

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Jammers
Robert Yonke

Bluegrass Sunday

August 16, 2026 | 10:30 am Worship Service

Ushers

Anne Aspinwall

Peggy Dean

Anne Marie Stirewalt

Sue Cole

Carolyn Bliven

Acolyte

Elle Blenkinsop

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

Let us now prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

We are glad you are with us in worship today and we ask that you silence your cell phones and other devices upon entering the sanctuary. Children are welcome in worship although a nursery is available in the children's hall at the rear of the church. Please ask an usher for guidance. Following the Word for Children those up to 2nd grade are invited to follow a staff member for Children's Chapel.

INTROIT

Gimme That Ol' Time Religion/Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Traditional

Bluegrass Band - Fiddle, Crystal Murphy; Mandolin - Roland Hendry;
Guitars - Ann Nermoe, Joan Holcomb, Drew Holland; Banjo -Rick Ray;
Dobro - Bud Longley; Bass - Brad Holcomb, Jeff Homans;
Piano - Rhonda Hambright; Vocals - Doreen Hendry, Rick Ray

GATHERING WORDS

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Rachel Rhodes

THREE CHIMES

*The Three Chimes Represent
the Trinity-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*

PRELUDE

Crying Holy to the Lord
Bluegrass Band

Traditional

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Bettye Russell

One: How very good and pleasant it is when God's people dwell
together in unity.

**All: God gathers what has been scattered and draws near to
what has been broken.**

One: In places marked by hurt, God is still at work.

**All: In stories we thought were finished, God is still bringing
new life.**

One: Come, let us worship the God whose grace is greater than our wounds.

All: Let us worship God together!

* Please stand if able.

*OPENING HYMN 408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

Welcome to Bluegrass
Sunday! This annual
tradition of St. Simons
Presbyterian Church is
always a toe-tapping good
time. We give thanks to God
for our gifted bluegrass
musicians as well as our
director of music, Rhonda
Hambright, who works to
organize and lead our music
in worship each Sunday.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Whit Malone

Every journey begins with a time of figuring out what to take along and what to leave behind. Similarly, the confession of sin is an opportunity to reflect on those things we're carrying around with us (anxiety, guilt, shame) that, with God's grace, we can safely leave behind.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Merciful God, we confess that we sometimes allow old wounds to define the future. We hold tightly to anger, rehearse old hurts, and struggle to imagine that anything new could grow from what has been broken. Forgive us when we mistake reconciliation for forgetting, or forgiveness for pretending that harm did not matter. Give us courage to tell the truth about what has been, grace to recognize where you are at work, and hearts open to the new life you are creating among us. Teach us to trust that no wound is beyond your redeeming love. In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Silence for Personal Confession

Through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: Hear the good news: God does not erase our wounds or ask us to pretend they never happened. God meets us there with a grace that is stronger than what has broken us, making possible forgiveness, healing, and new life. Together, let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI 581

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

WORD FOR CHILDREN

All children are invited to come forward at the pastor's invitation.

Following the Word for Children, children Preschool-2nd grade may leave for Children's Chapel in the Children's Hallway on the other side of the Social Hall.

The Prayer for Illumination
turns our attention to God
to ask that we hear God's
word in order to better know
God's will for our lives. This
time also allows a moment
for the congregation to "get
settled" and ready to hear
God's word in scripture and
proclamation.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 133

pg 970 OT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Three Rusty Nails
Bluegrass Band

Ronnie Bowman, Nettuno,
Campbell, & Jones

SECOND READING

Genesis 45:1-15

pg 75 OT

SERMON

"Beyond the Pit"

Rev. Dr. Rachel Rhodes

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive
our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Little Mountain Church
Bluegrass Band

Carl Jackson & Jim Rushing

*DOXOLOGY (606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him
above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 2282 (BLUE HYMNAL)

Brumley

I'll Fly Away

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Will the Circle Be UnBroken
Bluegrass Band

Charles H. Gabriel



If You Are New Here. Whether you are visiting from out-of-town, a seasonal resident, or searching for a church home, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with a pastor before or after today's worship or fill out the friendship register, located at the end of each pew. We would love to get to know you better!



Child Care. Children of all ages are welcome in worship. If you prefer, a nursery is available for children, birth through age five. The nursery is located in the Children's Wing at the rear of the church.



To Aid in Worship. Advanced listening technology is available for those with a hearing impairment. Please locate an usher for assistance.



If You Are in Need of Prayer. Please let us know how we can be praying for you by visiting with a pastor or staff member before or after worship, by completing a prayer request card and placing it in an offering plate, or by visiting sspres.org/prayer.



Worship Online. A livestream of the 10:30AM worship service is available every Sunday at sspres.org/livestream. A recording of the worship is available immediately afterwards for viewing anytime. To hear sermons online, visit sspres.org/sermons or subscribe to the St. Simons Presbyterian Podcast on iTunes or Google Play.



Ways to Give. Offering envelopes can be found in the pews of the sanctuary. You can also give electronically through text messaging or Venmo. Text the code "SSPC" and send to the number: 73256. Or give with Venmo by scanning the QR code on the right or by searching for @sspres. You can also mail or drop off checks or cash offering to the church office anytime M-Th from 9A-4PM (205 Kings Way).

venmo



Prayer List

Joys

Marriage of Emma Hidalgo
and Stefan Tobler

Off to College

Emmeline Griffith
UGA

Layla Davanzo

GA Southern

Kate Head

FL State

Margaret Barger

Sewanee

Brayden Neill

GA Tech

Carolina Wessel

Wake Forest

Sorrows

Death of Rev Dr.

Joanna Adams

Death of Beth Evans

Members

Leigh Deese

Friends and Family

Dan & Ashley Griswold

Ed Maskie

Sarah Perkins

Brian Robbins & Family

Sue Roberson

Long-term Care

Rich Armstrong

Sue Chambless

Claudette French

Marcia Kester

Mary Lewis

Dwight Plyler

Betty Lou Schonecker

Alison Schueneman

David Stewart

Frances Teel

Mary Tipton

Carrington Wilson

Revs. Jann Briscoe & Page Shelton

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN

Mission

Manna House

*First Monday of Every Month.
1408 G Street, Brunswick, GA*
Help prepare, serve, and cleanup a meal for guests at "Manna House," a local soup kitchen ministry.

Missions

Share God's love with service locally and globally. Missions include Angel Tree Christmas Gifts, Hunger Action Team, and summer mission trips.

*Madelynne Risi at madelynne@sspres.org
or 638-2220.*

Children

Children's Chapel

Sundays: following the "Word for Children" during worship. (Pre K-2nd)

KidZ Crew resume in the fall

Wednesdays: (Preschool to Grade 5)

Faith, fun, and music.

Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM.

KidZ Ensemble (Grades 3 to 5) resume in the fall

Monthly on Sundays: Before KidZ Fellowship

Meet in the Music Attic at 4PM.

Use the Veranda Door

KidZ Fellowship (Grades 3 to 5) resume in the fall

Monthly on Sundays:

Faith and fun.

Meet on the Veranda at 5PM.

Dara Pickren-Davis at dara@sspres.org or

Youth

Youth Ensemble resume in the fall

Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM

Meet in the Music Attic -

Use the Veranda Door.

Youth Group resume in the fall

Sunday evenings at 6:00-8:00 PM

Meet on the Veranda.

Breakfast Devotion resume in the fall

(Grades 6 to 12)

Tuesdays at 7:00AM at Chick-Fil-A SSI

Transportation to school is available.

Adults

Try Something New Ministry

A group that is all about loving, connecting, serving, learning, and celebrating together.

Nat Scott at Nat@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Discipleship

Sunday School

Begins at 9:30 AM in various locations

Sunday School classes are available for all ages.

Coffee will be served in the Britt Room.

:: Following the Call

Meets in the Upper Room

Nat Scott at Nat@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Men's Bible Study resume in the fall

Wednesdays at 10:00AM in the Upper Room

Men's Bible Study led by Nat Scott every Wednesday. Visitors are always welcome.

John Matthews at jhmatthews7@comcast.net.

Women's Bible Study/Prayer Group resume in the fall

Thursdays at 10:00AM in the John Law Room

Women's Bible Study led by Nat Scott every Thursday.

Gwen Mayberry gwenmayberry@gmail.com or 638-8711.

Presbyterian Women (PW) resume in the fall

All women are invited to join a PW Circle.

Circles meet for Bible Study each month. See

Something for Everyone for more group activities.

*Ginny Connors at ginnyconnors1@gmail.com
or (912) 672-1916*

Music

Choir

Choirs for all ages are available. See Children and Youth for graded choir schedule. Adults meet in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights.

Handbells and Other Instrumentation

Handbells, chimes and instruments remain an important part of the ministry of St. Simons Presbyterian. For more information about the music ministry, please contact Rhonda Hambright or Suzanne Morrison.

*Rhonda Hambright at rhonda@sspres.org or 638-2220.
Suzanne Morrison at suzanne@sspres.org*

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care

To notify the church of illness, hospitalization, births, deaths, or prayer request, contact the church office at 912-638-2220 ext 8, or email pastoralcare@sspres.org. The first available pastor will notify you as soon as possible.

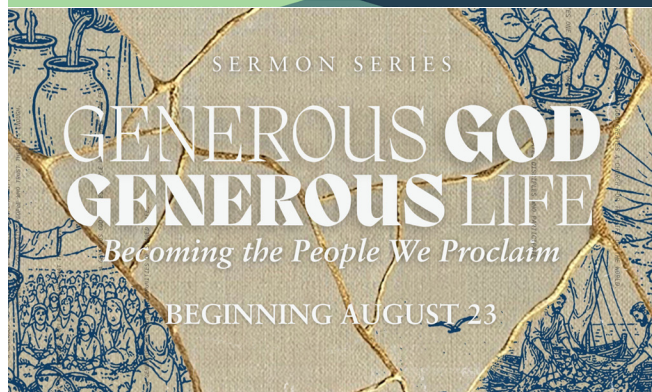


MAP BOX PACKING
 MAP PROVIDES LIFESAVING MEDICINE TO
 THOSE IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD.
 AUGUST 18 | 9AM - 12PM
 4700 GLYNCO PKWY, BRUNSWICK
MEETING ON THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH!
 SIGN UP AT [SSPRES.ORG/EVENTS](https://sspres.org/events)



SERMON SERIES

**GENEROUS GOD
 GENEROUS LIFE**
Becoming the People We Proclaim
 BEGINNING AUGUST 23



Ice Cream & Cupcakes for Everyone!

GATHERING WITH GRATITUDE

GIVING THANKS FOR REV. JACKSON
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 | 11:30 AM
 FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE SOCIAL HALL
 If you would like to contribute toward a love offering for Jim, please use the QR code or send a check to the church office, memo line: "Jim Love Offering"
 Info at sspres.org/events



MINISTRY FAIR

DISCOVER WAYS TO CONNECT & SERVE!
SEPT 13TH

SOCIAL HALL
 FOLLOWING WORSHIP
 NURSERY CARE UNTIL 12:30PM

Enjoy hot dogs, a bounce house, face painting, & raffle prizes!
 *
 Grab a New KidZ/Youth Directory!
CHURCHWIDE EVENT!



day of SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 26 | 8-1PM
 SAVE THE DATE




This Week | August 16 - 21

Sunday, August 16

- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 10:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 11:30 am **CE Committee Meeting** - Youth Suite
- 11:30 am **Membership Committee Meeting** - Britt Room

Monday, August 17

- 10:30 am **Pictorial Directory Committee** - Upper Room
- 5:00 pm **Diaconate Meeting** - Upper Room
- 6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law

Tuesday, August 18

- 9:00 am **MAP Packing** - 4700 Glynco Pkwy
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room
- 4:00 pm **Session Meeting** - Upper Room

Wednesday, August 19

- 10:00 am **Hands and Heart Ministry** - Music Attic
- 10:00 am **Grief Group** - Parlor
- 1:15 pm **Sonshine for the Soul** - John Law
- 6:45 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, August 20

No Activities Scheduled for This Date

Friday, August 21

Office Closed

Chancel Flowers: Today's flowers are given in honor of the church staff by the Shiver Family.

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Elders

Class of 2027

Taylor Brooks
Fred Griffith
Becky Livingston
Molly Macaulay
Bettye Russell
Mary Margaret Shiver
Doug Tingle

Class of 2028

Keith Griffin
Richard Hathaway
Buddy Hendrick
Denise Hidalgo
Ella Kent
Catherine McCrary
Matt Robinson

Class of 2029

Tom Alexander
Greer Anderson
Ben Bryson
Bob Duncan
Beth Lemke
Elyse Stackhouse
Becca Turner

Deacons

Class of 2027

Pattie Boykin
Randy Ellis
Portia Hendrick
Drew Holland
Bunnie Lynn
Judy Scarlett
Kathy Wade

Class of 2028

Wheeler Bryan, Jr.
Peggy Dean
Sean Hidalgo
Tripper Mansfield
Elizabeth Shewell
Debbie States
Emelie Tingle

Class of 2029

Lee Arnold
Melanie Barger
Brenda Dohn
Lynn Goldblatt
Alexa Golubski
Woody Sapp
Frank Stackhouse

Staff

Rev. Dr. Rachel Rhodes

Senior Pastor
rachel@sspres.org

Rhonda Hambright

Music Director
rhonda@sspres.org

Dara Pickren-Davis

Director of Children and Youth
dara@sspres.org

Donna Purdy

Administrative Assistant
donna@sspres.org

Ashley Biletzskov

Preschool Director
ashley@sspres.org

Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson

Interim Associate Pastor
jim@sspres.org

Amy Bishop

Organist
amy@sspres.org

Alyssa Lee

Assistant Director of
Children and Youth
alyssa@sspres.org

Shirley Redanz

Bookkeeper
shirley@sspres.org

Doug Marshall

Worship Tech Specialist

Rev. Dr. Whit Malone

Parish Associate
whit@sspres.org

Suzanne Morrison

Handbells
suzanne@sspres.org

Jeannine Torbert

Finance /Administration
jeannine@sspres.org

David Keen

Facility Manager
david@sspres.org

Becky Livingston

Clerk of Session

Nat Scott

Congregational Life
nat@sspres.org

Ada Owens

Communications
ada@sspres.org

Madelynne Risi

Mission & Outreach
madelynne@sspres.org

Tripper Mansfield Portia Hendrick

Co -Chair of Deacons

Bob Harper

Treasurer



St. Simons Presbyterian Church is a member of the Savannah
Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA)

205 Kings Way | St. Simons Island, GA 31522 | 912-638-2220



www.sspres.org



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