

WORSHIP

June 28, 2026

Chapel • 9:45 AM

WELCOME

CENTERING

ATLAS ZETTLER

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Holly Lamb, Contemporary Worship Leader

Made to Worship

CCLI # 4794118
© 2006 New Spring

Holy Forever

CCLI # 7201044
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FELLOWSHIP TIME

Honey in the Rock

CCLI # 7191257
© 2022 Brandon Lake Music

How Can I Keep From Singing

CCLI # 4822372
© 2006 sixsteps Music

PRAYER TIME

TODAYS MESSAGE

Still Pressing On!

Philippians 3:12-14 (RSV)

Rev. Benjy Varnell

INVITATION

Higher Ground

CCLI # 21844
© Words: Public Domain

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP

June 28, 2026

Sanctuary • 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

Kevin Lamb
Director of Music Ministries

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Benjy Varnell
Interim Senior Pastor

* HYMN OF PRAISE #371 *I Stand Amazed
in the Presence* MY SAVIOR'S LOVE
Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed

* FELLOWSHIP TIME

* FELLOWSHIP SONG *Guide Us With Your Grace*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (11:00 AM)

Victoria Fryer
Director of Children's Ministry

MORNING PRAYER

Benjy Varnell

* HYMN #374 *Standing on the Promises* PROMISES

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Benjy Varnell

OFFERTORY *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* Sondra Anderson
Music Associate, Pianist
Kevin Lamb

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *Just A Closer
Walk With Thee* Chancel Choir

MORNING MESSAGE

Benjy Varnell

Still Pressing On!

Philippians 3:12-14(RSV)

* INVITATION *Higher Ground* HIGHER GROUND
Verses 1, 2 & 4

* BENEDICTION

Benjy Varnell

POSTLUDE

* *Stand As Able*



For Hearing Assist— Please see an usher.

A Community of Believers

Sometimes we have the mistaken notion that the Christian faith is something that we have and live out as individuals. We tend to think that everything is done in the realm of personal experience. If someone doesn't have the same experience we had, then their experience must be wrong or misguided. However, that is a short-sighted view, and one that always leads to conflict and chaos. We need to accept the fact that we are all different, but in Christ we find unity.

The church has been known by many names and descriptions, but I think the one that fits best is "community of believers." That title helps to remind us that we are not Christians in isolation. We are at our best as the church when we see ourselves as a community of folks who believe in Christ and try to follow his leading in all we do. We are not called to just go out on our own doing what we want, nor are we called to only associate with those who agree with us or only see the Christian faith in "our terms."

Truly being the church means that we are a community that works together, although we are different in many ways. The mission of Jesus was and is to bring healing and wholeness to a lost and hurting world. That should also be our mission, and we carry it out not as self-centered individuals, but as a Christ-centered community. Christ is the head of the church, and we are his body! We are not "our church." We are forever "his church." Therefore, our primary purpose is to do his will, and not our own.

Paul's great example from Romans 12 still says it best. "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (NIV) So, we, the church, are not in this alone. We the church, are in this great enterprise of making and becoming disciples of Jesus TOGETHER! This is God's ongoing plan for his church. May God give us strength and courage as a community of believers to live out his plan together day by day!

In the Spirit of Christ,

Benjy

A WORD OF THANKS:

Thank you all so much for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Interim Senior Pastor for the past six months. Mary and I rejoice at being a part of this community of believers, and we are honored to be in ministry with each of you. Now we look forward with great anticipation to receiving our new Senior Pastor Rev. David Blackwood, his wife Jessica and their children, Samuel, Emma and Sophia as they come to be with us as our parsonage family! I know that you will welcome them with the warmth and grace that you always show, and that you will love and support them in every way. You are and will continue to be a great church! We love you!

Benjy and Mary

Welcome New Member!

Welcome to our newest member **Robert Carroll** who joined on Sunday, June 21, 2026. Robert joined our church by transfer from another denomination. Please join us in welcoming Robert to our church family!

Financial Report

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

June 21, 2026

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$16,205.62

Received YTD | \$597,623.34

Expenses YTD | \$593,964.76

Difference YTD | \$3,658.58

Budgeted Amount YTD | \$635,324.37

Trustees Maintenance Fund YTD | \$24,495.00

Thank you

Attendance

June 21, 2026

8:30AM Worship Service: **76**

Worship Views Online: **258**

9:45AM Worship Service: **63**

Sunday School/Small Group: **119**

11:00AM Worship Service: **212**

Total In Person Worship: **351**

Members in Ministry~ June 28, 2026

Ushers:

8:30 Ward Sweat, Chip Higginbotham, Jeff Zoul, Bob Swinehart

11:00 Erik Kaufmann, Rick Denman, Cliff Pease, Rabun Matthews

Greeters:

8:30 Susan Watkins, Lesley Gonzalez

9:45 Pam & Randall Rehberg

11:00 Susan Kaufmann, Sherry Pickett

Projection:

8:30 Kim Howe

9:45 Carol Conner

11:00 Richard Hart

Acolytes:

9:45 Atlas Gibbs

11:00 Savannah & Natalie Smith

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns - Church Members: Jay Hodges, Family & friends of Ray Thrift

New Prayer Concerns Non-Members: Family & friends of Ed Hamilton, Alice Hicks, Steve Koozer, Matthew Laager, Jenny Middleton, Laura & Fred Palmer, 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, Larry Daugherty, Mark Daugherty, Betsy Draughon, Brenda Fields, Geoff Fields, Sandy Fitzgerald, Karen Flagella, 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 on **Sunday, July 5!**

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.

Please sign up on Realm to let us know if you plan to attend this celebration. If you would like to bring something, you may bring a sandwich tray to share! Feel free to scan the QR Code to register or call the Church office with questions.



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 4: Emotional Strength & Endurance

Focus: Pray against the loneliness and unique stresses of ministry. Ask God to surround the pastor with a strong, encouraging support system.

- **Scripture:** Galatians 6:9

Prayer Prompt: "Father, we pray for endurance and peace of mind for our pastor. Surround them with encouraging friends and lay leaders so they never feel alone in the burdens of leadership."

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, spaghetti, 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.



Honorariums & Memorials

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF RANNY BLOUNT BY:

Barbara Whitney

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF RANNY BLOUNT TO SKYLARK BY:

Marcia Maguire

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF MARY SUMMER BY:

Sara Bonario

A GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF BRIAN FINLAY TO MUSIC

MINISTRY BY:

JR & Judy Wright

Youth this Week

Gathering Place Main Event!

The Youth are headed to the Gathering Place Sunday evening. We will meet at Surcheros on the island at 5:00pm. The Gathering Place should end at 8:30. Please plan to pick up your students between 8:45 and 9:00 from the church parking lot. The event is free, but students will need money for dinner.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 803-673-7860 - Bill Culpepper



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!

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

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, June 28

- 8:30 AM Nursery for Newborn- 4 yrs., **8:30-12:00**
- 8:30 AM The Class- Sunday school, **Room 202**
- 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary**
- 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**
- 6:00 PM Youth Dinner and Gathering Place

Monday, June 29

- 9:00 AM Prayer Team, **Parlor**
- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga \$5.00, **Thorpe Building**

Tuesday, June 30

- 10:00 AM Men's Life, **Room 203**
- 11:00 AM Memorial Service for Ray Thrift, **Chapel**

Wednesday, July 1

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

Friday, July 3

NO Chair Yoga

Saturday, July 4

Happy 4th of July!!!

Sunday, July 5

- 10:30 AM One Unified Worship Service, **Sanctuary**
- Reception to Welcome the Blackwoods, **Thorpe Building**



WELCOME



- C** **REV. BENJY VARNELL**, Interim Senior Pastor
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- h** **REV. TAB MILLER**, Assistant Pastor
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- u** **KEVIN LAMB**, Director of Music Ministries
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Join Our Email List or Update Your Contact Info:
info@stsimonsumc.com | 912.638.3317



*Where Love is Unconditional,
Service is Celebrated Enthusiastically, &
The Mission of Christ is Advanced Consistently.*

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 This is a Stephen Ministry Church