

# Weekly Events

## Sunday, January 8

- 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary\***
- 9:45 AM Sunday School & Small Group Classes, **Various Locations\***
- 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service, **Chapel\***
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary\***  
\*Nursery Available: Newborn- 4 yrs.  
All Services Streamed Live
- 2:00 PM UMW Board Meeting, **Room 201**
- 4:00 PM UMW Circle 5, **Parlor**
- 5:00 PM Chili Cook Off, **Thorpe Building**
- 6:00 PM Youth Group, **Youth Room**

## Monday, January 9

- 9:00 AM Prayer Team, **Parlor**
- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**

## Tuesday, January 10

- 8:00 AM Biscuit Eaters Reunion Group, **Parlor**
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, **Youth Room**
- 10:00 AM Men's Life Group, **Room 203**
- 4:00 PM Handbells, **Handbell Room**
- 5:30 PM Staff Parish Committee Meeting, **Parlor**
- 6:00 PM PAL Meeting, **Room 207**
- 6:30 PM Boy Scouts, **Thorpe Building**

## Wednesday, January 11

- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**
- 12:00 PM SAM Council Meeting, **Thorpe Building**
- 1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**
- 5:30 PM Young Musicians Children's Choir, **Choir Room**
- 5:30 PM Men's Ensemble, **Sanctuary**
- 5:30 PM Youth Pizza & Games, **Youth Room**
- 5:30 PM Parents Dinner and Conversation, **Meet in Gholson Room**
- 6:00 PM Kids WOW- Bible, Pizza & Fun, **Children's Room**
- 6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, **Choir Room**

## Thursday, January 12

- 10:00 AM Outreach Committee Meeting, **Parlor**

## Friday, January 13

- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**


- REV. TOM JONES, Senior Pastor**  
tom@stsimonsumc.com | 678.343.3767
- REV. RICHARD SOPER, Associate Pastor**  
richard@stsimonsumc.com | 912.222.2139
- KEVIN LAMB, Director of Music Ministries**  
kevin@stsimonsumc.com
- ANNE FRAZIER, Church Administrator**  
anne@stsimonsumc.com
- CHRIS MONCUS, Director of Student Ministries**  
chris@stsimonsumc.com
- CAROLYN HAMILTON, Finance**  
carolyn@stsimonsumc.com
- MARY BRITTAIN, Preschool Director**  
maryb@stsimonsumc.com
- ASHLEY CARTER, Administrative Staff Assistant**  
ashley@stsimonsumc.com
- Victoria Fryer, Student Ministries Assistant**  
victoria@stsimonsumc.com
- HOLLY LAMB, Contemporary Music Associate**  
hlamb92@gmail.com
- SONDRA ANDERSON, Pianist**  
sanderson41561@gmail.com

# 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 08, 2023  
CHAPEL • 9:45am

### WELCOME

Rev. Richard Soper

### PRAISE AND WORSHIP

#### House of the Lord

CCLI #7168995  
©2020 Be Essential Songs

### FELLOWSHIP TIME

#### God So Loved

CCLI #7138599  
©2019 Angie Feel Good Songs

### MORNING PRAYER

#### Oceans

CCLI #6428767  
©2012 Hillsong Music

#### Change My Heart Oh God

CCLI #1565  
©1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

### MORNING MESSAGE

#### Things Could Get Messy

John 1:29-34

Rev. Tom Jones

### REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM

### INVITATION

#### Rising Sun

CCLI #6364759  
©2012 Capitol

### CLOSING PRAYER

Tom Jones

## The Worship of God

JANUARY 08, 2023  
SANCTUARY • 8:30am & 11:00am

Greeting Rev. Richard Soper

\* Hymn #57 **O For a Thousand  
Tongues to Sing** AZMON  
Verses 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

\* Passing the Peace

\* Fellowship **Sweet, Sweet Spirit** SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

Children's Message Chris Moncus

\* Hymn #606 **Come, Let Us Use  
The Grace Divine** KINGSFOLD

Offertory Prayer Rev. Tom Jones

Offertory

Response **The Doxology**

Message in Music **Down to the River  
To Pray** Chancel Choir

Morning Message Rev. Tom Jones

### Things Could Get Messy

John 1:29-34

Remember Your Baptism  
Thanksgiving Over the Water

\* Invitation #605 **Wash, O God,  
Our Sons and Daughters** BEACH SPRING  
Verses 1 & 3

\* Benediction Tom Jones

Postlude

\*Worshippers, please stand as comfortable

## The Power of a Prayer

“Horse” is a type of basketball game. When a player misses a shot that was made by his or her opponent then that player gets a “letter.” When a player gets enough letters to spell the word “horse,” that player is out of the game.

My son, Sam, was 9-years old. I had him down to his last letter when I made a long, long shot. Sam reacted with a stunned look. Through the eyes of a 9-year-old it had to seem like an impossible shot to make. He said nothing. He took the basketball, sat down, and bowed his head. I asked him, “What are you doing?” He quietly responded, “I’m praying.” I laughed and said, “Good luck with that! It will take more than a prayer for you to make that shot.”

After a few moments Sam stood and let the ball fly. As I watched it seemed like the ball was moving in slow motion. His confident face transformed into a smile as the ball swished through the net. Sam leapt with excitement. I was now the one with a stunned look. The game continued. It didn’t matter who won. The final score that day was Sam- 1, Dad- 0.

You may want to enter into a theological debate about the power of a prayer and whether or not God cared about Sam making that shot, but is that really necessary? What is more important is that a 9-year-old child, faced with a near impossible challenge, took a moment to talk to God and with renewed confidence he gave it his best shot.

There is power in a prayer. There will be times when God asks us to do something that seems impossible; to be the one to take the first step towards reconciliation in a broken relationship; to trust in his care in times of uncertainty; to love the unlovable; or to follow faithfully when the path God chooses is risky at best.

Most of us are aware that our denomination is experiencing challenging times. Bishop David Graves, the episcopal leader of the South Georgia Conference, has called all United Methodist to focus on the power of prayer this year. He says, “While it seems so obvious that prayer is the center of our work, sometimes we need to make intentional efforts. It is easy to get sidetracked. We add more to our plates. All of this distracts us from listening for God’s voice and seeking his will for our churches and lives.”

To help us be more intentional in our prayer lives the South Georgia Conference has provided a monthly prayer guide. The prayer guides contain a specific focus, including a weekly scripture, a breath prayer, and a prayer prompt. **January’s prayer guide is available at [sgaumc.org/year-of-prayer](http://sgaumc.org/year-of-prayer).**

I invite you to join me as we focus on the power of prayer in 2023. Together our efforts will allow space for the Holy Spirit to guide us in all we do – even in those times when it seems like a long shot.

Blessings,

**Tom**

## Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Beverly Trainor and Michelle Stewart and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Romolo Racca who passed away on Saturday, December 31, 2022.

## Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online by visiting our website at [www.stimonsumc.com](http://www.stimonsumc.com) and click on the Giving tab.

January 1, 2023

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$10,062.00

Received YTD | \$10,062.00

Expenses YTD | \$7,548.19

Difference YTD | \$2,513.81

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$3,357.96

Building Maintenance Fund YTD | \$50.00

Maintaining the Mission GTD (given to date) | \$192,651.15

*Thank you*

## Attendance- January 1, 2023

10:30 Worship Service: 207      Online Worship Views: 280

## Members in Ministry- January 8, 2023

**Ushers:**

8:30 Steve Tucker, Richie Sipe, Harry Paisley

11:00 Mike Fitzgerald, Bill Hansen, Robert Jenkins, Jeff Parker, Randall Rehberg, Phil Shinall, Charles Taylor

**Greeters:**

8:30 Pat Carmichael, Sharon Blount

9:45 Carol Conner, Laura Weldy

11:00 Greer Shinall, Fran Jones

**Projection:**

8:30 Robin Parmelee                      9:45 Ashley Swann

11:00 Elizabeth Daniel

**Acolytes:**

8:30 Sarah Sipe

11:00 Addy Thompson & Evie Stephenson

## Prayer Requests

***Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:***

***New Prayer Concerns:***

**Katy Pickett Burge, Leonard Crawford, Mary DeLage, Brenda Fields, Annette Flagella, Karen Flagella, Diana Giannotti, Maribel Hambric, Debbie Kudlow, Family of Andy Morris, Ellie Nunley, David Pickett, Paul Pleoger, Blair & Blake Simpson, Beverly Trainor & the Racca & Stewart Family**

***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 Hallowes, Elwanda Hopkins, **Barbara Jensen, Jim Jensen, Jim Lee, Ellie Leroux, Sandee Lukitsch, Louise Mafield, 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.***

## New Preschool Director

On behalf of the Week Day Child Care Committee,

I am pleased to announce that **Tanja Oliver** has accepted the position of Preschool Director. The committee began searching for the perfect candidate in September. Resumes were submitted, and a hiring sub-committee conducted a two-part interview process with the applicants. Early December, the board reconvened and decided to extend an offer to Tanja. We are delighted Tanja accepted the position and will begin a gradual transition from lead teacher/assistant director into the role of director. We will be sad to say goodbye to Mary Brittain but are confident Tanja will perform admirably in her new role as Preschool Director.

Lindsey Giles,

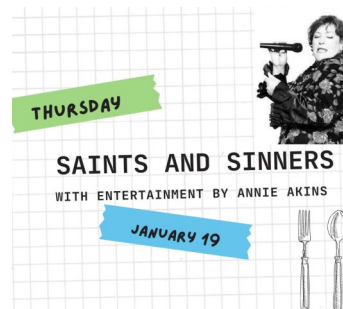
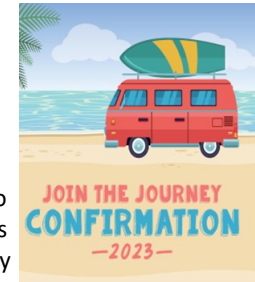
Preschool Board Chairman

## 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.

## Confirmation

Confirmation is a continuation of the faith journey of our 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:chris@stsimonsumc.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.

## 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](mailto:jeffzoul@gmail.com). Please register in Realm, or by contacting the church office.

## Pictorial Directory– Save the Date!

Please save the date to have your photo taken by The Dark Room photographers for our new photo directory. Photos will be taken on Sundays in January and February and a sign up will be sent out soon. We will have time slots for you to sign up from 9:30am – 12:30pm. Sessions will start on Sunday, January 22. This is a great opportunity for you or you and your loved ones to have a lovely, professional photo taken in 2023 in our church courtyard! Photos will be available for purchase but no purchase is necessary!

Please look out for more information soon. Our goal is to have a new picture of everyone who attends SSUMC (members, regular attenders, snow-birds, individuals, families and all are welcome). We look forward to offering a new church directory available for all in the spring of 2023.

**Join Our Email List or Update Your Contact Info:**  
[info@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:info@stsimonsumc.com) | 912.638.3317



## 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@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:tom@stsimonsumc.com)**