

October 4, 2026



St. Simons

United Methodist Church



A Letter From The Pastor

REV. DAVID BLACKWOOD
SENIOR PASTOR

Thank You for Celebrating with Us!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Celebration Sunday and helped make it such a meaningful conclusion to our stewardship emphasis. Over these past few weeks, we have been reminded that our membership vows call us to support the church with our **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness**. Your participation and generosity are a wonderful expression of your commitment to Christ and to the ministry of our church.

If you were unable to be with us for Celebration Sunday, it's not too late to participate. You can bring your commitment card to the altar this Sunday during worship, or you may drop it off at the church office or mail it to the church.

Thank you for the many ways you give of yourselves to make the ministry of our church possible. Every prayer, every act of service, every gift, and every witness helps us continue to share the love of Christ and serve our community.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing through our church!

*WHERE LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL,
SERVICE IS CELEBRATED
ENTHUSIASTICALLY, &
THE MISSION OF CHRIST IS
ADVANCED CONSISTENTLY.*

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 11:00- Sanctuary
9:45 Chapel

St. Simons UMC
624 Ocean Boulevard
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
912.638.3317 • stsimonsumc.com

Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor
david@stsimonsumc.com
678.787.0331

Rev. Benjy Varnell, Assistant Pastor
benjyv@stsimonsumc.com
912.393.4566

Upcoming Events!

Clergy Appreciation

October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

Join us as we honor Rev. David Blackwood, Rev. Benjy Varnell, & Rev. Tab Miller on Sunday,

October 25 and throughout the month of October!

Please bring or send a card, small gift or gift card to the church and/or email them throughout the month to show them how much we appreciate their ministry!

Thank you for helping us celebrate our amazing Pastors!



Thank You for your Faithfulness!

As of October 1, 2026:

Number of Cards Received to date | **129**

Number of New Cards this year | **32**

Total Amount | **\$641,680.00**

Please remember, you may continue to return your Commitment cards. Cards can be returned via mail, brought to the church office, placed in the offering plates on Sundays or submitted on our website or by scanning the QR Code here.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to our church and the mission of Christ at SSUMC!



Pumpkin Patch Hours!

PUMPKIN PATCH HOURS!

Mon – Fri – 2:30pm-8:00pm

Sat & Sun – 10:00am-8:00pm

Come support our Youth Ministry, purchase your pumpkins, and enjoy the Pumpkin Patch!

Movie in the Pumpkin Patch!

This SUNDAY! **October 4, 2026 - 5:00-7:00 pm**

Join us for a movie in the Pumpkin Patch!

“It’s The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown”

will play at 6:00pm! Snacks will be sold and pumpkins too, as a fund raiser for our youth missions.

FREE FOR ALL AGES! BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!



Trunk or Treat!

Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 28 at 5:30pm!

Help us by decorating your trunk and/or donating candy! Contact Victoria for more information or to sign up!

victoria@stsimonsumc.com



Wednesday Night Dinner!

October 7, 2026

Menu: Grandy’s Chicken Tetrazzini, Rolls, Tossed Salad, Steamed Broccoli, and dessert! Take a midweek break and enjoy a delicious meal with us.

The cost is \$12.00 per person children 3 and under eat for free!

Sign up on Realm or call the church.

We need your reservation by Monday, October 5.

We can’t wait to see you there!



Rise Against Hunger

Help Us Pack 20,000 Meals for Rise Against Hunger!

Sunday, October 18, 12:00 PM

First Baptist Church – SSI

Lunch will be provided by First Baptist Church!

Our church family, First Baptist Church, and St. Simons Presbyterian Church as we come together to pack 20,000 meals and make a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Everyone is welcome! This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family. Bring your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors and help us reach our goal!

Come Pack a Meal. Make a Difference. Change Lives!

Sparrows Nest-Items Needed!

Thank you for those who bring food for Sparrows

Nest for our first Sunday collection. Our most needed items right now are: Canned protein (chicken, tuna, Vienna sausage), soup & chili, peanut butter & jelly, rice (plain or flavored), potatoes (canned or mashed), Kid's canned pasta (ravioli, Spaghettios, ect.), Ramen Noodles, oatmeal & grit packets, baked beans or pork n beans, kid snacks, toilet paper, bath soap, feminine items.

WE NEED BAGS... Please continue to save and bring your plastic and paper bags for our repurposing.

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



Worship Concert



The Son's of Jubal

Save the Date

Thursday, October 22

7:00 pm

First Baptist Church

Brunswick

Pre-Service Instrumental music at 6:30 pm



This is a Stephen Ministry Church

Traditional Order of Worship

Sanctuary 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



Words of Welome

Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor

Centering

Sondra Anderson, Music Associate Pianist

* The Opening Hymn #117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Stanzas 1, 3, 4, and 6

* The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

* Fellowship Time

Bind Us Together

Kids Message

Victoria Fryer, Director of Children

Morning Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Benjy Varnell, Assistant Pastor

* Hymn #400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Kevin Lamb, Director of Music Ministries

* Response

The Doxology

Message in Music

Majesty with Holy, Holy, Holy

Morning Message

Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor

When Life Falls Apart

Ruth 1:6-18

Celebration of Holy Communion

* Invitation #133

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

* Benediction

Postlude

*Stand As Able



Today's Scripture Focus

Ruth 1:16-17

¹⁶ But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you,
to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;

where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die,

and there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus to me,

and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!”

Altar Prayer Time

During Holy Communion today,
individuals will be available at the
altar rail to pray with you. You are
invited to come forward for prayer
as you feel led.

Contemporary Worship

9:45 AM in the Chapel

Today's Worship Flow

House Of The Lord

CCLI # 7168995

© 2020 Be Essential

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Build My Life

CCLI # 7070345

© 2016 Kaple Music

Christ Be Magnified

CCLI # 7139866

© 2019 Cory Asbury

PRAYER TIME

The Heart Of Worship

CCLI # 2296522

© 1999 Thankyou Music

Today's Message

A Church of Love

Revelation 2:1-11; 3:7-13

Rev. Tab Miller, Assistant Pastor

Celebration of Holy Communion

Closing Song

Love The Lord

CCLI # 4572938

© 2005 Integrity

LISTEN UP
CHRIST'S LETTERS
TO THE CHURCH
REVELATION 2-3
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
SUNDAYS • 9:45 AM

OCTOBER 4
A CHURCH OF LOVE
REVELATION 2:1-11; 3:7-13
Churches can do all the right things for all the wrong reasons. Christ calls us to be a church that begins and ends with love.

OCTOBER 11
FAITHFULNESS IN ORDINARY PLACES
RUTH 2:8-16
God often works in the ordinary moments of life. Faithfulness, even in small things, can lead to His greater purpose.

OCTOBER 18
A CHURCH OF FAITH
REVELATION 2:12-29
Churches that want to love well can sometimes lose sight of the fact that we need to be set apart. Christ calls us to be a church that holds firm to our convictions.

OCTOBER 25
A CHURCH OF HOPE
REVELATION 3:1-6, 14-22
Complacency is an enemy of the church. Christ calls us to be a church that depends on Him in all we do.

“The Heart of Worship” –

Matt Redman

It is possible to do all the right things and still lose sight of why we do them. “The Heart of Worship” calls us away from simply going through the motions and back to the One at the center of our worship—Jesus Christ. Christ calls His church to return to its first love, allowing everything we do to flow from a heart that loves Him. “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”

— Revelation 2:4

Altar Prayer Time

During Holy Communion today, individuals will be available at the altar rail to pray with you. You are invited to come forward for prayer as you feel led.

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns - Church Members: **Becky Bridges**, Mary Jo Davis, Bill Hansen, Jenna Kennedy, Debbie Lloyd

New Prayer Concerns Non-Members: **Cheryl Adams**, Amie Beeman, **Mike Crews**, Don Daugherty, **Watt Gregory**, Family & friends of Delores Harvey, **Brooks Harvey**, Alice Hicks, Chase & Carly Hughes, **Charles Hutcherson**, Tim Lake, Elaine Mendez, Dale Moffett, **Maxwell Penn**, **Don Ray**, **Mark Stevens**

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Lisa Adams, Di Bailey, Dianne Beisel, Jim Bennett III, Sam Bodine, Kai Booth, Cindy Bostick, Carlotta Budd, Trudy Budd, Beth Carey, Vicki Certain, Russell Cohen, Cathy Bailey Crumbley, Pat Daniels, Betsy Draughon, Brenda Fields, Geoff Fields, Sandy Fitzgerald, Butch Frye, Dotsy Fuller, Mary McCreary George, Barbara Golding, Sara, Jeff & Juniper Heath, Jennifer & Tom Higdom, Elwanda Hopkins, Tom Humphries, Barbara Jensen, **Holly Lamb**, Ellie Leroux, Randy Little, Chris Lorence, James McBride, Mike McDonald, Ed McKenzie, Nathan Meadows, Kristen Merrill, Kirk Nowery, Randy Payne, Mary Rentz, Dawn Roberts, Anne Rogers, Irene Rohan, Jo Ann Segars, Bob Scherer, Bonni Smith, Maxwell Smith, Brion Trainor, Betty Tomlin, Rhonda Van View, Dave Vandersall, Mary & Bo Vice, Holly & Bill Wagner, Judy Whelan, Benjamin Wiggins, Sarah and Hannah Wood, Hollis Youngner, Beverly Zeller, Emmie Zwack
The Methodist Children's Home

Assisted Living Prayer Concerns:

Heritage Oaks: Jackie Brand, Jean Cardin, Marjorie Lawrence, Norma Mock, Mel Rozier

Marsh's Edge: Linda May, Ann Pickard, 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.

Members in Ministry ~ October 4, 2026

Ushers:

8:30 Pete Irby, Travis Irby, Pat Carmichael

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

Greeters:

8:30 Carole Barton, Helen Baker

9:45 Judy & JR Wright

11:00 Carla Brandon, June Smith

Projection:

8:30 Robin Parmelee

9:45 Jessica Zettler

11:00 Richard Hart

Acolytes:

9:45 Savannah & Natalie Smith

11:00 Lore Eisentraeger, Vaughn Carroll

Communion Servers:

8:30 Nancy & Gary Krabill

Benjy Varnell

9:45 Jim Weldy, Marsha Hendrix

David Blackwood

11:00 Mary & Benjy Varnell

Betty Sharp

Communion Prayers:

Sharon Blount, Mike Martin

Judy Merrick, Stan Robinson

Judy Smith, Ron Flowers

Honorariums & Memorials

A Gift was Given in Memory of Ron Bateman to the Music Ministry by:

Nancy and John Rentz

Join the Church

If you would like to join St. Simons United Methodist Church you may do so by one of three ways:

Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ, Transfer from another United Methodist congregation or Transfer from another denomination.

If you are interested in more information about becoming a member contact Rev. David Blackwood at david@stsimonsumc.com | 912.638.3317

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 4

8:30 am The Class- Sunday school, **Room 202**

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary**

9:30 am Nursery for Newborn- 4 yrs., 9:30-12:00

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**

10:00am Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch

11:00 am Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary**

11:20 am Children dismissed for Music & Worship, **Kid's Clubhouse**

5:00 pm Family Movie in the Pumpkin Patch, **Pumpkin Patch**

Monday, October 5

9:00 am Prayer Team, **Parlor**

11:00 am Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**

2:30 pm Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch

Tuesday, October 6

6:00 am Men's Bible Study, **Thorpe Building**

10:00 am Men's Life, **Room 203**

10:30 am SAM Meeting, **Parlor**

1:00 pm Women's Life Group, **Room 203**

2:30 pm Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch

6:30 pm Boy Scouts, **Thorpe Building**

Wednesday, October 7

9:30 am MOMS Walking Group, **Thorpe Building**

11:00 am Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**

1:15 pm Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**

2:30 pm Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch

4:00 pm Handbells, **Room 216**

5:00 pm Monthly Wednesday Night Dinner, **Thorpe Building**

6:00 pm Seamless- Women's Study, **Room 201**

6:00 pm Chancel Choir, **Choir Room**

Thursday, October 8

2:30 pm Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch

5:30 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting, **Parlor**

Friday, October 9

11:00 am Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**

2:30 pm Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch

Saturday, October 10

10:00 pm Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch

Financial Report

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

September 27, 2026

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$19,897.55

Received YTD | \$920,616.66

Expenses YTD | \$944,740.18

Difference YTD | -\$24,123.52

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$991,997.69

Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$29,075.00

Thank You!

Attendance

September 27, 2026

8:30AM Worship Service: 80 Worship Views Online: 455

9:45AM Worship Service: 60 Sunday School/Groups: 125

11:00AM Worship Service: 172

Total In Person Worship: 312

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 Childrens Choir, games, & lesson, and may be picked up on the 2nd floor.