



Parish Voice

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

MARCH 2018

Following in the steps of Jesus...



A message from Jim...

When Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth in that first generation of the church's life nearly 2000 years ago, he did not describe them nearly so much as "members of the church" as he did "members of Christ." It is one thing to belong to an institution, but quite another to belong to a person. Whatever else our church membership means, it means that we are followers of Jesus the Christ, and that we belong to him.

Some people are discouraged about membership in organizations and institutions in these times. You may recall the line by Groucho Marx, who said, "I'm not certain that I want to belong to a club that would let someone like me be a member!" But in the Church of Christ, we do not celebrate so much our membership in an organization as we do our being a part of Christ, entrusted by him with carrying on the work he began long ago.

Our visions of what the church ought to be like and what it ought to be doing are as many and varied as the people who make it up. My vision of the church is that it is a community of encouragement and hope, where people of good will come together to worship, learn, and serve. In order to be fully Christian, we are committed to be the church, carrying out the work and passing on the faith to the next generation. The church, you see, is always a single generation from extinction. It always has been.

A great true story comes from the world of opera. It had been the custom of the composer Giacomo Puccini to always surround himself with promising students. In 1924, while Puccini was working on his

last opera, "La Turnadot," he died, leaving the work unfinished. His students completed the work over the next two years.

The opera premiered at LaScala in Milan. The conductor directed marvelously, but then suddenly stopped. With tears in his eyes, he said to the audience, "This is all that the master wrote." After a long pause he continued, "But we, his disciples, have completed his work." He then finished the performance. The question which faces every member of the body of Christ is similar. Will we finish the master's work?

See you Sunday,

Jim



JIM GIDDENS Senior Minister ext. 102	TOM NICHOLS Associate Minister ext. 110	MICHELLE JOHNSON Director of Education ext. 109	JAMES RICHARDSON Interim Director of Music ext. 106
LUKE HAMNER Director of Youth Ministries ext. 103	TERRY COKER Administrative Assistant ext. 101	AMELIA JAMERSON Office Coordinator ext. 100	TOM ANDERSON Controller ext. 104

SIUMC's Family
EGG-STRAVAGANZA!
 food • games • crafts • egg hunt • petting zoo
 March 25th
 12-2pm

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Ben & Latne McMakin
36 Seawatch Drive
Savannah, Georgia 31411

Nancy Cutting
25 Waite Drive
Savannah, Georgia 31411

PRAYER THOUGHTS

As we journey through Lent, we are reminded that Jesus spent serious time in prayer as he confronted every event and challenge in his life. We may see his journey beginning at Matthew's story of his forgiving the sins of a paralytic man, incurring the wrath of the religious leaders who would eventually bring about his death. Though he understood earlier than this that there would be this conflict, it is here that it begins to intensify. He 'officially' gathers his disciples and instructs them in the task ahead. It would hardly seem likely that he chose these people without a great deal of thought and prayer.

The journey nears its end at Gethsemane, and we see the image of Our Lord so deeply agonized in his prayer, leading to his 'prayer response,' 'not my will but thy will.' That prayer, and its response, open the door to the final part of that journey; the cross and the resurrection! Easter is Easter, at least in part, because of that prayer in Gethsemane, and God's will is done in the Christ who died for all our sins. Let us pray then like this.

"O Lord, Our rock and our redeemer, guide us to our knees that we, in all humility, may find our hearts, like Jesus' heart, so attuned to your spirit that we will give ourselves to the one who gave himself for us. AMEN"

- Pastor Tom

The Arts on Skidaway

2017 - 2018 Concert Series



PALM SUNDAY "FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE"

Sunday, March 25th
5:00 pm | Sanctuary

Join us on March 25th to hear Laiken Williams (AKA Laiken Love). She is known for singing jazz, classic soul, and swing. She will be performing with her "Fellowship of Love" band.

LOOKING FOR SINGERS



Our Chancel Choir is opening its arms to any of our Sunday worshipers who are there to cheer us on every Sunday. We very much need to increase the numbers in our choir, especially in the Tenor and Bass Sections. Sopranos and altos are also welcome. Yes, we work hard, but through our music and hard work, we have found Faith, Joy, Healing, and Wonderful Friends. We actually look forward to Wednesday night rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. If you love good music and you like to sing, please check us out. Please contact, Sue Prior at sue10533@aol.com or George Longstreth at bblgbl@gmail.com.



Weekly Happenings

Monday
10:00 am: Evangelism Meeting
11:00 am: Staff Meeting

Tuesday

Wednesday
5:30 pm: Fellowship Dinner
6:00 pm: Children & Youth
7:00 pm: Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday
8:45 am: Morning Prayer

Friday
Church office closes at noon
9:00 am: Friday Folders

Saturday

Sunday
8:30 am: Worship
9:15 am: Chancel Choir Warm-up
10:00 am: Worship
11:00 am: Coffee Hour
11:15 am: Sunday School

March 2018 Calendar

Thursday (3/1)

Friday (3/2)

Saturday (3/3)

Sunday (3/4)

Monday (3/5)

Tuesday (3/6)

Wednesday (3/7)

Thursday (3/8)

Friday (3/9)

Saturday (3/10)

Sunday (3/11)

Monday (3/12)

Tuesday (3/13)

Wednesday (3/14)

Thursday (3/15)

Friday (3/16)

Saturday (3/17)

Sunday (3/18)

Monday (3/19)

Tuesday (3/20)

Wednesday (3/21)

Thursday (3/22)

Friday (3/23)

Saturday (3/24)

Sunday (3/25)

Monday (3/26)

Tuesday (3/27)

Wednesday (3/28)

Thursday (3/29)

Friday (3/30)

Saturday (3/31)

9:15 am - Southern Women's Outing

8:00 am - Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm - Admin. Board Mtg.

10:00 am - Low Vision Mtg.

12:00 pm - Egg-stravaganza!
5:00 pm - A.O.S. Concert: Savannah Baroque

8:00 am - Men's Bible Study

3:00 pm - Parkinson's Support Mtg.

6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Good Friday
7:00 pm - Good Friday Service

8:45 am - Morning Prayer

Church office closes at noon
9:00 am: Friday Folders

1:00 pm - Youth Spring Retreat Pick-up

9:30 am - Early Service
Coffee Hour
4:00 pm - Mighty Kid's Messy Games

4:30 pm - LOVE Mtg.

8:00 am - Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm - Last Wed. Dinner

3:00 pm - Parkinson's Support Mtg.

Thursday mornings at 8:45 am, in the Chapel, we'll look at Jesus' journey to Jerusalem as told in Matthew's Gospel, all through Lent. Join us in these fifteen minutes of reflection and prayer.

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- Pastor Tom

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

March 1st:
'Leaving for Jesus'
Matthew 11:1-6

March 15th:
'On Earth As In Heaven'
Matthew 20:1-16

March 22nd:
'Confronting Life's Paradox'
Matthew 21:1-11

March 8th:
'He is Lord'
Matthew 16:13-17



March 29th:
'Catharsis'
Matthew 26:36-46



Tuesday, March 13th | 8:00 am | Church Library

Gary Schopfer will be leading a Bible study for men starting on Tuesday, March 13th at 8:00 am in the church library. The group will study the books I and II Timothy for a series of 7 weeks. The books of I and II Timothy are letters of Paul that offer practical and pastoral advice to a young pastor in Ephesus. These words of Paul continue to offer insight and wisdom. Please register for the study by emailing michelle@siumc.org or signing up on Sunday.



SUPPORT GROUPS

Al-Anon:

Mondays
4:00 pm

Church Library

AA:

Mondays - Saturdays
7:30 am

Spiritual Growth Room

Alzheimer's & Other Types of Dementia:

March 5th • 10:30 am • Thorne Room

Low Vision Group:

March 14th • 10:00 am • Spiritual Growth Room

Stroke Survivors:

March 15th • 4:00 pm • Messiah Lutheran

Parkinson's:

March 28th • 3:00 pm • Spiritual Growth Room



For the month of March, the Missions committee will be collecting NEW underwear for all ages/sizes and genders. Sundays in March will be "Undie Sundays", so please pick up some underwear which will be distributed among the agencies that our church supports.

Also, please look for our 2017 Missions Brochure. You will be able to see all that our church does for those less fortunate in our community.

- Nancy Sheet, *Chair of Missions*



COMMUNITY RESPITE MINISTRY AT ISLE OF HOPE UMC

Hope Arbor is a respite ministry that provides a timeout for caregivers that takes place at Isle of Hope UMC. Trained professionals and volunteers provide spiritual, emotional, and physical care for the caregiver's family member suffering with memory impairment in a respectful and safe environment. Respite gives caregivers a time for rest and taking care of their own needs. Participants are charged \$40 per day and receive email statements monthly.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Brooke Chambers (Isle of Hope UMC) at 355-8527.



Make Christian Education a priority this fall & attend one of our Sunday School classes!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Open to all. Join us at 11:15 am!

The Thorne Class

Meets in Room 111

This class utilizes the Adult Bible Study series by Cokesbury and is led by rotating facilitators.

The Spiritual Growth Class

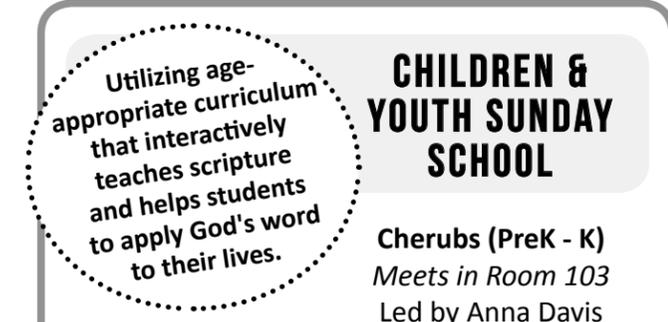
Meets in Room 109

This class is studying the book and video series, "Anxious About Nothing" by Max Lucado.

The Encouragers Class

Meets in the Library

This class is studying "24 Hours That Changed the World" by Max Lucado. Led by Michelle Johnson.



Utilizing age-appropriate curriculum that interactively teaches scripture and helps students to apply God's word to their lives.

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Cherubs (PreK - K)

Meets in Room 103
Led by Anna Davis & Ciera Rouse.

Mighty Kids (Elementary School)

Meets Upstairs
Led by Bettie Negley & Jenny Gerrard.

Youth (Middle & High School)

Meets Upstairs
Led by Luke Hamner and Sarah Franklin.



MIGHTY KIDS MESSY GAMES

Sunday, March 11th
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm • K - 5th Grade

Meet in Bailey Hall for a snack supper, devotion and lots of very messy games! Activities will include shaving cream, chocolate syrup and much more. Include a friend to this super-fun event that you will be sure to remember. Parents, bring a change of clothes when you pick them up – they will definitely be messy!

SAVE THE DATES!

SUMMER BLAST

June 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
Wednesdays in June!

EPWORTH CAMP

July 9th - 13th
Elementary
Camp Connect

DRAMA CAMP

July 23rd - 27th
Art, music, games, and theater!



YOUTH OVERNIGHT CAMPING TRIP

4:00pm, Friday, March 9th
until 1:00 pm, Saturday, March 10th
Skidaway Island State Park

This month our youth will have a spring retreat on March 9th - 10th at the Skidaway Island State Park. The purpose of this retreat is for students to have a time of spiritual refreshment. Drop-off time at the park is 4:00 pm. Students will be picked up the following day at 1:00 pm. Middle school and high school students and their friends are invited.

SAVE THE DATES!

LAKE JUNALUSKA

June 13th - 16th
White water rafting, ziplining!

EPWORTH CAMP

June 25th - 29th
Middle School
Camp Connect

RIVER OF LIFE

July 11th - 15th
Summer missions project

If you're interested in any youth events, contact Luke Hamner, luke@siumc.org, or by calling the church office.

MEMBERS IN RETIREMENT LIVING

The Oaks:

Mary Brown
Perri Grumish
Joanne Harman
Janet Heike
Jean Meeker
David Price
Sally Rowe
Katie Walker

Riverview:

Mary Bailey

Azalealand:

Marge Nelson

Insignia:

Ruby Smith

Savannah Square:

Gloria Bridgett,
Frank & Barbara Davis,
Curtis & Bette Ireland,
Edith Neds, Ruth Slugg

The Oaks (Pooler):

Jack & Doris Fisher



DINNER IS SERVED...

Dinner is served from 5:30 to 5:50 pm in Bailey Hall. Cost is \$8 per adult. This year credit/debit cards will be accepted for dinner payment (it will take several minutes to set up an account the first time, but then will simply involve a swipe of a card).

Ways to RSVP:
(RSVP before 12pm on the Monday before dinner)

ONLINE:

www.siumc.org/wnd

PHONE:

Call the office - 912-598-8460

SIGN-UP SHEET:

Located in office or outside of Bailey Hall on Sundays

ON THE MENU - FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT:

MARCH 7th:

Menu: Cranberry orange chicken, au gratin potatoes, ginger-honey carrots, salad, corn bread, and dessert.

Kids Menu: Corndogs.

Program: The Alzheimer's Association will speak about keeping your brain healthy and active and offer insight on how to engage with those recently diagnosed with dementia.

MARCH 14th:

Menu: Corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, salad, rolls, and dessert.

Kids Menu: Pizza rolls.

Program: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day! The choir from St. Vincent's Academy will entertain us with Irish-themed music and dance! Be sure to wear your green!

MARCH 21st:

Menu: Baked ham with pineapple and brown sugar glaze, sweet potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls, and dessert.

Kids Menu: Uncrustables.

Program: Alderwoman Carol Bell, Savannah's Mayor Pro Tem, will speak about the state of affairs in Savannah and efforts to control the city's crime.



LET'S GO CAMPING

April 20th - 22nd • Skidaway Island State Park
\$100/family (camp site + meals included)

It's time for a new SIUMC tradition – we are having our first Family Camp Out the weekend of April 20 – 22, 2018 at Skidaway Island State Park. This will be a fun weekend together with your church family, so put it on your calendar and plan to join us for the weekend! If you have never camped before, this is the perfect weekend to give it a try. All the meals will be provided and activities will be planned to keep everyone busy outside. During the weekend, we will have a guided hike, a scavenger hunt, family games, crafts for the kids, a campfire under the stars, and of course we will make s'mores!

We have a cluster of campsites already reserved (with restrooms and showers nearby) at the State Park. Let me know if you are planning to join us for the fun! Your family will want to have your own tent and sleeping gear...or go all out and rent a camper for the weekend! Suggested family donation for the campout is \$100 for both nights and meals. If you only want to stay one night, that's fine too, just let us know.

Let's make memories together during this fun camping weekend!

Contact Michelle at michelle@siumc.org if you are interested in participating.



SOUTHERN WOMEN'S SHOW DAY TRIP

Friday, March 23rd
Church bus departs at 9:15 am
\$8/pp

The Southern Women's Show is celebrating 15 fabulous years in the Savannah market! Come join us as we share in the fun on Friday, March 23rd. Discover hundreds of boutiques filled with the latest fashions, trendy jewelry, gourmet treats, health and beauty, and much more. Enjoy fashion shows, top chefs, and celebrity guests. Bring a friend and spend the day doing everything you love! We'll stop for a Dutch-treat lunch on the drive back, and return to church by 2:00 pm.

A sign-up sheet will be located outside of Bailey Hall on Sundays and in the church office.



HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION DAY TRIP

Thursday, April 5th
Church bus departs at 8:30 am
Return at 4:00 pm
\$40/pp

We're taking a day trip to Brunswick, Georgia to visit the Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation. This beautiful plantation represents the history and culture of Georgia's rice coast. In the early 1800s, William Brailsford of Charleston carved a rice plantation from marshes along the Altamaha River. The plantation and its inhabitants were part of the genteel low country society that developed during the antebellum period.

After touring the plantation we'll enjoy lunch at Skippers' Fish Camp - a local seafood restaurant not to miss! From there, we'll head to The Midway Museum where we'll learn the history of the Midway Congregational Church founded in 1752. This church had a significant role in the American Revolution. The church was home to three signers of the Declaration of Independence. Our guided tour will enlighten us to the historical significance of this community church.

A sign-up sheet will be located outside of Bailey Hall on Sundays and in the church office.



PALM SUNDAY

March 25th
8:30 am & 10:00 am

We begin Holy Week with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The second service will include the Procession of the Palms by our children.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 29th
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

As on the night that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, we will observe the sacrament of Holy Communion. Remain in the chapel for prayer as long as you like.

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30th
7:00 pm

As the Lenten season draws to a close, we remember the suffering and death of our Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1st
8:30 am & 10:30 am

On this festive day, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Both services will feature the Brass Ensemble and special choral presentations.