

Weekly Events

Sunday, January 1– Wesley Covenant Renewal & Holy Communion

10:30 AM One Worship Service, Sanctuary*
 *Nursery Available: Birth to 4 Years
 *Service Streamed Live

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed
 9:00 AM Prayer Team, Parlor
 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, Thorpe Building

Tuesday, January 3

8:00 AM Biscuit Eaters Reunion Group, Parlor
 10:00 AM Men's Life Group, Room 203
 6:00 PM PAL Meeting, Room 207

Wednesday, January 4

11:00 AM Chair Yoga, Thorpe Building
 1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, Room 203
 6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

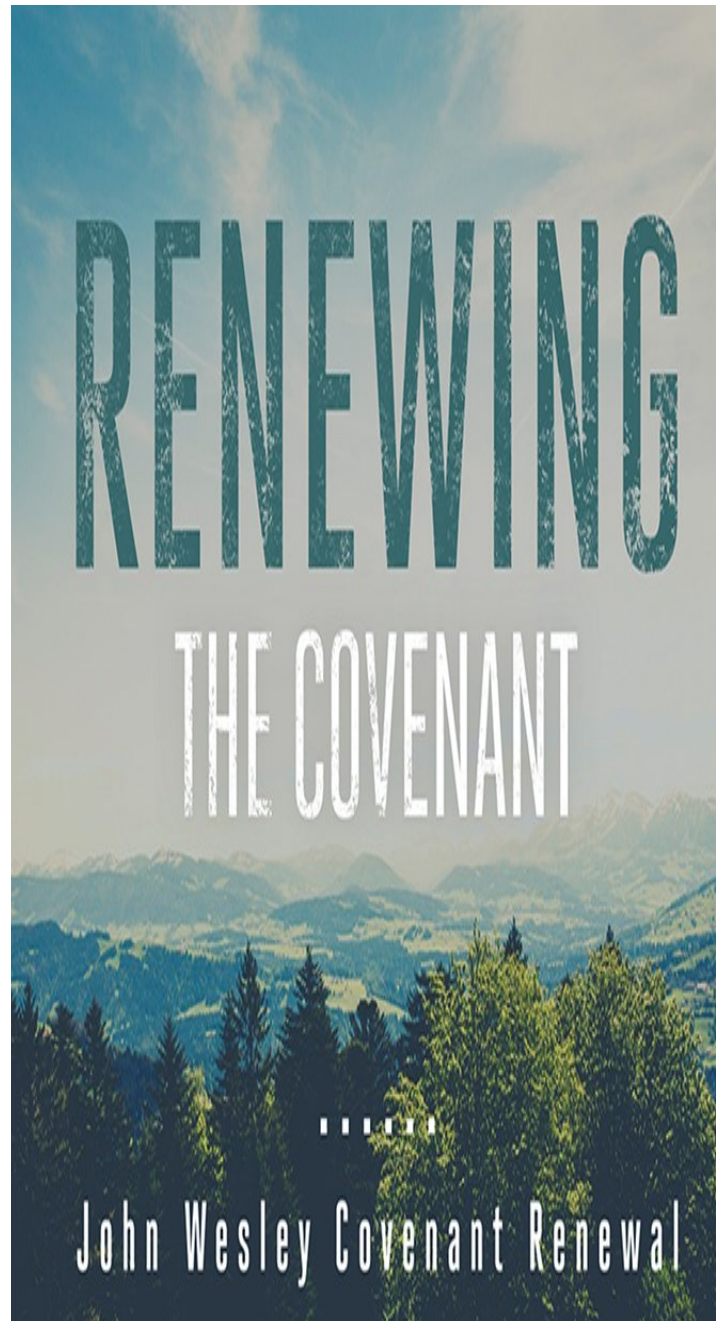
Thursday, January 5

1:00 PM Parkinson's Support Group, Thorpe Building

Friday, January 6

11:00 AM Chair Yoga, Thorpe Building
 6:30 PM Music Ministry Christmas Party, The Norton Home


ST. SIMONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Where Love is Unconditional,
 Service is Celebrated Enthusiastically,*

The Mission of Christ is Advanced Consistently.

624 Ocean Boulevard • St. Simons Island, GA 31522
 912.638.3317 • stsimonsumc.com

 This is a Stephen Ministry Church

The Worship of God

JANUARY 01, 2023 SANCTUARY • 10:30am

PRELUDE Kevin Lamb
 GREETING Rev. Tom Jones
 OPENING PRAYER Rev. Richard Soper
 Almighty God, you search our hearts, and you see every part of us. All our desires are known to you, and from you no secrets are hidden. By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts so we may perfectly love you and glorify your holy name. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN *Another Year Is Dawning* AURELIA

* PASSING THE PEACE

* FELLOWSHIP *Surely The Presence*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Chris Moncus

* HYMN #127 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

OFFERTORY PRAYER Tom Jones

OFFERTORY

RESPONSE *The Doxology*

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *A Brand New Hallelujah* Chancel Choir
 Ken Sausedo

SCRIPTURE John 15:1-8 Tom Jones

PROCLAMATION Tom Jones

The Christian life is a life found in Christ, redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God. We are those who have entered into this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of this covenant. He sealed it with His own blood so it would last forever.

On one side of this covenant stands God, who promises to give us new life in Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Every day God proves His goodness and grace to us, showing us that His promise still stands firm.

On the other side, we stand as those who promise to no longer live life for ourselves but instead to only live for Jesus Christ because He has loved us and given His life for us.

There are times in our lives when it is important for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows. In this same way, we come today to renew our covenant with God. Many generations have done this before us. Today we make the covenant our own, renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant that binds us all to God.

CONFESSION

Leader: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God.

People: Father God, you have set forth the way of life through your Son Jesus Christ, whom you love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of him and have been reluctant to follow him. You have spoken and called to us, but we have not listened. You have revealed your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love. Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.

Leader: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

People: Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption. Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now.

Leader: Let us gathered here before the Lord now in covenant commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to him so that we may fully belong to him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

People: I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing: I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Leader: Christ is Savior to those who are his true servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. To be his servant is to consent fully to his will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing. Now let us confirm this truth in holy covenant as we share together in Holy Communion and remember and celebrate God's love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Richard Soper

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Tom Jones

Leader: O God, you know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If you find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to you, God the Father. From this day forward, we shall look upon you as our God and Father. Glory be to you, God the Son. You have loved us and washed us from my sins in your own blood. From this day forward, we shall look upon you as our Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit. By your almighty power, you have turned our hearts from sin to God. From this day forward we shall look upon you as my Comforter and Guide.

People: O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. You are mine and I am yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

* INVITATION

* HYMN #383 *This is the Day of New Beginnings* BEGINNINGS
 Verses 1, 3 & 4

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

- C** **REV. TOM JONES**, Senior Pastor
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- h** **REV. RICHARD SOPER**, Associate Pastor
richard@stsimonsumc.com | 912.222.2139
- u** **KEVIN LAMB**, Director of Music Ministries
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- f** **HOLLY LAMB**, Contemporary Music Associate
hlamb92@gmail.com
- f** **SONDRA ANDERSON**, Pianist
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John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service

On this first Sunday of the New Year, many of us explore ways to make a new beginning. Maybe you have already made a commitment to do something to better yourself. Some of our commitments will be lasting; others may last only a few days. Still, each year in the first few days of January, we see this as an opportunity to make personal improvements.

I have often wondered how much more successful we would be in keeping our commitments if we covered them in prayer. Most of the time the changes we want to make come from the head; change is different when it comes from the heart. Prayer is not a magic potion; prayer is not even a sure thing as far as our desired outcomes are concerned. But by being in conversation with God - the ultimate motivator, encourager, and listener - it will help turn our commitments into action and make our personal goals more achievable.

This Sunday we will begin the new year in worship by sharing together in the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service and Holy Communion as a way of sealing our commitment to serving Christ. Included in the service is a prayer that John Wesley expected the people called Methodists to pray at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal covenant.

I invite you to keep this prayer in your Bible or other prominent place; to pray it not just once, but often as we move through the year.

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you;

let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing;

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Bishop David Graves has challenged the people called Methodists to make this a year of prayer in the South Georgia Conference. Cover your commitments; cover our church; cover our denomination; cover each day in your prayers.

Happy New Year!

Tom

Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online by visiting our website at www.stimonsumc.com and click on the Giving tab.

December 25, 2022

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$30,223.50

Received YTD | \$1,196,738.91

Expenses YTD | \$1,120,087.82

Difference YTD | \$76,651.09

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$1,181,077.98

Building Maintenance Fund YTD | \$18,374.00

Maintaining the Mission GTD (given to date) | \$183,354.15

Christmas Eve Donations for Safe Harbor | \$1,745.00

thank you

Attendance— December 24 & 25, 2022

12/24 5:00 PM Worship Service: **376** Online Worship Views: **429**

12/24 11:00 PM Worship Service: **90**

12/25 10:30 AM Worship Service: **149**

Total In Person Worship: **615**

Members in Ministry~ January 1, 2023

Ushers:

10:30 Kevin Brandon, David Miller, Ed Reynolds

Greeters:

10:30 Cindy Simpson & Susan Bagwell

Projection:

10:30 Neva Kaye

Acolytes:

10:30 Stiles Robinson & Harlow Robinson

Communion Servers:

10:30 Ron & Yvonne Flowers

Communion Prayers:

John Lindgren & Betty Sharp

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns:

Mary Frances Allen, **Katy Pickett Burge**, **Leonard Crawford**, Emily Dixon, **Diana Giannotti**, Benson Gibbs, **Maribel Hambric**, Jan Heymann, Holland, **Family of Andy Morris**, **David Pickett**, Paul Pleoger

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Diana Bailey, Lauren Belt, Tilman Blakely, Ranny Blount, Linda Blount, Marcia Boney, Billy June Boyd, Beth Carey, Ed Clark, Vicki Certain, Lanier Dobrenic, Sam Friedman, Dotsy & Jim Fuller, Connie Hallowses, Elwanda Hopkins, Barbara & Jim Jensen, Jim Lee, Ellie Leroux, Sandee Lukitsch, Mike Martin, Ken McCauley, Mike McMillan, Nathan Meadows, Carol Meeks, Sharon Mitchell, Spence Mullis, Kirk Nowery, Ann & Bill Pickard, Dick Pipe, Mable & Don Proctor, Mary Rentz, Bob Rewis, Irene Rohan, Bob Scherer, Sandy Thornberry, Dave Vandersall, Bo Vice & Mary Vice, Judy Whelan, Bobbé Wooldridge, Hollis Youngner, Beverly Zeller, Emmie Zwack

Assisted Living Prayer:

Magnolia Manor: JoAnne Alford, Marjorie Lawrence, Norma Mock, Joyce Parry, Larry Varnadoe

Marsh's Edge Assisted: Judy Clifton, Nancy Reynolds

When a name is added to the New Prayer Concerns they will remain for TWO weeks unless the office is notified of an ongoing prayer concern.

Names that are BOLD indicate a new addition or current concern.

Chili Cook Off

Show off your culinary skills and enter your chili in our chili cook off on Sunday, January 8 at 5:00pm in the Thorpe Building. Sign up to bring your chili, or come as a

judge to taste all the delicious entries. We will provide the fixins and beverages, we hope to see you there! Register by signing up on Realm, email ashley@stsimonsucm.com or call the church office.



Do we have your Picture and Info?

Please email us a recent picture of you and your family to update our records in Realm. Also, if you have moved or have a new email or phone number, please let us know!

Email— ashley@stsimonsucm.com or come by the office!

Confirmation

Confirmation is a continuation of the faith journey of our 5th-12th grade students. It is the beginning of a lifetime of commitment to the church and a special time set aside to learn about who God is, what United Methodist Christians believe, and what it means to be not only a member of a church, but also a disciple of Jesus Christ in our world. Sessions start in February with our retreat and Confirmation Sunday in March. Pick up the Info Pack at the Welcome Desk or the Student Ministry Cart and register by January 19. Please contact Chris for more information at 912-223-6866 or chris@stsimonsucm.com.



Saints & Sinners Luncheon

Join us Thursday, January 19

at noon for lunch and

entertainment by the

fabulous Annie Akins. "With

her eternal upbeat attitude

and her powerful pipes,

Annie has become one of the

most recognizable talents in the isles, bringing her own brand to the classics she sings." -Golden Isles Magazine

Annie will share many styles of music and will have you moving in your seat or even on your feet. Bring a dish to share, entree will be provided. Cost is \$5 and reservations are due Monday, January 16, 2023. Reserve your spot on Realm or by emailing or calling the church office.

Honorariums

A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE MUSIC MINISTRY IN HONOR OF THE CHANCEL CHOIR BY:

Cindy & Dwight Sweat

Judith Merrick

Dr. Robert & Elaine Hearn

The Chosen

You are invited to join us for a group study of "The Chosen." This award-winning, first-ever multi-season series about the life of Christ and his followers will help us to experience the life of Jesus through the eyes of those who lived with and knew him.

The first session is on Wednesday, January 18, 5:30 - 7:00pm, in the Thorpe Building. There will be sixteen sessions. Each evening will consist of an episode approximately 1-hour in length followed by a brief discussion. You are invited to attend as much as you can, whenever you can during the 16-week series.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know members and guests and to grow in fellowship & faith. Please consider inviting a friend. Questions? Feel free to contact Jeff Zoul, program facilitator, at jeffzoul@gmail.com. Please register in Realm, or by contacting the church office.



Family Devotional

One of our goals for next year is to see families sitting down together to have a family devotion time and prayer at least twice a week. This simple act is one that will bring everyone together in the midst of crazy lives and recenter focus on Jesus. Each devotional will include a verse to read, 3-5 paragraph (or 250-350 words) devotion, a prayer, and may also include a couple discussion questions. Pick up our Family Devotional—written by our church family for our church family—at the Welcome Desk or the Student Ministry Cart. We hope it will help draw your family together as you draw closer to Christ.



Guest Information

- **First time guests** please fill out the yellow, "Welcome Card" located in your pew. Please drop in the offering plate or bring to the Welcome Desk to receive a gift!
- Restrooms are located through the exit doors nearest the altar to your right or left.
- Sunday School for children & adults meets at 9:45am.
- A nursery is available for children **4 years old and under**, located through the exit door to the right of the altar, 1st floor in the Stubbs Building.
- Children's Church (**5 years old - 5th grade**), leave together after the Children's Message (except on the 1st Sunday of the month—Communion Sundays) for lessons, crafts, and games, and may be picked up on the 2nd floor in the Stubbs Building.

Join the Church

If you would like to join St. Simons United Methodist Church you may do so by one of three ways:

- (1) Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ
- (2) Transfer from another United Methodist congregation
- (3) Transfer from another denomination

If you are interested in more information about becoming a member contact Rev. Tom Jones. **678.343.3767** | tom@stsimonsucm.com