

# Worship Notes

## TODAYS MESSAGE

### *A Beautiful Tree*

- 1 Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
- 2 But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

## Texas Flooding UMCOR—Information

In response, UMCOR has awarded a solidarity grant to the Rio Texas Annual Conference to support their relief efforts. This grant will provide immediate relief to those impacted through Early Response Team deployment, debris removal, distribution of relief supplies and more. Continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones and for all who have been impacted by this devastating disaster.

**Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Advance #2050**, noting “Guadalupe River Flood” on your gift.

### How to give:

- **In Offering:** If giving in the offering you may make checks payable to **SSUMC** and we will mail them to the **Rio Texas Conference office**, designate in memo to **Advance #2050 — Guadalupe River Flood**.
  - **Individuals:** You may give through your local church, or mail contributions directly to the conference office at:  
*Rio Texas Conference, 16400 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, TX 78248*
- Your generosity will support immediate needs in the affected areas and is greatly needed and appreciated!

## The Worship of God

JULY 13, 2025

SANCTUARY • 10:30 AM

### PRELUDE

Sondra Anderson  
Music Assistant, Pianist  
Kevin Lamb  
Director of Music Ministries

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tom Jones  
Senior Pastor

### \* HYMN #62

***All Creatures of  
Our God and King***  
verses 1, 2, 3 & 5

LAST UNSERFUEEN

*All Children Are Invited to come up on the last verse  
For the Children's Message*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Victoria Fryer  
Director of Children's Ministry

### \* FELLOWSHIP

***I'm So Blessed***

***Evidence***

### MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Benjy Varnell  
Assistant Pastor

### OFFERTORY

***How Great Thou Art***

Chancel Choir

### \* DOXOLOGY #95

### SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 1:1-3

Brantley Kate Jones

### MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Tom Jones

### *A Beautiful Tree*

### \* INVITATION

***Jesus Is Tenderly Calling***  
verses 1 & 3

CALLING

### \* BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*\*Worshippers, please stand as comfortable*



## A Beautiful Tree

The opening chapter in Psalms begins with a simple, but powerful image – a tree. But this tree is not just any tree. This tree is a well-watered, strong, thriving tree that can take a little heat or survive a drought. It's got roots. It's got fruit. It's got great leaves.

The psalm gives us two life paths: one rooted in God's ways, the other wandering off with bad advice, bad company, and – eventually – bad consequences. The person who delights in God's word is like that strong, steady tree. Not flashy. Not always noticed. But growing, bearing fruit in season, and staying green through the ups and downs of life.

So, what's the secret? It's in the daily rhythm of our faith journey. Not sprinting from spiritual high to spiritual high, but just quietly soaking in God's guidance, like roots soaking up water. We are not required to be "fruitful" all the time - Psalm 1 even says the tree yields in season. There's grace in that. Growth takes time. Fruit takes patience. Leaves sometimes get droopy. But stay planted, and God does the rest.

I challenge you and our church to be like a tree planted by the water. Stay rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ. Avoid shortcuts. And don't worry if you're not seeing fruit yet – it's coming. In the meantime, stay watered, stay connected...you will continue to be a beautiful tree!

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. Let's plant ourselves in worship – ready to grow!

Blessings,

Tom

## Weekly Bible Reading Highlights

*What did you highlight in your Bible July 7-July 13? A few of the verses that stood out for Tom are:*

**Psalm 95** – Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care.

**Psalm 100:4-5** – Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

**Psalm 118:22** – This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Psalm 119:105** – Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

**Psalm 121:1-2** – I look up to the mountains – does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth!

## Realm Update – We Need Your HELP!

We're refreshing your information in Realm and need your help! Do we have your best email and phone #?

Call or Email Anne with any updated information or photos– [anne@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:anne@stsimonsumc.com)

Thanks for keeping our community connected and up to date!



## Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online at [www.stimonsumc.com](http://www.stimonsumc.com)  
July 6, 2025

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$32,025.00  
Received YTD | \$617,923.25  
Expenses YTD | \$635,137.76  
Difference YTD | -\$17,214.51  
Budgeted Amount YTD | \$689,186.46  
Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$13,958.00

*thank you*

## Attendance ~ July 6, 2025

8:30 AM Worship Service: **70**  
10:30 AM Worship Service: **208**  
Online Worship Views: **553**  
Sunday School/Small Group: **83**

## Members in Ministry ~ July 13, 2025

### Ushers:

**8:30** Steve Tucker, Richie Sipe, Thornton Willingham  
**10:30** Mike Fitzgerald, PJ Hamilton, Cindy Simpson, Jordan Graffis, Nancy Jenkins

### Greeters:

**8:30** Susan Watkins, Sharon Blount  
**10:30** Jordi Graffis, Sharon Brantley

### Projection:

**8:30** Robin Parmelee  
**10:30** Jim Weldy

### Acolytes:

**10:30** Piper Culpepper & Smith Graffis

## Honorariums & Memorials

A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN IN MEMORY OF JOANNE ALFORD BY:

Community Foundation of Central Georgia

## Prayer Requests

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

**New Prayer Concerns - Church Members:** Jimmy Langford, Ann Pickard, Anne Rogers

**New Prayer Concerns Non-Members:** Emily Buhman, Scotte D., Bruce Harvey, Ladye Heisel, Vina Josey, David Keesee, Nancy Mead, The Parker Family, Eugene Ramba, Larry Sharpe, Mary Smith, Stan Smith, Kip Sterling, Texas Flooding & Victims

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Di Bailey, Ron Bateman, Bob Beane, 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, Betsy Draughon, Cindy Evans, Geoff Fields, Sandy Fitzgerald, Karen Flagella, Dotsy Fuller, Jim Fuller, Barbara & Bob Golding, Mary McCreary George, Joe Gonzalez, Ken Graffis, Julie Haney, Jennifer & Tom Higdom, Elwanda Hopkins, Tom Humphries, Pete Irby, Barbara Jensen, Kevin Josey, Mitchell Kent, Holly Lamb, Jimmy Langford, Gary Leggett, Ellie Leroux, Chris Lorence, James McBride, Mike McDonald, Ed McKenzie, Mike McMillan, Nathan Meadows, Priscilla Mercer, Kristen Merrill, Mary Alice Mills, Megan & Blake Moore, Neil Mullis, Spence Mullis, Kirk Nowery, Randy Payne, Ann Pickard, Dick Pipe, Mable Proctor, Mary Rentz, Dawn Roberts, Jimmy Rogers, Irene Rohan, Bob Scherer, Bonni Smith, Brion Trainor, Rhonda Van View, Dave Vandersall, Mary Vice, Bo Vice, Holly & Bill Wagner, Joel West, Judy Whelan, Chuck Wilson, Audrey Wood, 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.*

## What's Happening in Worship in the Coming Weeks

For the next few weeks, we will continue with **two worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 AM**. Let me share a few highlights of what you can expect in worship during this time:

**This Sunday, July 13**, we continue with a similar format as last week. **Rev. Tom Jones will preach from Psalm 1**, with a message titled **"A Beautiful Tree."**

- **8:30 AM** will be grounded in **hymns of faith**, with some of our choir members assisting in leading worship.

**10:30 AM** will include a mix of **hymns and modern worship music**. A few of our children will join Holly to share the song **"I'm So Blessed"—and truly, aren't we all?** The full choir will also lead us in powerful worship.

On **July 20**, our **Gospel and Camp Meeting-style worship** returns at both services, with **additional musical enhancements** at 10:30.

On **July 27**, our **final Sunday before returning to three services**, we'll focus on celebrating our **Methodist heritage** through music and worship elements that reflect our rich tradition.

Every worship service is an opportunity to give praise and glory to our amazing God—**who created us to worship Him**. As we gather, may we lift our voices, open our hearts and minds, and be ready for a fresh encounter with God—perhaps even in unexpected ways.

It is my joy and honor to help plan worship for our St. Simons UMC family.

**Keep singing,**  
*Kevin*

## We are Hiring: Media & Administrative Assistant

St. Simons UMC is looking for a creative, organized, and faith-filled individual to support our ministry through media, marketing and administration.

### Key Responsibilities:

- Manage church social media, website & marketing
- Prepare bulletins, newsletters & visual worship content
- Support live streaming & AV for services

General office duties & volunteer coordination

### You'll Need:

- Skills in Microsoft Office, Canva, ProPresenter & Realm
- Strong communication & organizational abilities
- A Christ-centered, team-oriented spirit

Full Time—Monday– Thursday 8:30-4:00pm and some Sundays and events. Salary based on experience/degree.

**Apply by sending your resume to: [anne@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:anne@stsimonsumc.com)**

Come be a part of something meaningful!

## Attention July Jewels ❁

Debbie Pease and Cyndy Franklin are organizing our annual Dutch Treat lunch and birthday celebration at Sweet Mama's on Wednesday, July 23 at 11:00 am. 🍰 🎂 🎁 🌸

Please RSVP by 7/16 to Cyndy 404-388-7137

## Youth Ministry Parent Meeting & Children's Ministry Parent Meeting

We invite all youth parents (**Rising 6-12 Grade**) to a special combined meeting with the Youth Committee on **Sunday, July 13, at 5:30pm, in the Youth Room**. Tom Jones and Justis Kuykendall will lead the conversation as we explore the future of our youth ministry and discuss meaningful ways to strengthen and grow the program.

All parents of children (**Rising K—5th Grade**) are invited to attend a special combined meeting with the Children's Committee on **Sunday, July 20, 5:30pm, in the Youth Room**. Tom Jones and Victoria Fryer will lead the discussion as we explore ways to grow and enhance the children's ministry.

Your voice matters! Whether your child is currently active with our youth or children's groups or not, your perspective and input are invaluable. Please make every effort to attend one or both of these meetings. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Save the Date! Fall Kick Off and Cook Out!

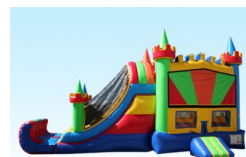
Wednesday, August 13, 2025  
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun-filled evening featuring:

- Bounce houses & yard games
- Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks & dessert
- Bingo and Prizes

All Church family and friends are welcome! We can't wait to celebrate the start of the season together.

Stay tuned for more details and to sign up!



## 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.
- 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.

## 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, July 13

- 8:30 AM Summer Worship Service, **Sanctuary**  
9:15 AM Sunday School & Small Groups , **Various Locations**  
10:30 AM Summer Worship Service, **Sanctuary\*\***  
\*Nursery Available: Newborn- 4 yrs. for above worship services  
\*\*Streamed Live  
5:30 PM Youth Committee and Parents Meeting, **Youth Room**

## Monday, July 14

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

## Tuesday, July 15

- 10:00 AM Men's Life, **Room 203**  
10:30 AM Al-Anon Group, **Room 201**

## Wednesday, July 16

- 8:00 AM High School One Days, **Gathering Place- Brunswick**  
11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**  
1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**  
5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, **Choir Room**

## Thursday, July 17

- 8:00 AM Gathering Place Middle School One Day, **Thorpe Building**  
2:00 PM Cancer Care Ministry Meeting, **Room 201**

## Friday, July 18

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

Church Staff

### REV. TOM JONES, Senior Pastor

tom@stsimonsumc.com | 678.343.3767

### REV. BENJY VARNELL, Assistant Pastor

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### KEVIN LAMB, Director of Music Ministries

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### ASHLEY CARTER, Administrative Staff Associate

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### HOLLY LAMB, Contemporary Music Associate

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### SONDRA ANDERSON, Music Associate-Pianist

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### VICTORIA FRYER, Director of Children's Ministry

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### JUSTIS KUYKENDALL, Director of Youth Ministry

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

*The Mission of Christ is Advanced Consistently.*

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