



October 18, 2026

St. Simons

United Methodist Church



A Letter From The Pastor

REV. DAVID BLACKWOOD
SENIOR PASTOR

A Season of Change

There is something special about this time of year. The calendar tells us that fall has arrived, and we begin to see little signs of change all around us. The days grow shorter, the light begins to shift, and before long, the leaves will begin to turn. We start thinking about pumpkins, fall festivals, and cooler mornings.

Of course, here in coastal Georgia, fall doesn't always feel like fall! We may still be running the air conditioner, wearing shorts, and wondering when the summer heat will finally give way to cooler weather. Yet even when the temperatures tell us otherwise, we can sense that something is changing. We know summer won't last forever, and a new season is on its way.

I wonder if our spiritual lives are sometimes like that, too.

We often expect change to happen all at once. But God's work in our lives doesn't always come with a dramatic announcement. Sometimes change happens gradually, almost imperceptibly, until one day we realize God has been leading us into a new season all along.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is "a season for everything, and a time for every matter under the heavens" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Faithfulness means learning to recognize the season we are in and trusting God to meet us there.

Perhaps this fall is an invitation to pay attention. Is God calling you to begin something new, deepen your prayer life, reconnect with your church family, or find a new way to serve your neighbors? As a church, we have opportunities ahead—from our pumpkin patch to serving our community—that allow us to grow in faith and share Christ's love.

The changing seasons remind us that life is always moving, but God remains faithful through every change. We may not know exactly what the next season will bring, but we can trust that the God who has walked with us through summer will walk with us through fall and beyond.

The season may not feel different just yet, but that doesn't mean change isn't coming. And sometimes, the first step of faith is simply learning to trust God with what comes next.

Grace and peace,
Pastor David

*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
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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!



Rise Against Hunger- TODAY!

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

THIS 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!

United Women in Faith- PECAN SALE!

Pecans can be ordered **Sunday, October 18 & 25** in the Gholson Room!

We will be selling halves, pieces, salted and roasted, chocolate, cinnamon and glazed pecans.

Cost is \$12 with delivery before Thanksgiving, hopefully! Proceeds of pecan sales will benefit Local Missions! If you are unable to order in person you may order from any UWF member, the church office, or by calling Pat Carmichael at 912-638-4541, to place your order.

Thank you for your continued support of the UWF and local missions ministries.



St. Augustine Harbor Tour

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Step aboard for a delightful, guided cruise through historic St. Augustine Harbor. Founded in the late 1500s, St. Augustine is rich with stories, sights, and centuries of coastal history. As you cruise, the captain's live narration brings the harbor's past to life. The boat features an enclosed lower deck and an open upper deck, making this tour comfortable in any weather. A restroom is available on board. The narrated cruise lasts approximately 75 minutes. Following the tour, we'll enjoy lunch together at a nearby restaurant (Dutch treat).

Cost: \$28.00 per person, Departure: 9:00 AM

Sign up on Realm or Call the church office!

Discovering Our Methodist DNA

A new five-week Bible study on Wednesday at 6:00pm or Thursday at 10:00am began on 10/8! Together, we'll explore John Wesley's "**The Character of a Methodist**" as a framework for discovering some of the core features of our faith.

What does it mean to live as a faithful Christian—and specifically, as a Methodist Christian—in the world today? We'll look at the spiritual practices, values, and commitments that have shaped the Methodist tradition and consider how they can help us faithfully follow Jesus today.

Understanding our spiritual "DNA" can help us better understand who we are, why we do what we do, and how we can grow as disciples of Christ. No book purchase is necessary.

We'll provide a printed copy of Wesley's work for you to use throughout the study.



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 Sign up for Trunks on Realm or by contacting us!

victoria@stsimonsumc.com



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!

Mahjong for Beginners! Learn & Enjoy!

Learn how to play Mahjong! SSUMC is hosting a **Sunday afternoon, event on November 8** for those interested in learning the basics of this captivating game.

Whether you are a complete beginner or just starting to learn, we encourage you to sign up! Feel free to register a friend to bring with you!

All necessary supplies, including mats and tiles, will be provided. Classes will be taught by Cindy Sweat and Sally Stroud, with experienced players on hand to offer extra help and guidance. Light refreshments will be served in the Gholson Room beginning at 3:15, lessons start promptly at 3:30, and we'll end on or before 6:00pm. Sign up on Realm or by calling the church office.



This is a Stephen Ministry Church

Traditional Order of Worship

Sanctuary 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Words of Welcome

Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor

Centering

Sondra Anderson, Music Associate Pianist

* The Opening Hymn #98

To God Be the Glory

* The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

Mission Moment: The Salvation Army

* Fellowship Time

This Is the Day

Kids Message (11:00am)

Victoria Fryer, Director of Children

Morning Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Benjy Varnell, Assistant Pastor

* Hymn #128

He Leadeth Me

Verses 1, 2 & 3

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Kevin Lamb, Director of Music Ministries

* Response

The Doxology

Message in Music

The Goodness of God

Morning Message

Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor

Taking a Step of Faith

Ruth 3:6-13

* Invitation #467

Trust and Obey

Stanzas 1 & 2

* Benediction

Postlude

*Stand As Able

Today's Choir Anthem:

Goodness of God

This Sunday, our Chancel Choir will share the beautiful anthem Goodness of God, a heartfelt expression of gratitude for God's unfailing love and faithfulness. Through every season of life—times of joy, uncertainty, and even hardship—we are reminded that God's goodness never leaves us. As we continue our sermon series, Ruth: A Story of Redemption, this anthem beautifully reflects Ruth's journey of trust and courage as she takes a step of faith into an uncertain future. May this music remind us that even when we cannot see the path ahead, we can trust the One who has faithfully walked beside us all along.

Scripture Focus:

Ruth 3:9 (NRSV) — Ruth takes a courageous step, asking Boaz to spread his cloak over her because he is her next-of-kin. This is a beautiful picture of vulnerability, trust, and seeking refuge.

Ruth 3:11 (NRSV) — Boaz responds with reassurance, telling Ruth not to be afraid and promising to do what she has asked.

Together, these verses capture two important truths:

- Verse 9 — Faith takes courage. Ruth steps forward without knowing how Boaz will respond.
- Verse 11 — Faith finds reassurance. Boaz's response reflects the kindness and provision of God.

Guest Information

- First time guests please fill out the yellow, "Welcome Card" located in your pew. Please bring to the Welcome Desk to receive a gift!
- Restrooms are located through the exit doors nearest the altar to your left or right.
- Sunday School for children & adults meets at 9:45am.
- A nursery is available for children 4 years old and under.
- Kid's Clubhouse (5 yrs - 5th grd), leave together after the Kid's Message (except on the 1st Sunday of the month)— for Childrens Choir, games, & lesson, and may be picked up on the 2nd floor.

Contemporary Worship

9:45 AM in the Chapel

Today's Worship Flow

Here I Am To Worship

CCLI # 3266032

© 2000 Thankyou Music

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Beautiful Life

CCLI # 7205340

© 2023 Brian and Jenn Publishing

Firm Foundation

CCLI # 7188203

2021 For Humans Publishing

I Love You Lord

CCLI # 25266

© 2006 CCLI Sheet Music

Today's Message

A Church of Faith

Revelation 2:12–29

Rev. Tab Miller

Closing Song

Always

CCLI # 7194454

© 2022 9t One Songs

Scripture Focus:

- Revelation 2:19 (NRSV)

"I know your works—your love, faith, service, and patient endurance."

Faith must be rooted in truth. Christ recognizes the church's love and service, but reminds us that good intentions alone are not enough. True faithfulness requires both love and conviction.

- Revelation 2:25 (NRSV)

"Only hold fast to what you have until I come."

Faith requires steadfastness. Jesus calls His church to stand firm in its beliefs, resisting compromise and remaining faithful to His teachings.

Suggested Sermon Focus:

Being a church of faith means loving others with the heart of Christ while standing firm in the truth of His Word, even when the world encourages us to compromise.

Song Spotlight — Always

As we conclude today's worship with Always, we are reminded that the God we serve is faithful and unchanging. In Revelation 2:25, Christ calls His church to hold firmly to its faith. This song becomes our declaration that because God remains faithful through every generation, we too can stand firm in His truth, trusting His promises and living boldly for Him.

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 door near the stage.
- Sunday School for this service meets at 8:30. Kids small group meets concurrently with this service
- A nursery is available for children 4 years old and under.
- Kid's Clubhouse meets at 11 except for the first Sunday of the month for Children's music, games, & lesson.

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns - Church Members: Ray Colglazier, Laura Johnson, Eric Orr, Michelle Stewart

New Prayer Concerns Non-Members: Karen & Mike Hand, Mike Hodges, Dustin Horne & wife, Jim Hurley, Addy Martin, **Little Paul**, John Turner, Henry Wood

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, **Bill Hansen**, 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 18, 2026

Ushers:

8:30 Bill Foster, Joy Coleman, Elden Carmichael, Mike Presley
11:00 Dona Colglazier, Zdenek Kuja, Steve Smith, John Rentz, Buddy Brand

Greeters:

8:30 Pat Carmichael, Barbara Foster
9:45 Toni Metz, Ava White
11:00 Robbie Clark, Edie Payne

Projection:

8:30 Robin Parmelee
9:45 Jessica Zettler
11:00 Elizabeth Daniel

Acolytes:

9:45 Savannah & Natalie Smith
11:00 Julia Humphries

Charge Conference

The annual Charge Conference will be held on Monday, October 26, at 5:30 pm in the Thorpe Building. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Scott Hagan will be here to lead us.

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 18

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**
12:00 pm Rise Against Hunger Packing, **First Baptist Church**
5:00 pm Youth Group & Dinner, **Thorpe Building**

Monday, October 19

9:00 am Prayer Team, **Parlor**
11:00 am Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**
4:00 pm Stephen Ministry, **Parlor**
2:30 pm **Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch**

Tuesday, October 20

6:00 am Men's Bible Study, **Thorpe Building**
10:00 am Men's Life, **Room 203**
1:00 pm Women's Life Group, **Room 203**
2:30 pm **Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch**
6:30 pm UWF "SIS" Circle Meeting, **Parlor**
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, **Thorpe Building**

Wednesday, October 21

9:30 am MOMS Walking Group, **Thorpe Building**
11:00 am Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**
12:00 pm Footprints Widow's Support Group, **Mullet Bay**
1:15 pm Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**
2:30 pm **Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch**
4:00 pm Handbells, **Room 216**
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, **Choir Room**

Thursday, October 22

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

Friday, October 23

11:00 am Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**
2:30 pm **Pumpkin Patch Open- 8:00pm, Pumpkin Patch**

Saturday, October 24

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

Attendance

October 11, 2026

8:30AM Worship Service: 72 Worship Views Online: 402
9:45AM Worship Service: 60 Sunday School/Groups: 118
11:00AM Worship Service: 198
Total In Person Worship: 330

Financial Report

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

October 11, 2026

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$43,295.00
Received YTD | \$994,501.56
Expenses YTD | \$1,009,328.00
Difference YTD | -\$14,826.44
Budgeted Amount YTD | \$1,042,694.28
Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$30,025.00

Thank You!

Thank You for your Faithfulness!

As of October 15, 2026:

Number of Cards Received to date | **158**

Number of New Cards this year | **38**

Total Amount | **\$776,010.00**

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!

