

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 4

9:45 AM Nursery for Newborn- 4 yrs., **Nursery**
9:45 AM Sunday School & Small Group Classes, **Various Locations**
10:30 AM One Unifided Worship Service, **Sanctuary**
12:00 PM Reception for Rev. Tom Jones, **Thorpe Building**

Monday, January 5

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

Tuesday, January 6

10:00 AM Staff Meeting, **Youth Room**
10:00 AM Men's Life, **Room 203**
10:30 AM Al-Anon Group, **Room 201**
1:00 PM Women's Life Group, **Room 203**

Wednesday, January 7

9:30 AM MOMS- Walking Group, **Church parking lot**
11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**
1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**
6:00 PM Chancel Choir, **Choir Room**

Thursday, January 8

4:00 PM Ester UWF Circle, **Parlor**

Friday, January 9

9:00 AM SAM trip to Jacksonville Symphony, **Leave for JAX**
11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**

WELCOME



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REV. BENJY VARNELL, Interim Senior Pastor
benjyv@stsimonsumc.com | 912.393.4566

REV. TAB MILLER, Assistant Pastor
tab@faithworksministry.org

KEVIN LAMB, Director of Music Ministries
kevin@stsimonsumc.com

ANNE FRAZIER, Church Administrator
anne@stsimonsumc.com

CAROLYN HAMILTON, Finance Associate
carolyn@stsimonsumc.com

TANJA OLIVER, Preschool Director
tanja@stsimonsumc.com

MACEY GIBBS, Media and Administrative Associate
macey@stsimonsumc.com

HOLLY LAMB, Contemporary Music Associate
hlamb92@gmail.com

SONDRA ANDERSON, Music Associate-Pianist
sanderson41561@gmail.com

VICTORIA FRYER, Director of Children's Ministry
victoria@stsimonsumc.com

BILL CULPEPPER, Director of Youth Ministry
bill@stsimonsumc.com

JUSTIS KUYKENDALL, Interim Director of Youth Ministry
justis@stsimonsumc.com



ST. SIMONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

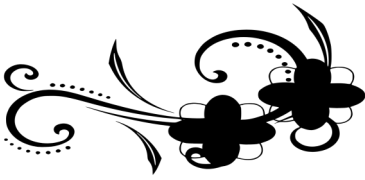
The Mission of Christ is Advanced Consistently.

624 Ocean Boulevard • St. Simons Island, GA 31522

912.638.3317 • stsimonsumc.com



This is a Stephen Ministry Church



Order of Worship

January 4, 2026
10:30 AM • Sanctuary



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Benjy Varnell
Interim Senior Pastor

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

John Bird Daniel
Lay Leader

PRELUDE

Here I Am, Lord

Sondra Anderson
Kevin Lamb

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: We thank you, Tom, for preaching the Word,

People: For teaching us the truth of God's love.

Leader: For leading us in worship and prayer,

People: For walking with us through joy and sorrow.

Leader: For your faithfulness, vision, and care,

People: We give thanks and bless you in the name of Christ.

**All: May God go with you into the next chapter
of your journey.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Benjy Varnell

Pastor: We Gather this day to worship God,
who has called us together as his people.

**People: We come with grateful hearts for all that
God has done among us.**

Pastor: Today we give thanks for the ministry we have shared,
for moments of laughter, tears, and faith.

**People: We celebrate God's faithfulness in the past
and trust his guidance for the future.**

All: To God be the glory, great things he has done!

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

Holy Is He

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:16-20

Croft Jones

MORNING MESSAGE

Tom Jones

Leave Your Nets

* HYMN OF PRAISE #98 ***To God Be the Glory***

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* INVITATION #467

Trust and Obey
Verses 1 & 3

TRUST AND OBEY

* FELLOWSHIP TIME

* FELLOWSHIP SONG

Surely the Presence

* BENEDICTION

Tom Jones

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Tom Jones

POSTLUDE

** Stand As Able*

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Richard Soper

* PRAISE AND WORSHIP

***Holy Forever
What A Beautiful Name
Great is Thy Faithfulness***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Benjy Varnell

OFFERTORY

How Great Thou Art

arr. Joel Raney

RESPONSE #95

THE DOXOLOGY

A Word of Farewell

After 33 years of serving as a United Methodist pastor, the time has come for me to step into retirement. That sentence still feels a bit unreal to write. The past years have been filled with sacred moments - joys and sorrows, baptisms and funerals, laughter, and tears - all woven together by God's grace. I am deeply grateful for every congregation I have served and every life that has intersected with mine along the way.

These past seven years with you have been amazing! There have been numerous challenges along the way, but in leaning into God's direction this church has persevered and is stronger today as a result.

It has truly been a privilege to be your pastor - to worship with you, pray with you, serve beside you, and watch God's Spirit at work in our church. You have trusted me, encouraged me, and loved me well. Thank you for allowing me to walk with you in faith and to share in the life and ministry of this congregation.

As we look ahead, I am thankful for Benjy Varnell, who will serve as your Interim Senior Pastor over the next six months. I release you from turning to me and depending on me, confident that Benjy will lead you with care, wisdom, and a faithful heart during this season of transition.

This Sunday we will join together in a celebration of ministry; yes, to reflect upon my ministry over the years, but far more importantly, to celebrate the ministry we have shared together. What God has done through us will always matter most.

On behalf of Anne and Croft, please accept our gratitude for giving us the privilege to serve as your parsonage family. We love and appreciate each one of you. I will always remember the support and care you offered us and carry those wonderful memories in my heart.

May God continue to bless this church, guide its future, and keep you strong as the body of Christ at St. Simons United Methodist Church!

Blessings,

Tom

Welcome to Our Newest Member

Welcome as our newest member **Judy Merrick**.

Judy received Christian baptism and joins the church by Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ.

Join us in welcoming Judy to our SSUMC church family!

Stephen Ministry

Serve others with your listening presence when they are hurting...

That's what we do as STEPHEN MINISTERS. There is still time to join a training class starting in February.

ALSO – if you simply enjoy bringing a smile to people's faces ~ our Visitation Team is the place for you to become involved in this New Year. We ask that you make a minimum of one in-person visit each month, and stay in touch by mail, e-correspondence ~ whatever works for you.

CALL the church office to learn more- 912-638-3317

Financial Report

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

December 28, 2025

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$22,168.54

Received YTD | \$1,221,894.19

Expenses YTD | \$1,250,194.90

Difference YTD | -\$28,300.71

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$1,324,880.44

Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$26,128.00

thank you

Attendance

December 21, 2025

8:30AM Worship Service: **96**

Online Worship Views: **601**

11:00PM Worship Service: **244**

9:45 AM Worship Service: **69**

Total In Person Worship: **409**

December 24, 2025

4:00 PM Worship Service: **447**

Online Worship Views: **357**

11:00 PM Worship Service: **97**

Total in Person Worship: **544**

December 28, 2025

10:00AM Worship Service: **185**

Online Worship Views: **267**

Members in Ministry~ January 4, 2026

Ushers:

10:30 Kevin Brandon, Garrett Brandon, Dylan Brandon, David Clark, Ed Reynolds

Greeters:

10:30 Cindy Simpson, Susan Bagwell

Projection:

10:30 Richard Hart

Communion Servers:

10:30 Rich and Diane Varner

Communion Prayers:

Betty Sharp, B.J. Whitacker

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns - Church Members: Carole Barton, Dianne Beisel, Anne Rogers, **Tom White**

New Prayer Concerns Non-Members: Major Kathleen Applin, Robyn Bottenus, Chuck Conway, **Family & friends of Hayes Hitchens, Family & friends of Whitney McCarthy**

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Di Bailey, Ron Bateman, Jim Bennett III, Ranny Blount, Sam Bodine, Kai Booth, Cindy Bostick, Carlotta Budd, Trudy Budd, Beth Carey, Vicki Certain, Russell Cohen, Trent Cohen, Cathy Bailey Crumbley, Betty Daher, Pat Daniels, Larry Daugherty, Mark Daugherty, Betsy Draughton, Geoff Fields, Sandy Fitzgerald, Karen Flagella, Dotsy 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, Mike Martin, James McBride, Mike McDonald, Ed McKenzie, Mike McMillan, Nathan Meadows, Kristen Merrill, Megan & Blake Moore, 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, Judy Whelan, **Benjamin Wiggins**, Chuck Wilson, Hollis Youngner, Beverly Zeller, Emmie Zwack,

Assisted Living Prayer Concerns:

Heritage Oaks: Jackie Brand, Marjorie Lawrence, Barbara Meadows, Norma Mock

Marsh's Edge: Nancy Reynolds, Ellen Thrift

Sears Manor: Joan Harris

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 MEALS

Wednesday Night Dinner! 1/14/26

Join us for our next Wednesday Night Dinner on Wednesday, January 14! The dinner will include Lasagna, Ceasar Salad, Garlic Bread 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 1/12/26, to guarantee your reservation!**



Sparrows Nest-Collection

Thank you for those who bring food for Sparrows Nest for our first Sunday collection. They are in need of more food every month and suggested the following items: Canned Chicken, Vienna Sausage, Canned corn, peas or mixed vegetables, Instant mashed potatoes, Soups, Chili, Pork N Beans or Baked Beans, Ramen Noodles, Ravioli and SpaghettiOs, Mac n' Cheese, Kid Snacks, Canned Fruit and Fruit Cups, Cereal and Oatmeal, Boxed Powdered or Canned Milk, Baby Wipes, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste, Plastic or paper grocery store bags. Thank you also to the volunteers who deliver the food and help at Sparrows Nest.

Mission Update- Thank you!

The SSUMC made an impact on the Salvation Army this Christmas season. We sponsored 83 children on the Angel Tree. We worked 33 hours Ringing the Bell, raising **\$3,330.84** in support of the Salvation Army. On behalf of the Mission Committee, thank you for engaging in this good work.

Honorariums & Memorials

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF BJ BOYD

Rosemary & Jim Longmire

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF JIM FULLER

The King Family; Bobbie, Terri, Lee, Hal & Todd
Mary & James Barger, Lurlyne Holland

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WHITE TO MUSIC MINISTRY

Judy & JR Wright

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF ROBERT STONE, SR. TO MUSIC MINISTRY

Judy & JR Wright

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF LYNN NEIL MULLIS

Jennelle & Jackson McConnell	The Curry Family
Kathy & Donald Beck	Loretta & Steve Dukes
Stephen Williams	Sallie Hoard
Ellen & Tom Hall	Grant Register
Sandra & Clifford Stewart	
David Culverhouse & Kay Halligan	
Susan & Sam Brandon	
Morris Bank	
Deborah & C. Michael Cauley	

Saints and Sinners Luncheon

Senior Adult Ministries invites all to join us for our first luncheon of 2026 on **Thursday, January 15**, from 12-1 pm. Bring along your favorite dish to share, and enjoy a special presentation from **Linda Ursery**. She is a longtime volunteer at Fort Frederica National Park. She will give us a presentation about what life was like at the fort in 1733 and what the fort means to us today.



The Chosen- Season 5

Announcing the next class focusing on *The Chosen, The Last Supper!*

Using the video series, *The Chosen, Season 5, The Last Supper*, we will gather to examine how God was at work in the lives of the first disciples. *The Chosen* series allows us to see Jesus through the eyes of those who knew Him. If you would like to learn more about Jesus, and see his humanity more fully revealed, you will find that the character development and authenticity to the biblical narrative is like nothing you will have ever witnessed in faith-based media. During our time together each week we will watch an episode from the eight-week Season 5 followed by casual discussion. Prior participation is not essential. We will meet beginning **Wednesday, January 21, 2025, from 5:45-7:15** in The Chapel and continue to meet for the following seven Wednesday evenings. We hope you can make it to as many of the eight sessions as possible, but do not worry if you need to miss a session; we can catch you up. Please register via Realm if you can, but feel free to drop in whenever you are able whether or not you register. Contact Jeff Zoul with any questions: jeffzoul@gmail.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**

Join Our Email List or Update Your Contact Info:
info@stsimonsumc.com | 912.638.3317



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