November 22, 2026

# St. Simons
## United Methodist Church




## *A Letter From The Pastor*

REV. DAVID BLACKWOOD- SENIOR PASTOR

### An Exciting Investment in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Recently, we announced that our Assistant Office Administrator, Macey Gibbs, would be resigning from her position. We are grateful for all Macey has done for our church and wish her and her family the very best.

Macey's departure has provided an opportunity for our Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPPR) and me to consider the staffing needs and ministry priorities of our church. Through these conversations, we have identified an exciting opportunity to invest in our children, youth, and family ministries.

We are incredibly grateful for the faithful work of Bill Culpepper and Victoria Fryer, who lead our youth and children's ministries. Both serve our church part-time while also working full-time as teachers in the Glynn County School System. We want to provide them with additional support to make their ministries even more fruitful.

With that goal in mind, SPPR has decided to create a new position: **Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry.** This person will work alongside Bill and Victoria, providing leadership and support in volunteer recruitment, ministry planning, and discipleship opportunities for children, youth, and families. **Bill and Victoria will continue in their current roles**, now with additional help and resources. We believe this investment will strengthen our ministries and help us welcome more young families into the life of St. Simons UMC. A full job posting will be shared next week.

This change will also bring some adjustments to our church office. Most noticeably, we will transition to an automated phone system that allows callers to select the staff member they wish to reach. We appreciate your patience during this time and are confident that our excellent office staff will continue providing the quality service our congregation appreciates. Emailing our staff is a great option too. We also hope to create volunteer opportunities for church members during busy seasons.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly.

I am excited about this investment in the future of St. Simons UMC. By strengthening our ministry to children, youth, and families, we are creating new opportunities to nurture faith, build relationships, and share the hope of the Gospel with the next generation.

*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 & Announcements

## Thanksgiving Lunch



Join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Lunch! This meal will be held on Thanksgiving day, **Thursday, November 26, at noon in the Thorpe Building.** The church will provide turkey, dressing, gravy and tea. Please bring your favorite side dish/casserole or dessert. Please RSVP by calling the church office or registering on Realm, by **Monday, November 23.**




## Decorate the Church for Christmas!

Join us this Sunday, 11/22 at 3:00pm. Bring your family and help decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas! All ages and abilities are welcome to come and help! Meet in the Sanctuary!




## Advent Mission: Giving Trees



**Hope 1312 | FaithWorks | Salvation Army**

The Advent Missions Challenge is brought to you by our SSUMC Missions Committee. This Season we will support 3 Ministries, each by an individual Christmas Giving Tree. Each tree in the Gholson Room will have either gift ornaments or gift tags repre-senting a need. Please feel free to take as many gift ornaments or gift tags as you would like. Visit the Gholson Room Sunday mornings to find out more and select gift ornaments or gift tags. You can bring your gifts back to the appropriate tree or to the church office.

Packing Instructions for each Ministry:

**FaithWorks** - No packaging needed.

**Hope 1312** - A gift bag or wrapping with the tag attached.

**Salvation Army** - Instructions should be on the tag but if not should be unwrapped but can be put in a gift bag that would show the contents and attach the tag. All Items should be returned by: Sunday, Dec. 13.

Thank you all in advance for your generosity to these local ministries.













## The Redemption of Scrooge

Join a 4 week study during Advent with the Agape Class. Beginning Sunday, November 29 at 9:45 am. Books are available on Amazon. Contact Rich Varner richvarner4@gmail.com for mor infomation.



# Traditional Order of Worship

Sanctuary 8:30 am & 11:00 am

**Words of Welcome**
Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor

**Centering**

*** The Opening Hymn #694**
**Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

*** Affirmation of Faith**
Celebrating 88 Years of God's Faithfulness

*** Fellowship Time**
**Give Thanks**

**Kids Message** (11:00am)

**Morning Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**
Rev. Benjy Varnell, Assistant Pastor

*** Hymn #102**
**Now Thank We All Our God**

**Offertory Prayer**
Benjy Varnell

**Offertory**

*** Response**
**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**Message in Music**
**Come With Thanksgiving**

**Morning Message**
Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*** Invitation #140**
**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

*** Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Stand As Able

## Come With Thanksgiving
by Loyd Larson

As St. Simons United Methodist Church celebrates 88 years of ministry, we pause to reflect on the countless ways God has been faithful to this congregation. Through generations of worship, fellowship, service, and outreach, His steadfast love has remained our foundation.

This Sunday, our Chancel Choir will present Come with Thanksgiving, arranged by Lloyd Larson. This joyful anthem invites us to lift our hearts in gratitude, rejoice in God's gifts, and respond to His goodness with lives of thanksgiving and service. Its message reminds us that gratitude is more than something we express with our words; it is something we demonstrate through the way we live.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, Paul encourages us to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." What a fitting reminder as we celebrate our church's anniversary! We give thanks not only for the blessings of the past 88 years but also for the opportunities God continues to place before us.

As we remember those who laid the foundation of this church and celebrate those who carry its ministry forward today, may we remain faithful to God's calling. The same God who has guided us for 88 years will continue to lead us into the future.

## Today's Scripture Lesson
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing,
18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## 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 — for Children's Choir, games, & lesson, and may be picked up on the 2nd floor.

# Contemporary Worship

9:45 am in the Chapel

Todays Worship Flow

## God of This City

CCLI # 5037070
© 2006 sixsteps Music

## Fellowship Time

## The Father's House

CCLI # 7135153
© 2019 Cory Publishing

## Way Maker

CCLI # 7115744
© 2016 Integrity Music

## Ode To Joy

CCLI # 25321

Todays Message

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**
Rev. David Blackwood

Closing Song

## Evidence

CCLI # 714732
© 2020 Capital CMG

### Worship Spotlight: God of This City

This Sunday, we celebrate 88 years of God's faithfulness at St. Simons United Methodist Church! For nearly nine decades, this congregation has been a place of worship, fellowship, service, and hope. Generations have come through our doors, lives have been transformed, and God's love has reached far beyond the walls of our church.

As we celebrate this special anniversary, our opening song, God of This City, reminds us that God's work is not finished! The same God who has guided this congregation for 88 years continues to call us to serve, love, and make a difference in our community.

While we give thanks for the faithful generations who brought us to this moment, we also look forward with excitement and anticipation. There are still lives to touch, neighbors to love, and opportunities to share the hope of Christ.

Today we celebrate 88 years of ministry, but the best chapters of our story may still be unwritten!

### Today's Scripture Reference

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing,
18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

### 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 concurently 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:*** Family & friends of John Goodrich, Leslie Harriott, Randy Little, Connie Shelnutt, **BJ Whitaker**, Billy Wiggins

***New Prayer Concerns Non– Members:*** Alice Bowlden, **Bobby Bray**, **John Brower**, **Gene Brown**, **Family & friends of Rev. Tom Dent**, **Brooks Harvey**, **Karla Hodge**, **Bob Jarrett**, **Tim Lake**, **John Porter**, Don Ray, **Carrie & Scott Wray**

***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, Chris Lorence, James McBride, Mike McDonald, Ed McKenzie, Nathan Meadows, Kristen Merrill, Kirk Nowery, Eric Orr, 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 ~ November 22, 2026

**Ushers:**
8:30 Chip Higginbotham, Martha Dixon, Helene Magee, Bob Swinehart
11:00 Rick Denman, Erik Kaufmann, Clif Pease, Rabun Matthews

**Greeters:**
8:30 Pat Carmichael, Lesley Gonzalez
9:45 Pam and Randall Rehberg
11:00 Sherry Pickett, Nancy Jenkins

**Projection:**
8:30 Kim Howe
9:45 Carol Conner
11:00 Richard Hart

**Acolytes:**
9:45 Atlas Zettler, Nash Russell
11:00 Magnolia Culpepper

# 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, November 22**
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**
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary**
11:20 am Children dismissed for Music & Worship, **Kid's Clubhouse**
3:00 pm Advent & Christmas Decorating, **Sanctuary**

**Monday, November 23**
9:00 am Prayer Team, **Parlor**
11:00 am NO Chair Yoga
12:00 pm Rev. Tom Dent Visitation & Reception, **Thorpe Building**
1:30 pm Celebration of Life Service for Rev. Tom Dent, **Sanctuary**

**Tuesday, November 24**
6:00 am Men's Bible Study, **Thorpe Building**

**Wednesday, November 25**
Church Closed for Thanksgiving
11:00 am NO Chair Yoga

**Thursday, November 26- Happy Thanksgiving**
Church Closed for Thanksgiving
12:00 pm Thanksgiving Lunch, **Thorpe Building**

**Friday, November 27**
11:00 am NO Chair Yoga

*Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family*



**Attendance**
**November 15, 2026**
8:30AM Worship Service: **79**
9:45AM Worship Service: **74**
11:00AM Worship Service: **192**
Total In Person Worship: **345**
Worship Views Online: **330**
Sunday School/Groups: **126**

**Financial Report**
**For your convenience you may give online at www.stsimonsumc.com**
**November 15, 2026**
Tithes & Offerings Received | $29,702.00
Received YTD | $1,113,708.12
Expenses YTD | $1,137,962.24
Difference YTD | -$24,254.12
Budgeted Amount YTD | $1,170,334.71
Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | $30,545.00

*Thank You!*

# Honorariums & Memorials

**A Gift was Given in Memory of Debby Lloyd**
Debbie & Clif Pease
**A Gift was Given in Memory of John Goodrich**
Susan & Lee Watkins