

# Weekly Calendar

## Sunday, July 27

- 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  
11:30 AM Small Group Planning Session, **Thorpe Building**

## Monday, July 28

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

## Tuesday, July 29

- 10:00 AM Men's Life, **Room 203**  
10:30 AM Al-Anon Group, **Room 201**  
5:30 PM Usher Training, **Sanctuary**

## Wednesday, July 30

- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**  
1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**  
4:30 PM College Ministry Meeting, **Gholson Room**  
5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, **Choir Room**

## Thursday, July 31

- 6:00 PM Preschool Open House, **Sanctuary & Preschool**

## Friday, August 1

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

## Rise Against Hunger — Save the Date!

Save the date for our annual Rise Against Hunger packing day on Sunday, October 19, 2025! This is a church wide event and all are welcome to attend. More information and a sign up will be sent out in September.

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**REV. TOM JONES, Senior Pastor**

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*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*

# Worship Notes

## TODAYS MESSAGE

### *The Search for Utopia*

Isaiah 65:17-25

- <sup>17</sup> "Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth,  
and no one will even think about the old ones anymore.
- <sup>18</sup> Be glad; rejoice forever in my creation!  
And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness.  
Her people will be a source of joy.
- <sup>19</sup> I will rejoice over Jerusalem  
and delight in my people.
- And the sound of weeping and crying  
will be heard in it no more.
- <sup>20</sup> "No longer will babies die when only a few days old.  
No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life.  
No longer will people be considered old at one hundred!  
Only the cursed will die that young!
- <sup>21</sup> In those days people will live in the houses they build  
and eat the fruit of their own vineyards.
- <sup>22</sup> Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses  
and confiscate their vineyards.
- For my people will live as long as trees,  
and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains.
- <sup>23</sup> They will not work in vain,  
and their children will not be doomed to misfortune.
- For they are people blessed by the Lord,  
and their children, too, will be blessed.
- <sup>24</sup> I will answer them before they even call to me.  
While they are still talking about their needs,  
I will go ahead and answer their prayers!
- <sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb will feed together.  
The lion will eat hay like a cow.  
But the snakes will eat dust.
- In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain.  
I, the Lord, have spoken!"

## The Worship of God

JULY 27, 2025

SANCTUARY • 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Kevin Lamb  
Director of Music Ministries

CALL TO WORSHIP

***O For A Thousand  
Tongues to Sing***

Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tom Jones  
Senior Pastor

LITANY OF PRAISE

HOLLY LAMB

\* A WESLEYAN TESTAMENT OF PRAISE

***Praise The Lord who Reigns Above***

Verse 1

***Sing with Glad Anticipation***

Verse 1

***Rejoice, the Lord Is King***

Verse 1

***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing***

Verses 1 & 4

A JOHN WESLEY MOMENT

Rev. Dave Hanson

\* FELLOWSHIP #384

***Love Divine All  
Loves Excelling***

Verse 1

BEECHER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Victoria Fryer  
Director of Children's Ministry

MORNING PRAYER

Benjy Varnell  
Assistant Pastor

HYMN #181

***Ye Servants of God***  
Verses 1 & 4

LYONS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Benjy Varnell

OFFERTORY

***And Can It Be***

Jason Cherne  
Violin

THE DOXOLOGY #95

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

***Come, Thou Long-  
Expected Jesus***

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

Ava Clark

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Tom Jones

### *The Search for Utopia*

\* INVITATION #405

***Seek Ye First***

SEEK YE

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*\*Worshippers, please stand as comfortable*



## Our Wesleyan Heritage

This Sunday, we celebrate our Wesleyan Heritage - a rich tradition that continues to shape our faith, our church, and our mission today.

We are blessed to live in this beautiful part of God's creation. For United Methodists, the blessing is twofold—not only do we enjoy the natural beauty of the Golden Isles, but we are also surrounded by history that connects us to the roots of our faith. Right here on St. Simons Island, we walk in the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist movement.

In 1733, General James Oglethorpe founded the colony of Georgia, the last of the original thirteen colonies, to serve as a buffer against Spanish expansion from the south. A year later, after establishing the city of Savannah, Oglethorpe sailed down the inland waterway in search of a strategic location for a fort. He chose St. Simons Island.

In 1736, John and Charles Wesley answered Oglethorpe's invitation to join him in Georgia. Their charge was to minister both to the settlers and to the Native Americans. John remained primarily in Savannah, while Charles journeyed with Oglethorpe to St. Simons, where Fort Frederica was established. Charles served as Oglethorpe's secretary and as the pastor to the Frederica community, though his time there proved to be emotionally, physically, and spiritually difficult.

John made five trips from Savannah to support Charles, spending a total of 100 days on St. Simons Island. Despite many challenges, the Wesleys helped lay the foundations of a Christian community here. The congregation they developed on the island lives on today as **Christ Church, Frederica**. Meanwhile, John Wesley's ministry in Savannah included the founding of **Christ Church, still an active church in downtown Savannah**, and the development of what would become Sunday School.

Though their time in Georgia was marked by hardship, the Wesley brothers' legacy has endured. At the heart of Wesleyan theology is the belief that God's grace is available to all and that we are called to grow in that grace through faithful, disciplined Christian living. John Wesley referred to this as "*practical divinity*" - faith in action, love lived out in everyday life.

That same spirit of practical divinity is alive and well here at **St. Simons United Methodist Church**, where we remain committed to our mission: **To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of St. Simons Island and the world.**

What a gift it is to be part of a tradition that began nearly 300 years ago and continues to inspire hearts and change lives today.

Blessings,  
**Tom**

## Welcome to our New Members!

Welcome to our newest members who joined on Sunday, July 20, 2025.

♦ **Rejane Parker and her children; Juni and Oli Parker**

Join us in welcoming them to our church family!

## Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online at [www.stimonsumc.com](http://www.stimonsumc.com)  
July 20, 2025

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$39,029.28  
Received YTD | \$683,028.53  
Expenses YTD | \$681,796.88  
Difference YTD | \$1,231.65  
Budgeted Amount YTD | \$739,445.30  
Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$14,068.00

*thank you*

## Attendance ~ July 20, 2025

8:30 AM Worship Service: **64**  
10:30 AM Worship Service: **236**  
Total In Person Attendance: **300**  
Online Worship Views: **397**  
Sunday School/Small Group: **92**

## Members in Ministry ~ July 27, 2025

### Ushers:

**8:30** Ward Sweat, Chip Higginbotham, Jeff Zoul, Bob Swinehart  
**10:30** David Paulk, Erik Kaufmann, Rick Denman, Cliff Pease

### Greeters:

**8:30** Pat Carmichael, Lesley Gonzalez  
**10:30** Sydonna Harden, Lou Harden, Pam Brand

### Projection:

**8:30** Robin Parmelee  
**10:30** Neva Kaye

### Acolytes:

**10:30** Savannah Smith, Natalie Smith

## Honorariums & Memorials

**A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN IN MEMORY OF GRACE & RALPH GRANTHAM**

**BY:** Elizabeth McDonel

## Prayer Requests

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

**New Prayer Concerns - Church Members:** Adelaide Beall, **Oliver Clark**, Laura Johnson, Conrad Stocks & family

**New Prayer Concerns Non-Members:** Kathy Alpin, Hope Hall, Angela Johnson, Peyton Johnston, Bill Melson, Family & friends of Marion Moore, Kathy Moses, The Parker Family, Eugene Ramba, Family & friends of Sandy Rice, **Lamar Russell**, John David Strickland, Brenda & Tony Tate, Teddy Whitehead, Susan Wilska

**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, 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, Megan & Blake Moore, Neil Mullis, Spence Mullis, Kirk Nowery, Randy Payne, Ann Pickard, Dick Pipe, Mable Proctor, Mary Rentz, Dawn Roberts, Anne Rogers, Jimmy Rogers, Irene Rohan, Jo Ann Segars, 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.*



## Fall Kick Off & Cook Out!

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun-filled evening

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

All Church family and friends are welcome to this complimentary event but please let us know you plan to attend! Register on Realm, scan the QR code or call the church office!



TOP GOLF - JACKSONVILLE

## YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

### Youth to TOP GOLF!

Join us for a fun outing for the Youth on Sunday, August 3! We will leave immediately after the 11:00am service. Bring money for lunch we will cover your golf! Contact Justis at [justis@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:justis@stsimonsumc.com) with any questions or to register.

## Small Group Facilitators

Your help is needed! If you currently lead a Sunday School Class, have a led a small group in the past, or are interested in facilitating a small group in the next year, you are invited to attend a brief planning session TODAY at 11:30am, in the Thorpe Building. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the goals of our Education Committee and how you can play a key role in helping to achieve those goals. Your ideas, input, and potential involvement are much needed. Please contact Tom Jones at [tom@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:tom@stsimonsumc.com) for more info.

## SSUMC Manna House Team

Our First Thursday of the month Manna House team is looking for a team captain. If you would like to lead this well established group please reach out to Anne Frazier in the church office. We are looking for someone to start serving in this capacity by September!

## Welcome to Rev. Tab Miller

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to announce that Tab Miller will become a part of our worship ministry team effective August 3. Tab will assist with the preaching responsibilities on Sundays with his focus being on the Contemporary Worship Service. In recent years Tab has served as the associate pastor at College Place United Methodist Church. He currently serves with FaithWorks with his specific responsibilities being at The Well. Tab is married to Natalie and they have three children, Audrey, Lia, and Tabitha. Please join us in welcoming Tab to our worship team! He can be reached at [tab@faithworksministry.org](mailto:tab@faithworksministry.org).

## Ushers Meeting for Current & Interested Volunteers

All current ushers - and anyone who may be interested in serving as an usher - are invited to a special meeting on Tuesday, July 29 at 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary. This will be a great opportunity to connect, refresh our understanding of usher responsibilities, and welcome new faces into this important ministry. The meeting will be led by Bill Foster, Ushers Chairman, and Tom Jones. Whether you've been ushering for years or are just curious about getting involved, please make plans to attend – your presence matters!

For more information, contact Bill Foster at [wcfoster@bellsouth.net](mailto:wcfoster@bellsouth.net).

## Weekly Bible Reading Highlights

*What did you highlight in your Bible July 20 - July 26? A few of the verses that stood out for Tom are:*

**Micah 7:7-8** – As for me, I look to the Lord for help. I wait confidently for God to save me. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.

**Isaiah 40:8** – The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.

**Isaiah 40:31** – But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

**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.

**Isaiah 52:7** – How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!

**Isaiah 53:5** – For he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be made whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

## Support Our Teachers This School Year

As a new school year approaches, our dedicated teachers are already hard at work preparing classrooms that are welcoming, creative, and engaging for their students. Often, they do this by reaching into their own pockets to purchase classroom supplies. You can make a meaningful difference by supporting our **Teacher Supply Drive** over the next few weeks. Simply write "Teacher's Supplies" on your check or offering envelope to designate your gift. Thank you for your generosity and for investing in the lives of students and teachers alike! For more information contact Anne Frazier at [anne@stsimonsumc.com](mailto:anne@stsimonsumc.com).

## 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**

