

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

MARCH 10, 2024

CHAPEL • 9:45 AM

## WELCOME

Rev. Richard Soper

## PRaise AND WORSHIP

### *We Welcome You*

CCLI #134016  
©1987 Mercy

### Fellowship Time

### *Hallelujah*

CCLI #3091812  
©2000 Vineyard Songs

### *Only Jesus*

CCLI #7117580  
©My Refuge Music

### Morning Prayer

Richard Soper

### *Counting My Blessings*

CCLI #7202276  
© Capital CMG Paragon

## MORNING MESSAGE

*Why Can't You Find a Lighthouse  
When You Need One?*

JOHN 3:14-21

Rev. Tom Jones

## INVITATION

### *Lead Me to the Cross*

CCLI #4785828  
© 2006 Hillsong Music

## CLOSING PRAYER

Tom Jones

### *March Memory Verse*

And the PEACE of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:7

# The Worship of God

MARCH 10, 2024

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM • SANCTUARY

## GREETING

Rev. Richard Soper

## PRELUDE

Sondra Anderson

### \* HYMN #185

*When Morning  
Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

### \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH    Apostle's Creed

### \* FELLOWSHIP TIME

*O How He Loves You and Me*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Victoria Fryer

## MORNING PRAYER

Richard Soper

### \* HYMN #365

*Grace Greater than Our Sin*  
Verses 1, 2 & 4

MOODY

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Tom Jones

## OFFERTORY

*Power of The Cross*

Cameron Cody  
Kevin Lamb

Arr. McDonald/Shackley

## RESPONSE #95

*Doxology*

OLD 100TH

## MESSAGE IN MUSIC

*The Garden Call*

Chancel Choir  
Martin/Nix

## MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Tom Jones

*Why Can't You Find a Lighthouse  
When You Need One?*

JOHN 3:14-21

### \* HYMN #402

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*  
Verses 1 & 4

I WANT TO BE  
A CHRISTIAN

### \* BENEDICTION

Tom Jones

## POSTLUDE

*\* Worshipers, please stand as able*

### *March Memory Verse*

And the PEACE of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:7

## Which Way?

My wife and I always seem to have differing opinions on which way to go? For example, I prefer to go out Highway 17 to get to Interstate 95 going north. She says it's better to take Golden Isles Parkway. I think it's better to take Golden Isles Parkway to go to Target. She's convinced that Altama is the much better way. We each have our own thoughts on the best direction to go.

There are those of us who would like to have a better idea about the direction of our lives. We can become overwhelmed by the options and the differing opinions offered to us; opinions that often come in the form of so-called good advice. As a result we tend to look for shortcuts and, as it sometimes turns out when we choose a shortcut, we can become lost or arrive at a dead end.

If we are to follow God's direction there are few, if any, reliable shortcuts. To grow in our faith requires us to have a simple, childlike understanding of God's love, care, and faithfulness to us. It may require getting back to the basics of our faith; to remembering the words of arguably the most familiar scripture verse in all the Bible - John 3:16.

A man by the name of Max told the story of how he was just an old drunk. The only directions he needed were for someone to point him to the next bottle of whiskey. The next drink dominated his thoughts. The direction of his life was a downward spiral. He said, "I was rescued by the gospel. I'm not just stating that. I was rescued. I mean, I was a train going over the cliff and the gospel really rescued me. The question for me was not "Is there a God?" The question was, "Could God forgive a jerk like me?" And John 3:16 says, "Yes, for God so loved Max that he gave his one and only son."

If you are contemplating the best direction for your life, sometimes it simply helps to remember that God so loves you. Follow his directions. No one can argue with that.

Blessings,

**Tom**

## Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for a Church Family Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, March 24**, starting at 12:00pm after church in the Thorpe Building and Thorpe side yard. Please bring a covered dish to share! Invite your friends & family to join us! **CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!**

**Donations can be left in the Gholson room!**

Contact Victoria for more info at [victoria@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:victoria@stsimonsumc.com).



## Honorariums & Memorials

**A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN IN MEMORY OF TILMAN BLAKELY BY:**

Dr. John T. & Helen Grayson  
Jodell Ayers & Tony Landers  
Tamar Weaver  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Murray  
Sharon & Ranny Blount

**A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN IN MEMORY OF FAYE GOWEN BY:**

William F. Hodges

## Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online at [www.stimonsumc.com](http://www.stimonsumc.com)

**March 3, 2024**

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$31,003.05

Received YTD | \$262,765.68

Expenses YTD | \$199,431.39

Difference YTD | \$63,334.29

Budgeted Amount YTD \$226,857.98

Building Maintenance Fund YTD | \$2,688.00

Maintaining the Mission GTD (given to date) | \$274,229.64

*thank you*

## Worship Attendance- March 3, 2024

8:30am : **110**

Online Worship Views: **439**

9:45am : **91**

Sunday School/Small Group: **126**

11:00am: **274**

Total In Person: **475**

## Members in Ministry- March 10, 2024

**Ushers:**

**8:30** Steve Tucker, Richie Sipe, Thornton Willingham

**11:00** Mike Fitzgerald, Jeff Parker, Carolyn Williams, Larry Williams

**Greeters:**

**8:30** Edie Vinson, Sharon Blount

**9:45** Carol Conner, Laura Weldy

**11:00** Fran Jones, Nancy Jenkins

**Projection:**

**8:30** Robin Parmelee **9:45** Ashley Swann **11:00** Elizabeth Daniel

**Acolytes:**

**11:00** Claire & Ketch Kase

## Prayer Requests

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

**New Prayer Concerns - Church Members:** Dick Pipe

**New Prayer Concerns- Others:** Jim Baldwin, Paul Barber, Robin Bottenas, Kimberly Clark, Jake Cunningham, Ernie Humbert, Family of Setphanie Jones, Mitchell Kent, Family of Lexi McRae, Beverly Riley, Daniel Roberson, Barbara Smith, Gena Paige Tolleson, Joe Winter

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Di Bailey, Ron Bateman, Bob Beane, Thomas Benefield, Jim Bennett III, Ranny Blount, Sam Bodine, Marcia Boney, Kai Booth, Billy June Boyd, Marsha Boyette, Carlotta Budd, Beth Carey, Vicki Certain, Russell Cohen, Trent Cohen, Joy Cowart, Cathy Bailey Crumley, Pat Daniels, Betsy Draughon, Sandy Fitzgerald, Dotsy Fuller, Jim Fuller, Chris Gonzalez, Kristin Gonzalez, Savannah Gonzalez, Bill Hansen, Alice Hicks, Elwanda Hopkins, Tom Humphries, Barbara Jensen, Jim Jensen, Anne Jones, Kevin Josey, Rosie Koch, Holly Lamb, Ellie Leroux, Chris Lorence, Ed McKenzie, Mike McMillan, Nathan Meadows, Carol Meeks, Priscilla Mercer, Spence Mullis, Kirk Nowery, Randy Payne, Ann Pickard, Alan Proctor, Mable Proctor, Mary Rentz, Reggie Rogers, Irene Rohan, Bob Scherer, Mike Stiles, Dave Vandersall, Mary Vice, Bo Vice, Judy Whelan, Chuck Wilson, Lois Winsness, Bobbé Wooldridge, Hollis Youngner, Beverly Zeller, Emmie Zwack

**Assisted Living Prayer**

**Magnolia Manor:** JoAnne Alford, Marjorie Lawrence, Barbara Meadows, Norma Mock, Joyce Parry

**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.**

# The Way Forward FAQ

This week we continue to explore the question, "Why have other United Methodist Churches made the decision to depart the denomination?" Fear is one reason. The fear of the unknown can be paralyzing. While none of us know what the future holds, what we do know is that nothing in the Book of Discipline has changed since 2016 regarding the UMC's position on same sex marriages and the ordination of homosexuals. One of the fears that has seemed to have driven the decision of numerous departing churches was their church property; fears that our Lay Leadership Group realized were mostly unfounded. The Trust Clause has been in our Book of Discipline since 1797. The Trust Clause requires each local church to hold in trust for the denomination all property and assets. What this means more than anything else is that our property will be used as a church. Some have suggested that the UMC is using the Trust Clause to hold local churches hostage; that churches like ours could ultimately have to pay millions of dollars to depart if we don't choose to get out now. The fact of the matter is that local churches have always had an option to depart provided in the Book of Discipline. The United Methodist Church has never approached the departure of a local church as solely a property issue. While some agreement of payments to the annual conference would be made, as is being done now, the UMC would not attempt to sell us our property which we own and is deeded to St. Simons UMC. The fear over property matters has served to be more of a distraction from the real issues being considered in our denomination and should not be considered as a threat to our church.

## Cameron Cody Concert

**Sunday, March 10 • 4:00 PM**

Join us for a concert by Cameron Cody who is the Director of Music Ministry and Organist at Chapelwood UMC in Houston, TX. Cameron is an internationally recognized concert artist, conductor and organist. This should be a wonderful afternoon enjoying his musical talents. Cameron was a former resident of the Golden Isles and former organist at Wesley Church. A reception will follow after this concert in the Gholson area! Complimentary to all!

## Saints and Sinners Luncheon

Join us on **Tuesday, March 12** for Saints and Sinners for some fellowship around the table and entertainment from our very own Fred Kopp. Fred plays the guitar and sings. Many of his songs are originals. Fred and his wife, Lynn, are members of SSUMC and sing in the Chancel Choir. Entree is provided but please bring a side dish to share. Cost is \$5.00. Reserve your spot on Realm or by calling the church office. **Reservations due by March 11.**

## SSUMC Men's Ministry Lunch

**Thursday, March 14 • 12:00 PM**

Join us for an informative presentation on World War II by church member Chris Simmons. Explore the history of the Golden Isles in WWII and enjoy a time of fellowship with other SSUMC Men. Bring a friend or neighbor. Cost is \$8.00. Reserve your spot on Realm or by calling the church office. **Reservations due by Monday, March 11.**

## Easter Hydrangeas

**Order by March 25 | Cost \$22**

Help place Easter Hydrangeas in the Sanctuary or Chapel to celebrate the Risen Christ. You may place a hydrangea plant in memory or honor of a loved one. Please take your hydrangea plant home with you after the 11:00am Easter Worship Service on Sunday, March 31. Envelopes are in the pews or you may drop a check by the office.



### Palm Sunday Worship-

**Sunday, March 24** – We continue our preparation for Easter as we remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Children will be waving palms and singing at the 11:00am service.

### Holy Week Community Service and Lunch-

**Monday, March 25 at noon**– Join us for a Holy Week Service and Lunch. Volunteer to help and bring a salad, sandwich tray or dessert to share by signing up via our signup genius link at [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4eafaf2aa3fb6-holy1#](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4eafaf2aa3fb6-holy1#/)/ or by calling the church office.

### Maundy Thursday/Darkening Service-

**Thursday, March 28 at 6:00pm** – Join us as we experience the last hours of Christ's earthly ministry. We will celebrate Holy Communion during the service as Christ's disciples gathered with Him in the upper room. We complete our Lenten journey to the cross in darkness as we leave to contemplate Good Friday and anticipate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

### Easter Sunday Worship Services-

**Sunday, March 31 at 8:00am, (2) at 9:30am, & 11:00am**

On Easter Sunday, there will be three worship services to celebrate the Risen Lord in our Sanctuary! Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection with beautiful music, scripture, and the Easter sermon "The Stone". **The 8:00am and 11:00am service will be traditional Easter services and the 9:30am service will be a contemporary Easter service to celebrate the Risen Christ!** Come celebrate Easter with us at one of these meaningful three services! **Please note the time changes for these 4 services!**

## 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 8:30 (adult only) & 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 Bldg.
- Kid's Clubhouse (**5 years old - 5th grade**), leave together after the Kid'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 Bldg.

## 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)**



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



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# Weekly Calendar

## Sunday, March 10

8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary\***  
8:30 AM Adult Sunday School, **Room 202\***  
9:45 AM Clubhouse Jam, **Kid's Clubhouse**  
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. for above worship services**  
**All Services Streamed Live**  
4:00 PM Cameron Cody Concert, **Sanctuary**  
5:30 PM Youth Group and Dinner, **Thorpe Building**

## Monday, March 11

9:00 AM Prayer Team, **Parlor**  
9:00 AM Preschool Mini-Motions, **Children's Room**  
11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**

## Tuesday, March 12

10:00 AM Men's Life Group, **Room 203**  
10:00 AM Remember Lenten Bible Study, **Room 201**  
11:00 AM Way Forward- Parlor Talk, **Parlor**  
12:00 PM Saints and Sinners Luncheon, **Thorpe Building**  
1:00 PM Women's Life Group, **Room 203**  
5:30 PM Traditional Worship Committee Meeting, **Room 203**  
6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248, **Thorpe Building**  
6:00 PM PAL Meeting, **Room 207**

## Wednesday, March 13

11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**  
1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**  
5:00 PM Handbell Practice, **Handbell Room**  
5:30 PM Way Forward- Parlor Talk, **Parlor**  
5:30 PM The Chosen Bible Study, **Thorpe Building**  
5:30 PM Kid's Choir, **Choir Room**  
6:00 PM Kids WOW- Bible, Pizza & Fun, **Kid's Clubhouse**  
6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, **Choir Room**

## Thursday, March 14

9:00 AM Preschool Mini-Motions, **Gholson Room**  
12:00 PM Men's Ministry Lunch, **Thorpe Building**

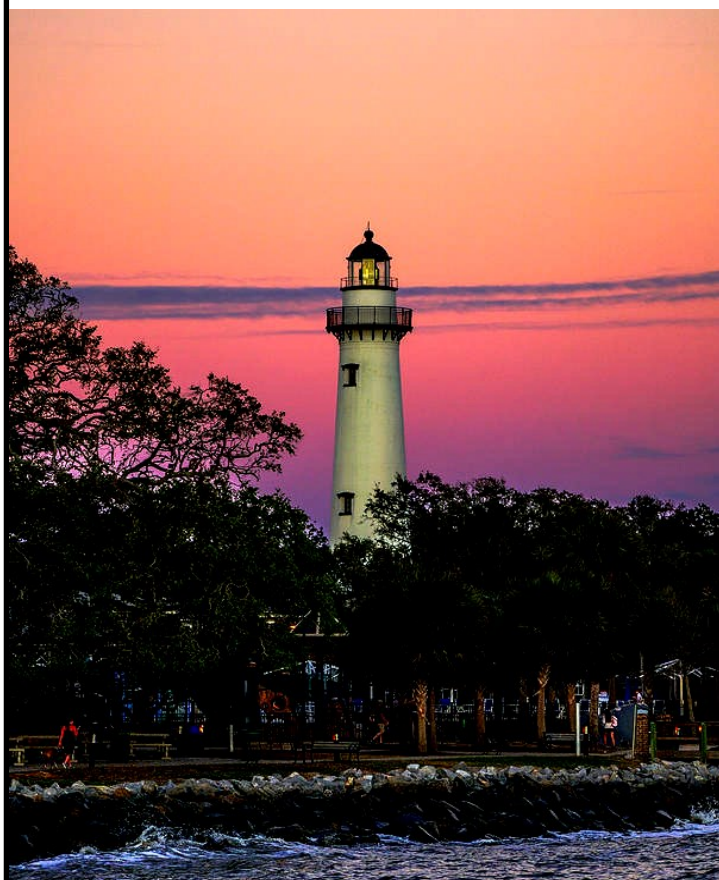
## Friday, March 15

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

**C** **h** **u** **r** **c** **h** **e** **s** **t** **a** **f** **f**  
**REV. TOM JONES, Senior Pastor**  
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**REV. RICHARD SOPER, Associate Pastor**  
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**KEVIN LAMB, Director of Music Ministries**  
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**Victoria Fryer, Children's Director** (Part-time)  
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**HOLLY LAMB, Contemporary Music Associate**  
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**SONDRA ANDERSON, Pianist**  
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# ST. SIMONS

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Why Can't You Find a Lighthouse  
When You Need One?*

**JOHN 3:14-21**

*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*