

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 23– Confirmation Sunday

- 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**
12:00 PM Confirmation Lunch for Confirmands & Family, **Thorpe Bldg.**
1:30 PM Esther Circle, **Temple Beth Tefilloh**

Monday, March 24

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

Tuesday, March 25

- 10:00 AM Men's Life, **Room 203**
1:00 PM Women's Life, **Room 209**

Wednesday, March 26

- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**
1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**
4:30 PM Children's Choir, **Choir Room**
5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner, **Thorpe Building**
6:00 PM Chancel Choir, **Choir Room**

Thursday, March 27

- 10:30 AM Lenten Bible Study, **Room 201**

Friday, March 28

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

Small Group Survey

The Education and Small Groups Committee needs your input. Please use the QR Code to complete a brief survey regarding small group interest in our church. If you have family members who attend the church, ask them to also complete a survey – we would love to hear from our youth. The goal of the committee is to enhance our small group opportunities and offer experiences that are of particular interest to you.



- C** **REV. TOM JONES, Senior Pastor**
tom@stsimonsumc.com | 678.343.3767
- h** **REV. BENJY VARNELL, Assistant Pastor**
benjyv@stsimonsumc.com | 912.393.4566
- u** **KEVIN LAMB, Director of Music Ministries**
kevin@stsimonsumc.com
- r** **ANNE FRAZIER, Church Administrator**
anne@stsimonsumc.com
- C** **CAROLYN HAMILTON, Finance Associate**
carolyn@stsimonsumc.com
- h** **TANJA OLIVER, Preschool Director**
tanja@stsimonsumc.com
- A** **ASHLEY CARTER, Administrative Staff Associate**
ashley@stsimonsumc.com
- S** **HOLLY LAMB, Contemporary Music Associate**
hlamb92@gmail.com
- t** **SONDRA ANDERSON, Music Associate-Pianist**
sanderson41561@gmail.com
- a** **VICTORIA FRYER, Director of Children's Ministry**
victoria@stsimonsumc.com
- f** **JUSTIS KUYKENDALL, Director of Youth Ministry**
justis@stsimonsumc.com
- f**

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

MARCH 23, 2025
9:45 AM • CHAPEL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holly Lamb
Contemporary Music Associate

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Good God Almighty

CCLI #716860
©2021 9t One Songs

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Open Our Eyes

CCLI #1572
©1976 CCM Music

Good Good Father

CCLI #6304702
©2014 Capitol CMG Paragon

Word of God Speak

CCLI #3912788
©2002 Songs From The Indigo Room

PRAYER TIME

Rev. Benjy Varnell

MORNING MESSAGE

I Know You

Deuteronomy 26: 17-18a CET
Rev. Wright Culpepper
Executive Director, FaithWorks

INVITATION

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever

CCLI #1043199
©1994 Curious? Music UK

SENDING FORTH

The Worship of God

MARCH 23, 2025
SANCTUARY • 8:30 & 11:00 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Lamb
Director of Music Ministries

PRELUDE

Sondra Anderson
Music Associate/Pianist

* HYMN #545 ***The Church's One Foundation*** FOUNDATION
Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **APOSTLE'S CREED** Rev. Benjy Varnell
Assistant Pastor

* RESPONSE **Gloria Patri**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

Claire Hugonnot Kase
Ketch Simons Kase

* FELLOWSHIP TIME

* FELLOWSHIP CHORUS
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (11:00)

Victoria Fryer
Director of Children's Ministry

MORNING PRAYER

Benjy Varnell

THE LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN #593 ***Here I Am, Lord*** HERE I AM, LORD

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Benjy Varnell

OFFERTORY

Chancel Choir

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Wright Culpepper
Executive Director, FaithWorks

I Know You

Deuteronomy 26:17-18a CET

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION (11:00 AM)

* INVITATION ***Living for Jesus*** LIVING FOR JESUS
Verses 1 & 3

* BENECTION **Wright Culpepper**

POSTLUDE

Sondra Anderson

**Worshippers, please stand as comfortable*



The beautiful altar flowers are given in loving memory of **Marcia Boney** by: Edward Armstrong, Diane Bailey, Diane Baldwin, Helen Baker, Cherie DeMarco, Martha Dixon, Yvonne Flowers, Janet Orr, Sherry Pickett, Elizabeth Pipe, Nancy Rentz, Duane Shearer, and Dee West

Confirmation 2025

Over the past four weeks several young people in our church have participated in Confirmation Classes. During the classes they learned about the basics of our Christian faith and practices, the history and traditions of the United Methodist Church, and the meaning of worship and the sacraments.

In addition, they attended the Confirmation Retreat where they joined with youth from across the South Georgia Conference at Epworth By The Sea for a weekend of spiritual growth. The confirmation journey for our confirmands concludes this Sunday at the 11:00am worship service when we receive each of them as full members in the church. Congratulations to the 2025 Confirmation Class that is listed on the front cover of the worship guide this week.

Confirmation happens annually. It is time when youth in the fifth grade or older choose to confirm what happened at their baptism when God welcomed them into the church family. Most importantly they choose to make their personal decisions to follow Christ and to make a commitment to continue to grow in their faith journeys. This Sunday the youth will stand before our congregation as witnesses of God's grace and their decision to become full members of the church.

I enjoyed the opportunity I had to be with this group. I also appreciate the leadership offered by Benjy Varnell, Victoria Fryer, and Justis Kuykendall as they organized, planned, and helped facilitate the class sessions.

Congratulations to our confirmands and their families on this accomplishment! Please join with me in welcoming them as the newest members of our incredible church!

Blessings,

Tom

A Note from Tom

Last week I shared with the congregation that it was my last Sunday with you before I take a two-month medical leave.

I am grateful for our Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the decision they reached to provide me this time to recover from prostate cancer surgery and address other medical issues. My wife, Anne, also continues to deal with exacerbated symptoms related to Multiple Sclerosis which has recently been diagnosed as out of remission. She is also coping with the declining health of her father and trips back and forth to Augusta. And Croft, my teenage daughter, needs as much prayer as any of us as she puts up with the aches, pains, and whining of her way too old parents.

I appreciate the willingness of Benjy Varnell to take the lead in preaching while I am away. In addition, he will continue his excellent work in caring for the needs of our congregation. The staff will also take on additional responsibilities in my absence. I am thankful for each of them. Their willingness to step up where needed and the way they faithfully and consistently serve our church is a blessing to me and many.

My surgery was on Thursday, March 20, at MD Anderson/Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville. I am thankful the numerous ways you have shown my family and me your encouragement and support. Please continue to lift us up in prayers whenever our names come to mind. I look ahead to better days and to my returning strong on May 19.

In the meantime, my family and I lean on the words of Isaiah 41:10: "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

Blessings,

Tom

Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online at www.stimonsumc.com

March 16, 2025

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$48,316.01

Received YTD | \$275,864.38

Expenses YTD | \$241,976.06

Difference YTD | \$33,888.32

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$279,947.10

Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$1,236.00

Maintaining the Mission (Given To Date) | \$284,865.35

Attendance ~ March 16, 2025

8:30 AM Worship Service: **91**

Online Worship Views: **554**

9:45 AM Worship Service: **70**

Sunday School/Small Group: **122**

11:00 AM Worship Service: **167**

Total In Person Worship: **328**

Members in Ministry ~ March 23, 2025

Ushers:

8:30 Ward Sweat, Chip Higginbotham, Bob Swinehart, Jeff Zoul

11:00 Clif Pease, Erik Kaufmann, David Paulk, Rick Denman

Greeters:

8:30 Pat Carmichael, Barbara Whitney

9:45 Pam Rehberg, Randall Rehberg

11:00 Lou Harden, Sydonna Harden, Nancy Jenkins

Projection:

8:30 Robin Parmelee

9:45 Carol Conner

11:00 Neva Kaye

Acolytes:

11:00 Julia Humphries, Smith Graffis

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns - Church Members: JoAnne Alford, Tom Jones & Family, Family & friends of Sandy Thornberry

New Prayer Concerns Non-Members: Clarijane Bush, Luke Cowart, Family & friends of Ben Crawford, Cyndy Evans, Sherry Lebar, Ed Morgan, April Mock, **Laura Plank**, Larry Sharp, **Mary Wilska & Family**

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Di Bailey, Ron Bateman, Bob Beane, Thomas Benefield, Jim Bennett, III, Ranny Blount, Sam Bodine, Kai Booth, Cindy Bostick, Billy June Boyd, Carlotta Budd, Beth Carey, Vicki Certain, Russell Cohen, Trent Cohen, Cathy Bailey Crumbley, Betty Daher, Pat Daniels, Larry Daugherty, Mark Daugherty, **Cathy Dowdy**, Betsy Draughon, Geoff Fields, Sandy Fitzgerald, Dotsy Fuller, Jim Fuller, Barbara & Bob Golding, Mary McCreary George, Joe Gonzalez, Ken Graffis, Julie Haney, Bill Hansen, Jennifer & Tom Higdom, Elwanda Hopkins, Tom Humphries, Barbara Jensen, Laura Johnson, Kevin Josey, Mitchell Kent, Holly Lamb, **Wayne Land**, Jimmy Langford, Gary Leggett, Ellie Leroux, Chris Lorence, James McBride, Mike McDonald, Ed McKenzie, Mike McMillan, Nathan Meadows, Priscilla Mercer, Mega & Blake Moore, Neil Mullis, Spence Mullis, Kirk Nowery, Randy Payne, Ann Pickard, Dick Pipe, Mable Proctor, Mary Rentz, Irene Rohan, Bob Scherer, Bonni Smith, Brion Trainor, Rhonda Van View, Dave Vandersall, Mary Vice, Bo Vice, Judy Whelan, Chuck Wilson, Audrey Wood, Betsy Worthy, Bobbé Wooldridge, Hollis Youngner, Beverly Zeller, Emmie Zwack,

Assisted Living Prayer Concerns:

Heritage Oaks: Marjorie Lawrence, Barbara Meadows, Norma Mock

Marsh's Edge Assisted: Nancy Reynolds

Vitality: Judy Clifton

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.



LAST Dinner of the Spring - March 26

Join us for our LAST Wednesday Night Dinner until FALL! The menu is: **Beef Stroganoff over Egg Noodles, Lima Beans, Salad and Dessert.** This is a great opportunity to connect with others in our church community, and come together for fun and fellowship with a nice, warm meal! Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and under eat for free. **PLEASE register by calling the Church office, clicking the QR code or through Realm no later than noon on Monday, to guarantee your reservation!** We hope to see you there!

Easter Hydrangeas

Order by April 16 | Cost is \$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 on Easter Sunday. Please take your hydrangea plant home with you after the 11:00am Easter Worship Service on Sunday, April 20. Order Envelopes are in the pews or you may drop a check by the office.



Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for a Church Family Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, April 13** 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! Contact Victoria for more info at: victoria@stsimonsumc.com.



Meaningful Mission Opportunity

Join us for this opportunity to participate in a mission trip to Wewahitchka, FL to work with Square Foot Ministry in building a home for those in the most need. This is an area of poverty which is still recovering from past storms. The trip and build is April 27-30, with the wall raising on April 28 at 8:00am. Long Avenue Baptist Church, in Port Saint Joe, FL is providing meals and a place to stay with air mattresses or cots. No expense for us and we will take the church van. This is a great chance to work on a build that is already funded and organized and to see how Square Foot operates. Who knows, Jesus may call us to do this closer to home. For more info contact David Clark at **770-639-0346** or dfclark929@gmail.com

Welcome to our Newest Members

Join us in welcoming our newest members:

◆ **Rev. Jenna and Patrick Kennedy and their daughter Maie**

We welcome them to our church family and are grateful for their commitment to St. Simons UMC!

Honorariums & Memorials

A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN IN MEMORY OF GEORGETTE "POM"

JOHNSON BY: JANIE ALEXANDER, DIANE AND JIM BAILEY

Happy 15th Anniversary!

We are happy to announce that **Anne Frazier** our Church Administrator is observing her 15th year anniversary here at St. Simons UMC on March 30. If you would like to express your love and appreciation, please mail or bring your gift by the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sundays between now and March 30! Thank you for being a part of this special celebration in gratitude for Anne's dedication and service at St. Simons UMC!

Weekly Bible Reading Highlights - March 10 - March 16

What did you highlight in your Bible last week? A few of the verses that stood out for Tom were:

Deuteronomy 1:2 – Normally it takes only eleven days to travel from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea. (Kadesh-barnea is the place God intended for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land, yet because of their disobedience they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.)

Deuteronomy 1:32 – But even after all he did, you refused to trust the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 1:37 – And the Lord was also angry with me because of you. He said to me, "Moses, not even you will enter the Promised Land! Instead, your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will lead the people into the land."

Deuteronomy 4:31 – For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the solemn covenant he made with your ancestors.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 – Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength..

Deuteronomy 11:18 – "So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine."

Keep reading!

About our Guest- Rev. Wright Culpepper

The Reverend Wright Culpepper is a lifelong Methodist. He grew up as a member of Fort Valley United Methodist Church. After college, he moved to St. Simons Island to work at Epworth By the Sea where he answered the call to go into full time ministry. After graduating from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, he served three years at Lizella United Methodist Church. In 1988 he became the first full time pastor at Wesley UMC at Frederica. In 1995, Wright was appointed to serve in Brunswick at what is now known as FaithWorks ministry. FaithWorks is celebrating its 30th year of addressing healthcare and poverty related issues. He and his wife, Ann, have three children and seven grandchildren, one of which will be confirmed at SSUMC this Sunday.

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**



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