

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 5

- 9:45 AM Sunday School and Small Groups, **Various Locations**
10:30 AM One Unified Worship Service, **Sanctuary**
Welcome Reception for the Blackwood Family, **Thorpe Building**

Monday, July 6– Church Office Closed for July 4th Observance

- 9:00 AM Prayer Team, **Parlor**
11:00 AM Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**
5:00 PM Parkinson's Board Meeting, **Parlor**

Tuesday, July 7

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, **Youth Room**
10:00 AM Men's Life, **Room 203**

Wednesday, July 8

- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**
1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**

Friday, July 10

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

WELCOME



C REV. DAVID BLACKWOOD, SENIOR PASTOR
david@stsimonsumc.com

h REV. BENJY VARNELL, Assistant Pastor
benjyv@stsimonsumc.com

u REV. TAB MILLER, Assistant Pastor
tab@faithworksministry.org

r KEVIN LAMB, Director of Music Ministries
kevin@stsimonsumc.com

e ANNE FRAZIER, Church Administrator
anne@stsimonsumc.com

h CAROLYN HAMILTON, Finance Associate
carolyn@stsimonsumc.com

T TANJA OLIVER, Preschool Director
tanja@stsimonsumc.com

S MACEY GIBBS, Media and Administrative Associate
macey@stsimonsumc.com

H HOLLY LAMB, Contemporary Music Associate
hlamb92@gmail.com

S SONDRA ANDERSON, Music Associate-Pianist
sanderon41561@gmail.com

H HOPE GIEDL, Children's Music Associate
hopelamb101@gmail.com

V VICTORIA FRYER, Director of Children's Ministry
victoria@stsimonsumc.com

B BILL CULPEPPER, Director of Youth Ministry
bill@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

Join Our Email List or Update Your Contact Info:
info@stsimonsumc.com | 912.638.3317

The Worship of God • July 5, 2026

Sanctuary • 10:30 AM



PRELUDE

The Battle Hymn

Sondra Anderson
Dr. Emri Comer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Lamb
Director of Music Ministries

INTRODUCTION OF SENIOR PASTOR

John Bird Daniel
Lay Leader

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND COVENANT

Leader: Gracious and loving God, You call women and men to serve Your Church through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

People: We give You thanks for the call You have placed upon our new Senior Pastor.

Leader: As our pastor begins this new season of ministry among us, grant wisdom for leadership, courage for service, and joy in proclaiming the Gospel.

People: Strengthen our pastor with Your grace and surround them with Your peace.

Leader: As a congregation, may we receive this ministry with open hearts, faithful prayers, and willing hands.

People: Help us to walk together in covenant, united in purpose and grounded in Your love.

Leader: May our shared ministry bear witness to Jesus Christ and advance Your kingdom in this community and beyond.

People: With God's help, we covenant to pray for, support, encourage, and serve alongside our pastor in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

All: Holy God, we consecrate this ministry to You. Pour out Your Spirit upon our pastor and upon this congregation, that together we may be faithful disciples, joyful servants, and courageous witnesses of Your grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN & SONG

Guide Us With Your Grace

A Patriotic Prayer

National Anthem
Guide Us With Your Grace
God of Our Fathers

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. David Blackwood
Senior Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER

* FELLOWSHIP TIME

* FELLOWSHIP SONG

The Bond of Love

KID'S MESSAGE

Victoria Fryer
Director of Children's Ministry

* HYMN #431

***Let There Be
Peace on Earth***

WORLD PEACE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Benjy Varnell
Assistant Pastor

OFFERTORY

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

America

Chancel Choir
Arr. Mary McDonald
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* RESPONSE #94

***Praise God From
Whom All Blessing Flow***

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. David Blackwood

*It's All About Love,
Baby!*

I Corinthians 13 NRSV

* CLOSING SONG

***They'll Know We Are
Christians by Our Love***

ST. BRENDAN'S

* BENEDICTION

Benjy Varnell

POSTLUDE

America

Kevin Lamb
Arr. Page

See You Sunday!

Jessica, Samuel, Emma, Sophia, and I are settling into our new home and our new lives on the island. We are incredibly grateful to those of you who have reached out, dropped off treats, or found other ways to welcome us here. As we continue getting to know everyone and finding our place in this community, please do not hesitate to reach out, invite us somewhere, or simply stop and say hello. I would much rather shake everyone's hand 20 times than have someone hesitate to reach out because they are worried about intruding or bothering us. We already know that God has brought us into your lives—and you into ours—for a reason.

As I write this letter, I am sitting in my new office at St. Simons UMC with my sermon notes on my desk. I am honored to officially be here as your pastor and excited to share our first worship service together this Sunday.

My message will be from a sermon that I have created, refined, and deepened over nineteen years of ministry serving churches across Georgia. As I begin my twentieth year in ministry, I am eager to dig into Scripture together and experience the life-giving power of God's Word.

This Sunday, we will explore 1 Corinthians 13 in a way that you may have never experienced before—not simply as a passage read during a wedding ceremony, but as Paul's powerful exhortation to the early church. This is not primarily a passage about romantic feelings; it is about the kind of love and commitment required to live faithfully in community with one another. It is about the foundation we need to serve the world in Christ's name and the kind of witness that can truly impact those outside the church with the power of the Gospel.

I didn't realize how right my friend was when he told me, "It's all about love, baby!"

Want to hear more? I hope you will join us in person or online this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. as we begin this journey together.

~David



Scheduling and Announcements

To help keep everyone safe and ensure our space is shared without overlap, please remember to contact **Anne Frazier** in the office (anne@stsimonumc.com) **before** scheduling **ALL** committee, group meetings, or events and to check space availability. This also lets us know when you will be on campus for your safety and helps prevent any scheduling conflicts and keeps our church calendar accurate!

We also ask that any articles, information, or announcements be submitted by **Tuesdays** to be included in the weekly worship guide if space permits and on the announcement slides. Thank you in advance for your care, cooperation, and all you do for our church activities and community!

Financial Report

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

June 28, 2026

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$16,861.00
Received YTD | \$614,484.34
Expenses YTD | \$616,273.80
Difference YTD | -\$1,789.46
Budgeted Amount YTD | \$661,331.69
Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$24,615.00

thank you

Attendance

June 28, 2026

8:30AM Worship Service: **88** Worship Views Online: **425**
9:45AM Worship Service: **79** Sunday School/Small Group: **118**
11:00AM Worship Service: **207**
Total In Person Worship: **374**

Members in Ministry~ July 5, 2026

Ushers:

10:30 Kevin Brandon, Ed Reynolds, David Clark, Dylan Brandon

Greeters:

10:30 Susan Kaufmann, Sherry Pickett

Projection:

10:30 Richard Hart

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns - Church Members: Kevin Brandon, Jay Hodges, Arthur Pittman, Ashley Sitz, Family & friends of Ray Thrift

New Prayer Concerns Non-Members: Jim Davis, Family & friends of Ed Hamilton, Alice Hicks, Chris Lorence, Jenny Middleton, Laura & Fred Palmer, Dwight Plyler, Hughie Sellers, Barbara Smith (Macon)

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Di Bailey, Ron Bateman, 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, 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, Ann Pickard, Mary Rentz, Dawn Roberts, Anne Rogers, Irene Rohan, Jo Ann Segars, Bob Scherer, Bonni Smith, Brion Trainor, Betty Tomlin, Rhonda Van View, Dave Vandersall, Mary & Bo Vice, Holly & Bill Wagner, Judy Whelan, Benjamin Wiggins, Chuck Wilson, Hollis Youngner, Beverly Zeller, Emmie Zwack

Missionaries & Christians in Middle East and abroad

Assisted Living Prayer Concerns:

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

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.

Welcome Our New Pastor – Sunday, July 5!

Please join us in welcoming Pastor David Blackwood and his family **TODAY!**

We will have one combined worship service at 10:30 AM, followed by a reception as we warmly welcome David, Jessica, and their children to our church family.

We thank God for bringing the Blackwoods to our community. Let us commit to supporting them through prayer, active participation, and love, as this new chapter begins for them and for us as a church family! We look forward to this special day of worship, fellowship, and celebration together!

5 Week Prayer Guide for our Church & New Pastor

This prayer guide offers our congregation five distinct weekly focuses to support our new pastor's fresh start, fostering unity, resilience, and vision through prayer and scripture.

Week 5: Protection over Their Family

Focus: Pray for the pastor's home life. Ask God to protect their marriage, give them quality family time, and help their children thrive amidst transition.

- **Scripture:** Psalm 127:1

Prayer Prompt: "Father, we lift up our pastor's family. Protect their home from discouragement and burnout. Give our pastor the grace to lead their household well and find rest in You."

Sparrows Nest-Collection

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, etc), Ramen Noodles, Oatmeal & Grit Packets, Baked Beans or Pork N Beans, Kid Snacks, Toilet Paper, Bath Soap, Cat Food, Maxi Pads & Tampons

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.



Attention July Jewels 🌸

We are organizing our annual Dutch Treat lunch and birthday celebration at Sweet Mama's on Wednesday, July 29 at 11:00 am. 🍷🍰🎁

Please RSVP to Cyndy Franklin 404-388-7137 no later than 7/27!

Honorariums & Memorials

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF RANNY BLOUNT BY:

Gail & Larry Daugherty

Thank you from the Sarah Circle

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL who donated to the Sarah's Circle toiletries/wellness bags project for those in need:

- Each congregation member who donated items,
- Bill Culpepper and the students in the Youth Group who shopped for more items at the Dollar Store with the donations of cash,
- Student volunteers who sorted items,
- Victoria Fryer and the students in Children's Church who packaged items in individual gift bags,
- Serve Saturday individuals who wrote UMC notes of encouragement and all those who helped.

Explore our New Website!

www.stsimonsumc.com

We are excited to announce the launch of our newly refreshed church website! With a fresh new look, improved navigation, and updated information, it has been designed to better serve our church family and community.

We invite you to take a few minutes to visit the site, explore its features, and enjoy the new look and feel. Whether you're looking for upcoming events, ministry information, sermons, or ways to connect, you'll find it all in one convenient place.

Check it out today and let us know what you think!

Name Tags & Photos and Info on Realm

If you don't already have a name tag, please order one and be sure to wear it when you're here! With new members joining and a new pastor coming, we want to make sure everyone can easily recognize one another and greet each other by name.

Also, if you don't have an updated photo in our Realm database, please send one so we can update your profile and always let us know if your information needs to be changed or updated!

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:

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. Benjy Varnell at benjyv@stsimonsumc.com | 912.393.4566