

# Weekly Calendar

## Sunday, December 21

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**

## Monday, December 22

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

## Tuesday, December 23

10:30 AM Al-Anon Group, **Room 201**

## Wednesday, December 24- Christmas Eve!

Church Office Closed  
4:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, **Sanctuary**  
11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, **Sanctuary**

## Thursday, December 25- Christmas Day!

Church Office Closed  
12:00 PM Christmas Lunch, **Thorpe Building**

## Friday, December 27

11:00 AM NO Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**



***Merry Christmas from the  
St. Simons UMC Church Staff!***

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### REV. TOM JONES, Senior Pastor

tom@stsimonsumc.com | 678.343.3767

### REV. BENJY VARNELL, Assistant Pastor

benjyv@stsimonsumc.com | 912.393.4566

### REV. TAB MILLER, Assistant Pastor

tab@faithworksministry.org

### KEVIN LAMB, Director of Music Ministries

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### ANNE FRAZIER, Church Administrator

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### CAROLYN HAMILTON, Finance Associate

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### TANJA OLIVER, Preschool Director

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### MACEY GIBBS, Media and Administrative 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

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*

Poinsettias 2025



Given by:

His Family  
Tracie Beane  
  
Susan Blakely  
Joy Coleman  
Ann & Wright Culpepper  
  
Gerry Egger  
Jimmy, Ashley & Amy Fincher  
Caroline Lovell Fleetwood  
Howell Jennings Fleetwood  
Thomas, Jennings &  
Hunter Fleetwood  
Janet & Chip Higginbotham  
Linda & Jay Hodges  
Glenna Lorence Humphries  
Tammy Langford  
Pam Lewis  
Kim & Jimmy Maupin  
  
Lynn Moses  
Anne & Larry Rogers  
Maxine Smith  
Christa & Matt Thompson  
  
Mary & Benjy Varnell  
  
The Vinson Family  
Susan & Lee Watkins

Given by:

A Friend  
Danielle Baird  
Adelaide Beall  
  
Susan Daniell & Kim Powell  
Gerry Egger  
Holly & Kevin Lamb  
Pam Lewis  
Lynn Moses  
  
Judy & Tom Smith  
Cindy & Dwight Sweat  
Mary & Benjy Varnell  
Judy & JR Wright

In Memory of:

Fred Alexander  
My wonderful parents;  
Evelyn & Nathan Hunsucker  
Tilman Blakely  
Gil Erbisch  
Dr. & Mrs. William E. Gause &  
Judge & Mrs. George B. Culpepper, III  
Rose & Mack McKenzie & Tom Milwee  
Suzette Fincher  
Dr. & Mrs. Wood W. Lovell  
Mrs. H.F. Laramore by her Godson  
Dr. & Mrs. Wood W. Lovell by their  
grandsons  
Our Parents  
Sid Hodges  
Joan Lorence, my mother  
Jimmy Langford  
Tom Lewis  
Jane & Charles Jones  
Susta & Jim Maupin  
Bebe & Edward Moses  
Rebekah Rogers & Wes Rogers  
My friend Rhonda Hansen  
Nancy & Jame Dilliplane  
Dolores & Ben Crawford  
Dr. & Mrs. J.C. Varnell, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. C.M. Massey  
Tim Vinson  
Mary & Lee Watkins  
Eva & Dan Lott

In Honor of:

Ann Pickard  
The Baird Family  
Cynthia Beall  
The Lord, Jesus Christ  
Tish Searcy  
Don, Karen & Madison Lewis  
Martine & John Haynes  
My Family  
Tom Jones  
David Clark– Missions Chair  
To the Glory of God  
Our Families  
The SSUMC Staff  
Liz & JR Wright  
Morgan & Giancarlo Montufar

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 21, 2025 • 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

He is Born, the Holy Child,  
Sing we all of the Savior mild.

PRELUDE	Emri Comer
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Tom Jones Senior Pastor
* CAROL #234	<b>O Come, All Ye Faithful</b> verses 1, 3 & 6 ADESTE FIDELES
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE	Gilfillan Family (8:30 AM) Kennedy Family (11:00 AM)
Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)	Samuel Evan Clinton
* FELLOWSHIP TIME	
* FELLOWSHIP SONG	<b>He Is Born</b>
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (11:00)	Victoria Fryer Director Children’s Ministry
MORNING PRAYER	Michael Martin
THE LORD’S PRAYER	
* HYMN #217	<b>Away in a Manger</b> AWAY IN A MANGER
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Tom Jones
OFFERTORY	<b>We Three Kings</b> Cindy Taylor Sondra Anderson Music Associate- Pianist
* THE DOXOLOGY #95	
MESSAGE IN MUSIC	Chancel Choir <b>Sleep Little Lion, Sleep Little Lamb</b> Pam Taylor, Soloist
SCRIPTURE LESSON	Revelation 1:4b-8
MORNING MESSAGE	Rev. Tom Jones <i>Let Me Introduce You to Jesus</i>
* INVITATION #219	<b>What Child Is This</b> GREENSLEEVES
* BENEDICTION	Tom Jones
POSTLUDE	

\* Stand As Able

# Poinsettias 2025



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Joy Coleman  
Ann & Wright Culpepper

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Jimmy, Ashley & Amy Fincher  
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Howell Jennings Fleetwood  
Thomas, Jennings &  
Hunter Fleetwood  
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Dr. & Mrs. Wood W. Lovell  
Mrs. H.F. Laramore by her Godson  
Dr. & Mrs. Wood W. Lovell by their  
grandsons  
Our Parents

Sid Hodges  
Joan Lorence, my mother  
Jimmy Langford  
Tom Lewis

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Susta & Jim Maupin  
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Rebekah Rogers & Wes Rogers

My friend Rhonda Hansen  
Nancy & Jame Dilliplane  
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The Baird Family  
Cynthia Beall  
The Lord, Jesus Christ

Tish Searcy  
Don, Karen & Madison Lewis  
Martine & John Haynes  
My Family  
Tom Jones  
David Clark— Missions Chair

To the Glory of God  
Our Families  
The SSUMC Staff  
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# The Worship of God

## **Contemporary Worship**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 21, 2025**

**Chapel • 9:45 AM**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Harriott Family

## **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

CCLI # 27738

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## **Fellowship Time**

## **Away In A Manger**

CCLI # 7050424

© Public Domain

## **It's Christmas**

CCLI # 7050425

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## **Go Tell It on the Mountain**

CCLI #7050427

© Public Domain

## **Holy Forever**

CCLI #7249209

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## **Morning Prayer**

## **Today's Message**

*Don't Do It, Jesus!*

Hebrews 2:14-18

Rev. Tab Miller

## **Invitation**

## **Joy to the World**

CCLI #24016

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## **Blessing**



## Let Us Go to Bethlehem!

The shepherds were ordinary people doing ordinary things. They were simply doing their job - another night on the hillside, watching sheep, keeping warm, passing the time. Nothing about the evening suggested it would be remembered forever.

And then the ordinary became extraordinary.

The night sky filled with light. Angels appeared. And these ordinary men found themselves swept into the greatest story ever told as heaven announced the good news: a Savior had been born in Bethlehem.

Without hesitation, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place." Scripture tells us they went with haste. I like to imagine them running through the fields and into the streets of Bethlehem, unwilling to let anything ordinary stand in the way of encountering this holy moment.

As we near Christmas Eve, may the message of the angels echo in our hearts: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." And may we, like the shepherds, feel the urge to go with haste to the manger - allowing God to take our ordinary lives and transform them into something extraordinary, as only God can do.

I look forward to worshiping with you on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and at our Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve services at 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Come celebrate the birth of Jesus and the gift of Emmanuel—God with us.

Break away from the ordinary! Let us go to Bethlehem!

Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

**Tom**

## Weekly Bible Reading Highlights

**What did you highlight in your Bible December 14-20? These are a few verses that stood out to Tom:**

**Titus 2:14** - He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

**Hebrews 2:14** - Because God's children are human beings - made of flesh and blood - the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

**Hebrews 4:16** - So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

**Hebrews 11:1** - Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

## Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online at [www.stsimonsumc.com](http://www.stsimonsumc.com)

**December 14, 2025**

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$41,807.71

Received YTD | \$1,168,730.03

Expenses YTD | \$1,198,705.29

Difference YTD | -\$29,975.26

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$1,274,822.64

Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$22,698.00

*thank you*

## Attendance ~ December 14, 2025

10:30 AM Worship Service: **496**

Online Worship Views: **795**

Total In Person Attendance: **496**

## Members in Ministry ~ December 21, 2025

Ushers:

8:30 Bill Foster, Joy Coleman, Martha Dixon, Elden Carmichael, Mike Presley

11:00 Dona Colglazier, Cyndy Franklin, Zdenek Kuja, Steve Smith, John Rentz, Buddy Brand

Greeters:

8:30 Susan Watkins, Barbara Foster

9:45 Toni Metz, Ava White

11:00 June Smith, Cheryl Murphy

Projection:

8:30 Robin Parmelee

9:45 Jessica Zettler

11:00 Elizabeth Daniel

Acolytes:

11:00 Savannah & Natalie Smith

## Prayer Requests

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

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

**New Prayer Concerns Non-Members:** Robyn Bottenus, Chuck Conway, Hope Hall, Martine Haynes, Sara Heath, Steve Hoover, Sarah & Hannah Wood

**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 Draughon, 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, 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.**



## Christmas Lunch

Join us for our Annual Christmas Lunch! This meal will be held on Christmas day, Thursday, December 25, at noon in the Thorpe Building. The church will provide turkey, ham, dressing, gravy and tea. We ask those who are attending to bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP by **December 22 at noon!**



## Thank you!

Thank you to all who gave to the Mission Giving Trees and who helped Ring the Bell for The Salvation Army! We appreciate our generous and thoughtful church especially during the Advent season!

## 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

### 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  
Kathy & Donald Beck  
Stephen Williams  
Ellen & Tom Hall  
Sandra & Clifford Stewart  
David Culverhouse & Kay Halligan  
Susan & Sam Brandon  
Morris Bank  
Grant Register  
The Curry Family

## Love Offering & Celebration for Rev. Tom Jones

Rev. Tom Jones has announced that he will be retiring at the end of 2025 as our Senior Pastor. His final Sunday preaching in this role will be **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. As that time approaches, we invite you to join us in honoring Tom as he concludes his meaningful ministry here. We have been blessed in countless ways by his dedicated and faithful leadership over the past seven and a half years. Tom has served the South and North Georgia Conferences of the United Methodist Church for more than 30 years. He will be deeply missed by all.

We will honor the Jones family on **Sunday, January 4**, with a reception in the Thorpe Building, immediately following the service. Everyone is invited to attend, enjoy fellowship, and bid farewell to Tom, Anne, and Croft. During the worship services on Sunday, January 4, we will also present Tom with a love offering. If you would like to contribute, you may mail or bring your donation to the church office. You may also place it in the offering plate during any of our worship services. Please designate your gift as "Rev. Tom Jones Gift" on your check or envelope. Checks should be made payable to St. Simons United Methodist Church. Thank you in advance for being a part of this meaningful event to honor Tom and the Jones family.

## End of Year Giving- 2025!

The Finance Committee of St. Simons UMC is so thankful to those who have contributed to our church this year! Your giving has been a blessing to the church and its mission and ministry in this community and beyond. If you need to complete your pledge for 2025 or are preparing a year end gift to the church, please note that gifts must be received by the church postmarked no later than December 31 to be included in 2025 giving statements.

The office will be OPEN 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM on **December 22, 23, 29, 30 and until noon on 12/31**. The Church Office will be **CLOSED** for Christmas on **December 24, 25 & 26**.

## 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:**

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