pm Disciple 2 on Zoom

#### Monday, January 3

6:00 pm Youth Bells in 117

6:30 pm Boy Scouts at the Chapel

7:00 pm Worship Committee on Zoom

7:00 pm Soul Tenders on Zoom

#### Tuesday, January 4

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer in 108/110

6:30 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting in 101/103

6:30 pm AA at the Chapel

7:00 pm Mission Committee on Zoom and 108/101

#### Wednesday, January 5

9:45 am Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study in 200

12:00 pm Helen Keller Prayer Shawl Group in 200

7:00 pm AA Meeting at the Chapel

7:00 pm Choir Practice in 119

## Thursday, January 6

6:30 pm Cornerstone Ringers in 117

7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

#### Friday, January 7

# Saturday, January 8

8:30 & 12:30 AA at the Chapel

8:30 am Warmth For Wake, offsite

#### A Fond Farewell to Mark Burleson

Mark Burleson, who has served as our accompanist since August, is returning to Charlotte and the staff of Paw Creek Presbyterian Church where he previously served for 18 years. Today is his last Sunday with us. Mark, you have blessed us with your music. We wish you well.

## Pastors, Staff, and Those Serving Today

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

Scripture Reader: 8:30 Ann MacCormac and Gwen Cox at 11:00



# January 2, 2022

The story of Epiphany marks an end and the beginning. Leaving their home, the Wise Men embark upon a pilgrimage, seeking the glimpse of the divine in the Christ child. Being warned in a dream, the Magi choose a different direction to journey back home. As our own journeys continue, we remember we must sometimes make bold choices to choose a different way.



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Children's activity notebooks & listening devices are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. Welcome Danny Peck \* Opening Praise Songs Joy To the World Our God Saves Praise Team Hark The Herald Angels Sing Wise men are added to our nativity in observance of the Epiphany of our Lord. **Don Warsing** \* Opening Prayer **Prayer for Illumination Scripture Reading** Matthew 2:1-12 This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. **Children's Moment** Danny Peck Childcare is available for ages 5 and under. Meet a nursery worker at the Sanctuary doors. "Of Magi and Mudslides" Danny Peck Sermon **Prayer** 

We Three Kings

# **Prayers of the People Invitation to the Table**

\* Silent Confession

\* Response Praise Song

The pastor ends, "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven." In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

#### Words of Assurance

The pastor concludes " ... So hear and believe this good news."

No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved, and held by God. Thanks be to God.

## \* Passing 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.

# **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

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

Offertory Mark Burleson

- \* Offering Praise Song
- \* Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

Please see the 11:00 liturgy.

\* Closing Praise Song Go Tell it on the Mountain **Praise Team** 

\* Dismissal with Blessing

# 11:00 Worship

Children's activity notebooks & listening devices are available in the rear of the Sanctuary.

# **Gathering**

**Chiming the Trinity** 

Welcome

Prelude Mark Burleson Wise men are added to our nativity in observance of the Epiphany of our Lord.

### \* Call to Worship

We come to this place each of us on our own path. The path is not always clear, but we are here.

#### God is walking us home.

What a gift it is not to walk alone.

Let us worship Holy God.

\* Opening Hymn Angels from the Realms of Glory 220

\* Opening Prayer Rev. George Freeman Loving God, as we gather for both joy and consolation, renew us in your Holy Spirit. Remind us that your love follows us wherever we go. Increase our faith, that we do not lose heart or become burdened by the challenges of life. We are yours. Make us your own. In the name of Christ, Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Praise Team

Rev. George Freeman

God of changed plans, when whispers of change come, we often hold on tighter. Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy, for ignoring other roads home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

## **Words of Assurance**

The pastor concludes " ... So hear and believe this good news."

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# **Proclamation and Response**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

15

Matthew 2:1-12 **Scripture Reading** 

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

Children's Moment Danny Peck

Childcare is available for ages 5 and under. Meet a nursery worker at the Sanctuary doors.

**Chancel Choir Proclamation Song** We Three Kings Medley

We Three Kings 254 \* Responsive Hymn \* Apostle's Creed 881

"Of Magi and Mudslides"

Danny Peck

Danny Peck \* Gloria Patri 71

**Prayers of the People** 

Sermon

**Invitation to the Table** 

## **Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

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Offertory Mark Burleson \* Doxology 94

\* Prayer

# Thanksgiving and Communion

The Great Thanksgiving 15 **Lord's Prayer** 895

**Breaking the Bread** 

Giving of the Bread and Cup

**Hymns During Communion** What Child Is This? 219 Away in a Manger 217 In The Bleak Mid Winter 221

#### **Prayer After Communion**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

# Sending Forth

\* Closing Hymn The First Noel 245

\* Dismissal with Blessing

\* Congregational Benediction

\* Postlude Mark Burleson

If you are our guest today please stop by the welcome cart for a gift and information.

\*Please stand as you are able.