



Skidaway Island United Methodist Church
54 Diamond Causeway
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912-598-8460
www.siumc.org

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- LAST WEDNESDAY REHEARSAL FOR THE CHANCEL CHOIR SEASON WILL BE 5/25.
- SUMMER CHOIR WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY 6/5 WITH A REHEARSAL AT 9:15 BEFORE THE 10:00 AM SERVICE, CONTINUING UNTIL SUNDAY 9/4.
- CHANCEL CHOIR WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS WILL RESUME ON 9/7.
- THE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE IS PLAYING ON SUNDAY 5/1 AT BOTH SERVICES.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR ENSEMBLES! PLEASE SPEAK WITH PAUL IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS!

Summer Choir Announcement!

Starting June 5th!



A Message From Hale



John Banner was an Austrian-born American actor. You may not remember that name but if you are my age or older, you might recall his tag line "I know nothing!" from Sargent Schultz of Hogan's heroes. He also said, "I see nothing" and "I hear nothing". There are some things that I wish I didn't know, see, or even hear about. Many of those things are present in the news daily. As I write this article, I am confused and heartbroken about the violence in our nation. I cannot wrap my mind around what causes a person to shoot people for no obvious reason. Our world is broken, and such things are prevalent almost daily, even in America.

Up until the 19th of April 2022, 619 people have been injured in mass shootings. Not just gun violence or accidental, but only in mass shootings. The result is 153 have died from 146 events in 33 different states plus DC. I can't understand this. I want to say, "I know nothing!". Paul in Romans 8:28 states that for those who love God, all things work together for good, if we are called according to his purpose. Obviously, mass shooting events are not God's plan. Neither is war or natural disasters. It is, however, a time when God does indeed work things out for those who love him and are called to his purpose.

Why? How? Because it is amid evil, division, hatred, and pain that we as Christians become even more important in shining light into the world. It should also make us want to find ways to help and make a difference. When SIUMC has an opportunity to reach out to help folks, we step up. Additionally, the desire of this church to pray and offer financial support for those who suffer during war and from natural disasters. Our DNA at SIUMC is that amid the turmoil of this broken world, we are Christ to those in need. We have a vision to change lives physically, spiritually, and eternally. Our core is love, faith, prayer, and service. We respond when there is trouble, and each of us play a part in God's working all things out for good through us.

There are certainly other areas that I would like to echo John Banner's tag line, but unfortunately there is much to know, hear, and see. Let us pray that we continue to focus on Christ. We see in John 16:33 Jesus' words "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world".

In this broken world, let us share the good message as God allows us to be used in the Gospel. Instead of saying "I know, see, hear, nothing". Let us proclaim that "We know, see, and hear Jesus", And that knowledge allows us the privilege to be different than the world. We can be the change that we want to see in the world today.

The church struggles through difficulty as well. We struggle over the culture's intrusion into faith. We struggle to be relevant in a world that seeks its own way. We interpret things differently than others who claim the same faith we claim. The church has issues that will pull us at the seams over the next few years. I want to remind each of us that, regardless of anything, we are a family here at SIUMC. We make a difference, and we step up when there is a need. Right now, we need to be praying for all the concerns mentioned above but also praying for the United Methodist Church as leaders prepare to determine our future path. Let us always keep the mission and vision of our church and Jesus' call on our lives as our primary focus.

Blessings,
Hale

May 2022

PARISH VOICE

Church Staff

Rev. Hale Bishop

Senior Pastor

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MISSIONS

OUR MISSION

Sometimes we need a reminder of our mission as a church.

Back in the 3rd century, a man named Cyprian was the bishop of Carthage, in North Africa. The plague attacked the city. All left the city but the poor, the aged, and the sick. Cyprian appealed to the church to remain in the city. He asked them to care for the sick, to help bury the dead and give hope to those who have not yet been infected.

His request was hard to hear. The Christians in Carthage had just undergone persecution. Because they would not worship the emperor or bow down to their gods they were abused and cast out. These same people stayed in the city because they had a mission to perform.

Christ has called us all to transform our world. What are we by word or deed proclaiming to our community?

We are to proclaim Christ by our love for our neighbors...young or old, rich or poor, healthy or those in ill health.

Thank you for living out our mission as a church.

-Rob

MISSION UPDATES:

Inspiritus

SIUMC recently partnered with Inspiritus to help Afghan refugees acclimate to the Savannah area. Ten of our church members completed training and background checks to volunteer directly with Inspiritus. We have been given a family with two small children to assist as they transition to the area. Inspiritus is assisting the family with housing and employment and our volunteers will serve as "First Friends" so the family has a personal connection and support system.

MEET-THE-NEED UPDATES:

During the season of Lent, we collected \$16,355 for UMCOR with all funds going to support Ukrainian relief efforts. In addition, our missions committee purchased 38 cloth baby carriers that were sent to Ukraine with a local mission group serving at a refugee camp in Poland.

We also collected \$16,975 to support the Tiny House project that provides housing for local Veterans. Funds were used to furnish 11 newly constructed Tiny Homes as well as a few additional projects including new bicycles for those living in the Tiny House community.

SIUMC Celebrates 40 Years!

SIUMC will be celebrating 40 years next year in 2023. If you would be willing to serve on a planning committee to creatively celebrate our church's anniversary, please contact Michelle.



MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Join us in offering a Skidaway welcome to Emma Johnston, Meghan Smith and Debbie Platt! Debbie is our new Office Coordinator and will be in the office Monday through Thursday. Debbie recently moved from California to Savannah to be closer to her cousin who lives in the Landings. Debbie has experience coordinating small offices, and we are delighted that she has joined our staff.



Meghan is our new Communications Coordinator and will be working part-time to keep our digital and printed communications up-to-date. Meghan is calling Savannah home while she finishes a writing degree at SCAD. She was also an intern in the Disney College Program and will compete for the title of Miss Florida in June 2022!



We are excited to have Emma Johnston as our Children and Youth Director at Skidaway Island UMC. Emma has a passion and calling for ministry with students and their families, and we are so happy that she is part of our ministry team. Emma graduated with a certificate in Christian Education and Leadership from the Kanakuk Institute in Branson, Missouri and has also earned master's credits in Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary.



ADULT MINISTRIES



Adult Ministries is hosting a day trip to Ossabaw Island on Thursday, May 5th! We will be traveling with captain Michael Neal of Bull River Cruises on the Island Explorer and enjoy informative narration on the marsh habitat during the one-hour boat ride to Ossabaw. Once on the island, we will take a guided tour of the Club House, which was the first plantation home on the island, and nearby tabby homes. Participants will also have free time to venture further into the island on the trails or simply sit and enjoy the serenity of the island. The cost of the trip is \$95 per person which includes transportation on the boat, the foundation fee for visiting the island, and a boxed lunch. This is an active tour with 2 miles of walking throughout the day (up to 4 miles for those taking the optional walk to the Torrey-West home). The Island Explorer will launch from the Rodney J. Hall Boat Ramp at 9:00 am and will return at 3:30 pm. Please contact Michelle Johnson at Michelle@siumc.org.



SIUMC will host an "Alpine Odyssey" tour featuring the Oberammergau Passion Play the week of September 26 to October 4, 2022. We'll stay in the scenic Stubai Valley and travel the quaint villages, beautiful landscapes, castles and churches of the Bavaria and Tyrol regions of Austria and Germany. See Munich, Innsbruck, Salzburg and more! The best part? The Oberammergau Passion Play in the small town of Oberammergau, Germany.

Visit <https://www.siumc.org/passionplay> to learn more. Questions? Email Michelle Johnson at Michelle@siumc.org.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

MAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday,
May 4th
6-7:30pm- Youth Planning Night
in the Youth Room (Pizza will
be served for dinner)

Wednesday,
May 11th
5:30-7pm- God Squad



Friday,
May 13th
6pm- Family BBQ



Sunday,
May 15th
11:15am (Right after
church)- Parent Planning
Meeting in the Youth
Room

Sunday,
May 22nd
10am Service- Senior
Presentations

Wednesday,
May 25th
5:30pm-7pm- God Squad



SIUMC SUMMER CAMPS

Vacation Bible School: June 13 - 17
Ages 3 to rising 5th grade

SERVE Savannah: June 27 - 30
Rising 6th to 12th grades

Drama Camp: July 18 - 22
Rising 3rd to 8th grades

REGISTRATION INFO AT
SIUMC.ORG/CAMPS



FAMILY BBQ!

FRIDAY, MAY 13TH @ 6PM

JOIN US BY THE PLAYGROUND FOR HAMBURGERS,
HOTDOGS, GAMES AND FUN!
BRING YOUR BIKES, TRIKES, AND SCOOTERS IF YOU
CAN!

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS!

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Congratulations to our high school seniors who graduate this month.

Annie Berman
Country Day School

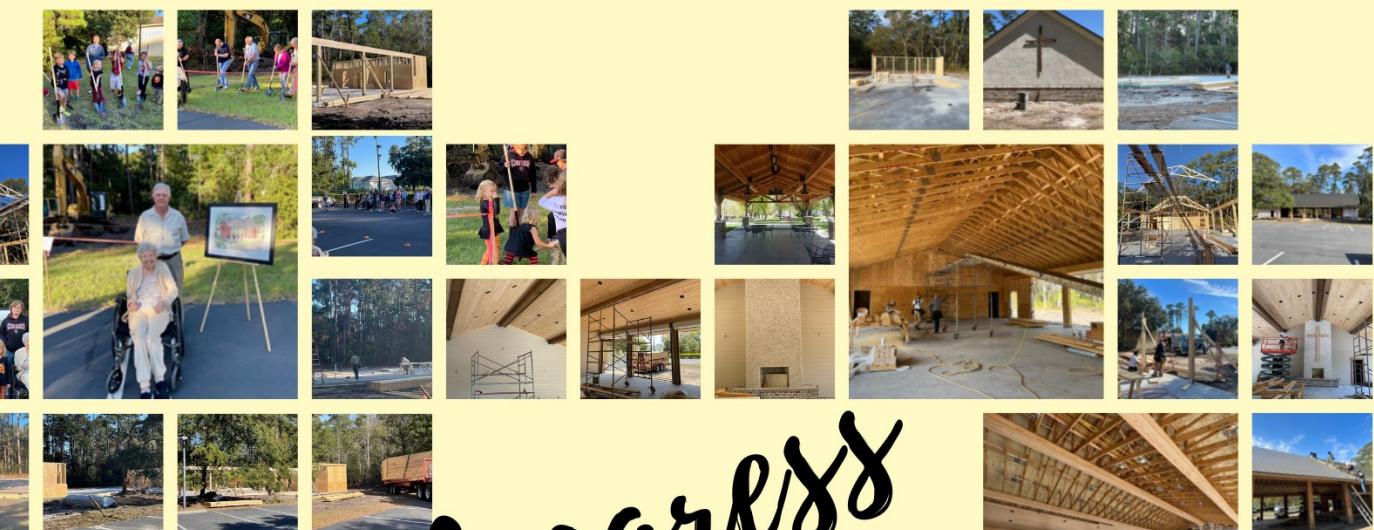
Maddie Hughes
Savannah Arts Academy

Emme Lipp
Savannah Arts Academy

Pavilion Celebration!

Thank you!

Thanks to all who have donated for the Pavilion and enhancements to the back of our property here at SIUMC. The completion of the Pavilion is quickly approaching. We are planning celebrations, ribbon cuttings, and being able to use the Pavilion in June. Let us say a special thank you to the Lynch family who underwrote this project as well as all others whose gracious donations will complete the several other projects associated with the Pavilion.



Progress

WAYS TO GIVE

Donations to Skidaway Island United Methodist Church are used to sustain and grow its missions and ministries.

MONETARY GIFTS TO OPERATING BUDGET

You can make your gift to SIUMC in a variety of ways. You can put checks or cash in the offering plate as it is passed. You can mail in your gift. Or with a credit or debit card, you can use our secure online giving process. Four options include: using the Giving Kiosk located in the Narthex or outside of Bailey Hall; online via the internet; downloading and using the SecureGive mobile app; or using the texting option with your smartphone. Your gifts will be transferred to the church automatically as one-time or recurring gifts as you choose. We offer all these ways; which way is right for you and your lifestyle? For more information contact the church office at 912-598-8460. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Gift acknowledgements will be mailed to donors. The budget is prepared in consultation with all ministry areas. The Finance Committee then makes the formal recommendation of the budget for missions and outreach, education and discipleship, worship and music, buildings and grounds, and for other operating expenses and salaries to the Church Charge Conference for their approval.

Visit siumc.org/give



Download the appropriate free "SecureGive App" onto your phone. Search for "Skidaway Island United Methodist Church" within the app .



Magnolia Manor is a Nonprofit Retirement Home in Georgia supported by the United Methodist Church. They are committed to the highest values of the Christian faith in all of their work and ministry. They minister to the seniors who live there and to their families. The League of the Good Samaritan is a benevolent fund that covers the cost of care when a resident is unable to pay. This fund not only eases the minds of their residents but it also supports their Spiritual Life program. This program provides spiritual and emotional care to the residents on all nine campuses. Your help towards this special Mother's Day Offering can help keep and provide spiritual care for their residents.

FELLOWSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Informational Letter From Hale:

The United Methodist Church has struggled over the issue of human sexuality for many years. This struggle has intensified as societal norms have changed. The UMC has always stated our support of the rights of all people in making their own decision about sexuality. We affirm that all people are of sacred worth and valuable in the sight of God. The church Discipline also has limitation within the church concerning ordination and marriage. Decades of struggle have been difficult. General conference who sets the rules of the church has affirmed our current position by vote nearly every meeting. In 2019 General Conference met to address the unresolved division and again affirmed the past position. The result has not been compliance but growing resistance and disobedience to the Discipline of the church.

Legislation "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation" awaits the next General Conference. This was developed by people from all theological views in the effort to find a future for the church that all can thrive in their interpretation, and all can continue to change lives for Christ. One purpose of this legislation is to find a way to continue to live out each group's vision without causing harm. General Conference has had this on the agenda since 2020 but that has been postponed twice. The recent decision to delay General Conference a third time until 2024 has led one group to announce launch of a new denomination. The number of churches who choose to join the new denomination (Global Methodist Church) is unclear at the present time.

Presently, UMC bishops await several rulings which could affect our pathway to General Conference. The possible results of the Judicial Council rulings are speculation and unclear at the present. The South Georgia Conference bishop and leaders remind us that our focus should be on being the church. We are reminded in I Corinthians 14:33 that "God is not the author of confusion". Therefore, let us not be confused but let us remember that we are called to be the church, to witness to our faith, and to love others. Changes may come on a global scale or even a national scale but who we are at SIUMC will not change. We will hold fast to our Mission, Core Values, and Vision.

With no decision and no mandate or decision from the Judicial Council, we are only able to offer possible future paths. For this reason, I do not believe that the present is the time to call for a church wide meeting to discuss the issue. Some people are more interested in the details, and I am happy to share what I know. If you or a small group want more information let me know and I can share what possibilities are imagined. I will do this with the understanding that we presently do not have clarity on what will happen. Whatever happens, I know that you as members of SIUMC are the future and you will continue to be effective for Christ.

Let us always keep the main thing, the main thing. The main thing is Jesus!

Blessings,
Hale

Support Groups

Al-Anon:

Mondays

4:00 PM

Church Library

Low Vision Group:

May 11th

10:00 AM

Thorne Room

Exercise Opportunities!

Mat Pilates

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

9:15 AM in Bailey Hall

\$40/month

This class features a series of traditional Pilates floor exercises designed to strengthen core muscles, stretch and tone the body, and improve posture. Using a mat for cushioning and support, moves are adapted according to the participant's fitness level.

Sit Fit!

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

10:15 AM in Bailey Hall

\$40/month

Gain strength, stability, and flexibility all while exercising from a chair! This class features easy-to-perform exercises designed for beginners/intermediates, as well as those with balance, joint, and movement issues.