November 15, 2026

St. Simons
United Methodist Church



A Letter From The Pastor

REV. DAVID BLACKWOOD
SENIOR PASTOR

We Are All Builders

When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, he felt called to do something about it. He prayed, gathered the people, and invited them to join in the work of rebuilding. What makes the story of Nehemiah so remarkable is that the work wasn't accomplished by one person. Families, neighbors, priests, and merchants all took responsibility for their portion of the wall. Together, they accomplished what none of them could have done alone.

I believe there is an important lesson here for the church today. We are all called to be builders. Of course, I'm not talking primarily about bricks and mortar. I'm talking about building a community of faith where people encounter the love of Jesus Christ, where children and youth discover they belong, where neighbors find friendship and encouragement, and where God's grace reaches beyond the walls of our church.

That kind of church doesn't happen by accident. It takes all of us.

Some build through teaching and leading. Others build through prayer, generosity, hospitality, and service. Some offer years of wisdom and experience, while others bring fresh energy and new ideas. Every gift matters, and every person has a part to play.

In Nehemiah 2:18, the people respond to the invitation to rebuild with these words: "Let us start building!"

What a wonderful invitation for us as well! As we look toward the future of St. Simons UMC, I hope we will continue asking not simply what our church can do for us, but what God is calling us to build together.

After all, the church is not simply a place we attend. It is a community we help build, a mission we share, and a witness to God's love in the world.

So let's keep building—together!

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
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Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor
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Rev. Benjy Varnell, Assistant Pastor
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912.393.4566

Upcoming Events & Announcements



Cranberry Queen Birthday Lunch!

Join the November Cranberry Queens for a birthday celebration on Tuesday, November 17, at 11:00 am at Sweet Mamas! Come enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship, friendship, and birthday fun as we celebrate! Please RSVP to Mary Varnell at (912) 230-2206.
We hope to see you there!



Decorate the Church for Christmas!

Join us on Sunday, November 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!

2026 Red Kettle Campaign



Salvation Army Bell Ringing | Nov. 23

- Winn-Dixie: 12:00 pm–6:00 pm

We are looking for ringers for 6 hours on Monday, November 23!
The Salvation Army retains more funds when volunteers ring the bells instead of paid workers. This campaign provides 80% of their income.
To sign up your for a hour shift, contact: Lynn Moses: 912-689-9860
Elain McNeal (Volunteer Coordinator): 772-300-5210



UWF Pecan Pickup!

The pecans are here and are available for pickup in the Parlor. The United Women in Faith are very thankful for your support! For Extras Contact: Pat Carmichael 912-270-5739

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.

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.



Savannah Christmas Tradition

Saturday, December 19,
Join us for this fun trip that brings you holiday glitz and glitter with a 2-hour production. The theater is transformed into a perfect holiday picture, sharing all of your Christmas favorites. Sprinkle in a little comedy and Santa and his dancing reindeer for the greatest event of the season. Bus leaves at 1:00pm to Savannah. Cost is $48 per person.

Footprints Widow's Support

Join us for our Footprints Widow's support group luncheon this month at Fiddlers on Wednesday, November 18 at 11:45 am. Contact Susan Hoshall for more info. or to RSVP at 912-399-5454.



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.

The Extended Table Ministry



Sharing Christ's Love Beyond the Church Walls.
We are excited to renew a cherished ministry at St. Simons UMC! Through **The Extended Table Ministry**, we will once again bring Holy Communion to members of our church family who are unable to attend worship in person.
Interested in volunteering? Please sign up on realm to be contacted about serving in this ministry.

Traditional Order of Worship

Sanctuary 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Words of Welcome
Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor

Centering

In This Very Room

*** The Opening Hymn #545**

The Church's One Foundation

*** Affirmation of Faith**
The Apostles Creed

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00am)
Chaplain Haynes Giedl

*** Fellowship Time**

Goodness of God

Kids Message (11:00am)

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

*** Hymn #593**

Here I Am, Lord

Offertory Prayer
Benjy Varnell

Offertory

*** Response**

The Doxology

Message in Music

Yes, My Jesus Loves Me

Morning Message
Rev. David Blackwood, Senior Pastor

Built to Last: The Builders

Nehemiah 2:17-20; 4:6

*** Invitation #577**

God of Grace and God of Glory
Verses 1 & 4

*** Benediction**

Postlude

*Stand As Able

Today's Choral Anthem

Yes, My Jesus Loves Me

Arranged by Mary McDonald
Today's anthem, Yes, My Jesus Loves Me, offers a beautiful reminder that the love of Christ is the foundation upon which our faith is built. Drawing upon the beloved words of Jesus Loves Me, this anthem celebrates a love that sustains us through every season of life. As we continue our Built to Last series with today's message, "The Builders" (Nehemiah 2:17–20; 4:6), we are reminded that building God's Kingdom begins with hearts rooted in His love. Just as Nehemiah called God's people to work together with faith and purpose, we are called to build a community where Christ's love is shared, nurtured, and passed from one generation to the next. What a fitting reminder on a Sunday when we also celebrate baptism!

Today's Scripture Lesson

Nehemiah 2:17-20

17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we
are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its
gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of
Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer
disgrace." 18 I told them that the hand of my
God had been gracious upon me and also the
words that the king had spoken to me. Then
they said, "Let us start building!" So they
committed themselves to the common good. 19
But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah
the Ammonite official[a] and Geshem the Arab
heard of it, they mocked and ridiculed us,
saying, "What is this that you are doing? Are
you rebelling against the king?" 20 Then I
replied to them, "The God of heaven is the one
who will give us success, and we his servants
are going to start building, but you have no
share or claim or memorial in Jerusalem."

Nehemiah 4:6

6 So we rebuilt the wall, and all the wall was
joined together to half its height, for the
people had a mind to work.

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

Praise

CCLI # 7213077
© 2023 Capitol

Fellowship Time

Take You at Your Word

CCLI # 7206632
© 2022 Ak Audio

Trust In God

CCLI # 7206001
© 2022 Brandon Lake Music

Lord, I Need You

CCLI # 378054
© 2011 sixsteps Music

Todays Message

Risky Business

Matthew 25:14-30
Rev. Tab Miller

Closing Song

Offering

CCLI # 3956562
© 2002 Integrity's Hosanna!

Worship Spotlight: *Trust in God*

Trusting God When Faith Feels Risky
This Sunday, Rev. Tab Miller's message, "Risky Business" (Matthew 25:14–30), challenges us to consider how we use the gifts and opportunities God has entrusted to us. In the Parable of the Talents, fear keeps one servant from taking action, while the others step forward in faith.
Our worship song "Trust in God" by Elevation Worship reminds us that God is faithful, even when the path ahead is uncertain. Following God's call may require courage, but our confidence rests in the One who calls us.
The greatest risk isn't stepping out in faith—it's allowing fear to keep us from answering God's call.

Scripture Highlight

Matthew 25:24–26 (NIV)
Verse 24: "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.'"
Verse 25: "So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."
Verse 26: "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?'"

Why these verses?

The key phrase is **"So I was afraid"** (verse 25).
It captures the central challenge of the sermon: Fear can prevent us from using what God has entrusted to us.

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**, **Brooks Harvey**, **Karla Hodge**, Ellen Morris, Family & friends of Debbie Lloyd, **Don Ray**, Judy Riggle, Marc Rindner, Patsy Roberts, Family & friends of Angela Turner

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 15, 2026

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

Greeters:
8:30 Susan Watkins, Barbara Foster
9:45 Toni Metz, Ava White
11:00 Gayle Disque, Edie Payne

Projection:
8:30 Robin Parmelee
9:45 Carol Conner
11:00 Elizabeth Daniel

Acolytes:
9:45 Savannah Smith, Natalie Smith
11:00 Julia Humphries, Vaughn Carroll

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 15
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**
3:15 pm Mahjong Gathering, **Gholson Room**
5:00 pm Youth Group & Dinner, **Thorpe Building**

Monday, November 16
9:00 am Prayer Team, **Parlor**
11:00 am Chair Yoga $5.00, **Thorpe Building**
4:00 pm Stephen Ministry, **Parlor**
5:30 pm Finance Meeting, **Room 203**

Tuesday, November 17
6:00 am Men's Bible Study, **Thorpe Building**
9:30 am Staff Meeting, Youth Room
10:00 am United Women in Faith Reading Group, **Room 201**
10:00 am Men's Life, **Room 203**
11:00 am Cranberry Queen November Birthday Lunch, **Sweet Mama's**
1:00 pm Women's Life Group, **Room 203**
2:00 pm John Goodrich Memorial Service, **Sanctuary**
6:30 pm UWF "SIS" Circle Meeting, **Parlor**
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, **Thorpe Building**

Wednesday, November 18
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**
4:00 pm Handbells, **Room 216**
6:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal, **Choir Room**

Thursday, November 19- SSUMC's 88 Anniversary
11:00 am Preschool Thanksgiving Lunch, **Thorpe Building**
5:30 pm Parkinson's Board Meeting, **Parlor**

Friday, November 20
11:00 am Chair Yoga $5.00, **Thorpe Building**

Attendance

November 8, 2026
8:30AM Worship Service: **83**
9:45AM Worship Service: **68**
11:00AM Worship Service: **199**
Total In Person Worship: **350**
Worship Views Online: **437**
Sunday School/Groups: **133**

Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online at www.stsimonsumc.com
November 8, 2026
Tithes & Offerings Received | $25,213.00
Received YTD | $1,084,006.12
Expenses YTD | $1,116,766.50
Difference YTD | -$32,760.38
Budgeted Amount YTD | $1,144,326.93
Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | $30,425.00

Thank You!

Honorariums & Memorials

A Gift was Given in Memory of Jean & Bill Woolard to Music Ministry
From their Family
A Gift was Given in Memory of Jean & Bill Woolard
From their Family
A Gift was Given in Memory of Bob Golding
Barbara & Charles Milliken