

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 11

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**

Monday, January 12

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

Tuesday, January 13

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 14

9:30 AM MOMS- Walking Group, **Church parking lot**
11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**
1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**
5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner, **Thorpe Building**
6:00 PM Chancel Choir, **Choir Room**

Thursday, January 15

12:00 PM Saints and Sinners Luncheon, **Thorpe Building**
12:00 PM UWF Sunshine Circle Lunch, **Tramici Restaurant**

Friday, January 16

11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**
6:00 PM Music Ministry Party, **The Norton Home**

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WELCOME



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

Contemporary Worship

January 11, 2026

Chapel • 9:45 AM

Traditional Worship

January 11, 2026

Sanctuary • 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Praise

CCLI # 7213077
© Brandon Lake Music

Fellowship Time

I See Grace

CCLI # 7202043
© Fair Trade Global Songs

Trust In God

CCLI #7206001
© Brandon Lake Music

Jesus Paid It All

CCLI #4689508
© 2006 sixsteps Music

Morning Prayer

Today's Message

Up Close and Personal

Matthew 3:13-17
Rev. Tab Miller

Invitation

Lord I Need You

CCLI #5925687
© 2011 sixsteps Music

Blessing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Lamb
Director of Music Ministry

PRELUDE

* HYMN OF PRAISE #117 *O God Our Help
In Ages Past*

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles Creed
Rev. Benjy Varnell
Interim Senior Pastor

* FELLOWSHIP TIME

* FELLOWSHIP SONG *Majesty, Worship
His Majesty*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Victoria Fryer
Director of Children's Ministry

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN #159 *Lift High the Cross*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Sondra Anderson

RESPONSE #95

THE DOXOLOGY

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

Behold Our God

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 3:8-14

MORNING MESSAGE

Pressing On!

Rev. Benjy Varnell

* INVITATION #580 *Lead On, O King Eternal*
Verses 1 & 2

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* Stand As Able

Follow His Star

On January 6th, we observed what is known as Epiphany or the arrival of the Wise Men to see the Christ child. These Magi, as they are sometimes called, were men who studied the stars to foretell major world events. They had seen the star of Jesus visible to them in the East, probably Persia, close to 1000 miles away. Then they set out on a great journey to follow the star wherever it took them. After maybe 2 or 3 months, they arrived in Jerusalem trying to find this newborn king. They told the evil king Herod they had come to worship the baby. Herod told them to go and find the babe so he could worship him too, although his intent was not to worship him but instead to have him killed.

The Wise Men found the young Jesus in a house in Bethlehem as the star directed them, and they indeed worshipped him. Bowing down to a baby, they presented him gifts fit for a king, those being gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then, being warned not to return to Herod's palace, they went home by an alternate route.

I have always marveled at the complete, unwavering focus of these three kings. They committed themselves to following the star of Bethlehem until they finally found the One they sought, Christ the Lord! The word epiphany means a great revelation, and in Jesus they found the greatest revelation of all! They were not deterred by vast distance nor distracted by a murderous ruler in reaching their goal. They were determined to find Jesus and they found him.

As we enter a New Year, I wonder how dedicated we are to finding Jesus. Do we want to worship the One who came to save us all, or are we more interested in finding wealth, fame, power or whatever we think will make us happy? It's so easy to get caught up in what Jesus called "the cares of the world" and to lose sight of His Star which points us to love, grace, mercy and devotion. I pray we will dedicate ourselves to being not who the world is calling us to be, but to being who Christ is calling us to be! May that be our Epiphany!!

Hope to see you Sunday!

Benjy

Welcome to Our Newest Member

Welcome as our newest member **Bethany and Marcus Griffin** and their sons **Brady & Max**.

Join us in welcoming the Griffin family 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

January 4, 2026

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$14,884.00

Received YTD | \$14,884.00

Expenses YTD | \$8,183.77

Difference YTD | 6,700.23

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$14,382.08

Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$0

thank you

Attendance

January 4, 2026

10:30AM Worship Service: **387**

Online Worship Views: **470**

Total In Person Worship: **387**

Members in Ministry~ January 11, 2026

Ushers:

8:30 Steve Tucker, Richie Sipe, Thornton Willingham, Gary Krabill

11:00 Mike Fitzgerald, PJ Hamilton, Cindy Simpson, Jordan Graffis, Nancy Jenkins

Greeters:

8:30 Nancy Krabill, Sharon Blount

9:45 Carol Conner, Laura Weldy

11:00 Jordi Graffis, Franny Robinson

Projection:

8:30 Kim Howe

9:45 Jim Weldy

11:00 Elizabeth Daniel

Acolytes:

11:00 Addy Thompson, Julia Humphries

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns - Church Members: Jay Hodges, Connie Kersh,

Barbara Meadows, Mable Proctor, Tom White

New Prayer Concerns Non-Members: Major Kathleen Applin, Robyn

Bottenus, Chuck Conway, Barb Dosemagen, Butch Frye, Martine Haynes, Family & friends of Hayes Hitchens, Family & friends of Whitney McCarthy, Family & friends of Jimmy Rogers

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, Mary Rentz, Dawn Roberts, Anne 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!**



Chili Cook-Off

Get Ready for Some Spice & Friendly Competition! Join us for a **Chili Cook-Off** on **January 25** in the **Thorpe Building** from 4:30–6:00 PM, hosted by the Special Events Committee.

Come sample a variety of chilis, vote for your favorites, and enjoy a fun evening with friends. We'll also play a few lively rounds of Music Bingo throughout the night! Everyone is welcome!

- ♦ Sign up as a **contestant** and bring your best chili!
- ♦ **Standard registration** to attend, taste, and vote!

Register in **Realm** or email anne@stsimonsumc.com.

We'll provide the fixin's and beverages—just bring your appetite! Don't miss this chili showdown... it's sure to be a spicy good time!

Thank you

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the generous gift you shared with me as I retire. I am overwhelmed with gratitude, not just for the gifts and cards, but by the love, kindness, and thoughtfulness behind them. Serving as your pastor has been one of the great joys of my life. Your support, encouragement, prayers, and friendship over the last seven years have meant more to me than I can ever fully express. I will always be grateful for the connections I have made with you and for the ministry we have lived out together. I carry you and many special memories into this next season of my life with a thankful heart. I love and appreciate each one of you. You have been such a blessing to me and to my family.
Blessings

Tom

Dear St. Simons UMC,
Jimmy and I would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who sent prayers and cards during this difficult time in our family. We felt covered by your love and peace, and we are so appreciative.

Carolyn and Jimmy Hamilton

Honorariums & Memorials

**A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF CATHY COMER DOWDY
TO MUSIC MINISTRY**

Jana and Emri Comer

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF LYNN NEIL MULLIS

Callie & Ben Hall

Georgia First Bank

Lisa Livingston

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. Register on Realm or call the church office.



Dinner & Entertainment with Annie Akins

Thursday, February 12 at 6:00 PM

Join us for an evening of dinner and entertainment featuring the fabulous Annie Akins! We will gather in the Thorpe Building for a delicious meal of chicken cordon bleu, rice, green beans, salad, and dessert.

Following dinner, Annie will delight us with her signature vocal stylings, Shanan- Akins, for an evening of memorable music and fun. The cost is \$15. Registration is available on Realm or by calling the church office.



The Chosen– Season 5

Announcing the showing of *The Chosen, The Last Supper*! Join us as we explore how God worked in the lives of the first disciples through *The Chosen*, Season 5. Each week we'll watch an episode followed by casual discussion. No prior participation required.

Wednesdays, beginning January 21, 2026

5:45–7:15 PM | The Chapel

(Register via Realm if possible, but drop-ins are welcome.)

Questions? Contact Jeff Zoul at 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. Benjy Varnell at benjyv@stsimonsumc.com | 912.393.4566

Join Our Email List or Update Your Contact Info:

info@stsimonsumc.com | 912.638.3317



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