

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 7

- 8:30 AM Nursery for Newborn- 4 yrs., **8:30-12:00**
- 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary**
- 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**
- 12:00 PM Missions Committee Meeting, **Room 203**
- 4:30 PM Youth Cooking Class, **Youth Room**
- 5:30 PM Youth Group Meet Up, **Youth Room**

Monday, September 8

- 9:00 AM Prayer Team, **Parlor**
- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**
- 5:30 PM Trustee Committee Meeting, **Room 203**

Tuesday, September 9

- 10:00 AM Men's Life, **Room 203**
- 10:30 AM Al-Anon Group, **Room 201**
- 12:00 PM Saints & Sinners Luncheon, **Thorpe Building**
- 1:00 PM Women's Life Group, **Room 203**

Wednesday, September 10

- 9:30 AM MOMS- Walking Group, **Church parking lot**
- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**
- 1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**
- 4:30 PM Lift and Learn Kid's Choir, **Choir Room**
- 5:00 PM Lift and Learn Kid's Bible Fun, **Kid's Club House Upstairs**
- 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner, **Thorpe Building**
- 5:30 PM Lift and Learn Kid's Dinner& Pickup, **Thorpe Building**
- 6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, **Choir Room**

Thursday, September 11

- 9:30 AM* Faithful Women's Bible Study, **Room 203 *(Time Change)**
- 11:00 AM SAM trip to Jekyll Island, **Leave for Jekyll Island**
- 4:00 PM Esther Circle Meeting, **Parlor**

Friday, September 12

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

Saturday, September 13

- 9:00 AM Wheel-A-Thon Fundraiser, **Thorpe Building & Church**

C REV. TOM JONES, Senior Pastor
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h REV. BENJY VARNELL, Assistant Pastor
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WELCOME



*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

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
SANCTUARY • 8:30 AM

PRELUDE

Kevin Lamb
Music Associate, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tom Jones
Senior Pastor

* FELLOWSHIP TIME

* HYMN OF PRAISE #127 *Guide Me, O Thou
Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

RESPONSIVE READING

Rev. Benjy Varnell
Assistant Pastor

We have come, broken, battered, and lifeless.
Our bones are dry and we have lost sight of who we are.

Response: Breathe new life into us that we might live.

We are dead and unaware of when our death occurred.

Response: Breathe new life into us that we might live.

We need your resurrection power to fall in our lives today.

Response:

**Breathe new life into our lives,
Breathe new life into our homes,
Breathe new life into our neighborhoods,
Breathe new life into our relationships,
Breathe new life into our church.**

We, like Ezekiel, Mary, and Martha, trust in your power to
breathe new life into our dry bones and dead situations.

**All: We stand waiting for your life-giving spirit to fall upon us
so that we might be revived, restored, and renewed;
so that we might live resurrected lives with newness
and vitality in new and transformative ways.**

HYMN #393 *Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Benjy Varnell

OFFERTORY

Sondra Anderson
Director of Children's Ministry

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 37:1-10

SPECIAL MUSIC *Walk 'Dem Bones*

Chancel Choir

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Tom Jones

Dem Bones

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

* INVITATION #420 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*
verses 1, 2 & 4

TRENTHAM

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Worship of God

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
SANCTUARY • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

Kevin Lamb
Music Associate, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tom Jones
Senior Pastor

* HYMN OF PRAISE #127 *Guide Me, O Thou
Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

* FELLOWSHIP TIME

* FELLOWSHIP SONG *Lord I Lift Your
Name on High*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Victoria Fryer
Director of Children's Ministry

RESPONSIVE READING

Rev. Benjy Varnell
Assistant Pastor

We have come, broken, battered, and lifeless.
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HYMN #393 *Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Benjy Varnell

OFFERTORY

Sondra Anderson
Director of Children's Ministry

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 37:1-10

Ava Wilson

SPECIAL MUSIC *Walk 'Dem Bones*

Young Musicians
Chancel Choir

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Tom Jones

Dem Bones

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

* INVITATION #420 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*
verses 1, 2 & 4

TRENTHAM

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Worship Notes

The Worship of God

Contemporary Worship

September 7, 2025

Chapel • 9:45

Welcome and Announcements

Praise and Worship

Holly Lamb, Contemporary Music Associate

Praise

CCLI #7213077

© Brandon Lake Music

Fellowship Time

I See Grace

CCLI #7202043

© Fair Trade Global Songs

Trust In God

CCLI #7206002

© Brandon Lake Music

Jesus Paid It All

CCLI #4689508

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Morning Prayer

Today's Message

A Home Away From Home

Ezekial 37:24-37 NRSV

Rev. Tab Miller, Assistant Pastor

Holy Communion

Thank You Jesus For the Blood

CCLI #7172456

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Blessing

When Bones Start to Rattle

God gave Ezekiel a vision that seems like it is from the script of a horror movie. Ezekiel finds himself standing in front of a valley full of bones. Not just any bones but human bones as far as the eye could see. Bones stacked on one another; dry and dusty – a clear image of death, defeat, and hopelessness.

Then suddenly, the bones started rattling! Skull met spine, ankle found foot, hip bone connected to the backbone until the valley was filled with skeletons standing in formation. Some of you may remember the movie “Jason and the Argonauts” I think it includes one of the best scenes ever filmed in any movie. It is the attack of the skeleton army. It is an image that if you do recall the scene would serve you well as you imagine what Ezekiel must have witnessed.

But God wasn’t finished. Muscle and skin began to attach to the bones; then he breathed his Spirit into them, and they came alive - an entire army of living, breathing, humanity where earlier there had been only bones. It’s symbolism is powerful reminding us of new life and the power God has to resurrect what looks dead.

It is Ezekiel’s vision that inspired the spiritual “Dem Bones.” It was written in the 19th century by James Weldon Johnson, an educator, poet, and civil rights leader, who once lived and worked in Jacksonville. His song was more than just a clever way to learn anatomy. It carried the deep faith of African Americans who knew what it was like to live through hopelessness and yet trust in a God who restores.

“Dem Bones” is a fun song to sing: “The toe bone connected to the foot bone; the foot bone connected to the ankle bone...” But there’s also something profound happening in those playful lines. It’s a proclamation of faith: God can connect the pieces of our lives, breathe his Spirit into what feels lifeless, and raise up joy where despair and hopelessness once reigned.

So, the next time you hear “Dem Bones,” don’t just smile because it’s a cute and catchy song. Instead hear the deeper truth: God’s Spirit is never finished. Where we see bones, God sees the beginning of a miracle. And maybe, if you listen close enough, you just might hear a little rattling in your own soul today.

Blessings,

Tom

Weekly Bible Reading Highlights

What did you highlight in your Bible August 31-September 6?
These are a few verses that stood out to Tom:

Ezekiel 37:3-4 – Then God asked Ezekiel, “Son of man, can these bones become living people again?” “O Sovereign Lord,” Ezekiel replied, “you alone know the answer to that.”

Ezekiel 37:12 – “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel.”

Daniel 4:27 – “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud.”

Financial Report

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

August 31, 2025

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$16,552.00

Received YTD | \$794,517.31

Expenses YTD | \$826,918.47

Difference YTD | -\$32,401.16

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$889,734.08

Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$15,073.00

thank you

Attendance ~ August 31, 2025

8:30 AM Worship Service: **87** Online Worship Views: **511**
9:45 AM Worship Service: **68** Sunday School/Small Group: **127**
11:00 AM Worship Service: **188**
Total In Person Attendance: **343**

Members in Ministry ~September 7, 2025

Ushers:

8:30 Pete Irby, Travis Irby, Caryn Riggs, Pat Carmichael

11:00 Kevin Brandon, Garrett Brandon, Dylan Brandon, David Clark, Ed Reynolds

Greeters:

8:30 Carole Barton, Helen Baker

9:45 Judy & JR Wright

11:00 Barbara Smith, June Smith

Projection:

8:30 TBD

9:45 Jessica Zettler

11:00 Richard Hart

Acolytes:

11:00 Addy Thompson, Julia Humphries

Communion Servers:

8:30 Jay Hodges,
Judy Smith

9:45 Jennifer & Stan Robinson

11:00 Yvonne & Ron Flowers

Communion Prayers:

Thornton Willingham,
Sharon Blount

Toni Metz, Stan Robinson

Chuck Buhman, Judy Smith

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns - Church Members: Family & friends of Jimmy Langford, Nancy Rozier, Betty Sharp

New Prayer Concerns Non-Members: Staci Bennett, Renee Boven, Ali Carlyle, Germaine Copeland, Luana Dickey, Kip Dingler, Kim Dunn, Hope Hall, Jane Hall, John Hancock, Linda Hester, **Ron Hulett**, Family & Friends of Bob Jones, **Simmons Kirkpatrick**, Tye Pipkin, Hatice Schafer, Marilyn Schwenk, **Family & friends of Jerry Whiteside, Donna Wood, Sarah & Hannah Wood**

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, **Trudy 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, Gary Leggett, Ellie Leroux, Chris Lorence, James McBride, Mike McDonald, Ed McKenzie, Mike McMillan, Nathan Meadows, 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: Jackie Brand, 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.



Wednesday Night Dinner

9/10 from 5:00-6:00pm

Join us for our next Wednesday Night Dinner on **September 3!** The menu is: **Million Dollar Chicken Casserole, Field Peas, & 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!



Saints & Sinners Luncheon

Senior Adult Ministries invites you to a lively Musical Bingo event on **Tuesday, September 9 at noon in the Thorpe Bldg.**

Classic tunes and friendly competition will come together for an afternoon of joy and fellowship. Participants will mark off songs on their Bingo cards as they listen to popular hits from various decades. Sign Up on Realm, scan the QR Code or call the church office to reserve your spot! Entrée will be provided—please bring a dish to share!



SSUMC Preschool Wheel-A-Thon

Volunteers needed for our main fundraiser for the preschool!

Fun times for preschool families and children! Church volunteers and participants are welcome to this fun event!

Contact Tanja for more information at tanja@stsimonsumc.com



Pumpkins are Coming to the Patch!

Pumpkin Patch season is almost here! Important dates to know!



- Parent & Kids scheduling meeting on **Wednesday, September 24 at 6:00 pm, following Wednesday Night Dinner.**
- The pumpkins will arrive at the church on **Sunday, October 12 at 12:00 pm.** Bring a change of clothes so you don't get dirty!
- We'll begin setting up the patch on **Saturday, October 11 at 9:00 am.**

We need volunteers to help unload, set up, and spread the word, so bring your family and friends to join in!

We are also looking for volunteers to help with school field trips in the patch throughout the season. If you're interested in assisting, please contact me directly and I will provide more details.

Contact Justis for more info at justis@stsimonsumc.com

New Young Adult Sunday School Class!

We're excited to announce the launch of a brand-new Sunday School class designed especially for young adults - both singles and couples - who are looking to grow in their faith, build meaningful relationships, and find a welcoming space within our church community. This new class will begin **Sunday, September 7, at 9:45 AM** in the Youth and Children's Office. Contact John Bird Daniel or Rich Varner for more info!

Honorariums & Memorials

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

TAU ADK Chapter Alpha Delta Kappa

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

Susan Blakely

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**

Join Our Email List or Update Your Contact Info:

info@stsimonsumc.com | 912.638.3317



@stsimonsumc



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Welcome to our Newest Members!

Join us in welcoming our newest members:

♦ **Clara and Dewey Hayes**

Welcome to our church family!

Sparrows Nest-Collection

Thank you for those who are bringing Sparrows Nest food for our first Sunday collection. They are in need of more food every month and suggested the following items: Canned protein, Canned vegetables, Instant mashed potatoes, Soups, Boxed Powdered or Canned Milk, Baby Wipes, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste, Bath Soap and Body Wash, Plastic or paper grocery store bags.

Thank you also to the volunteers who deliver the food and help at Sparrows Nest.

