



SIMPSON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

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# SIMPSON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

SIMPSON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST MARCUS T. WATKINS SENIOR MINISTER



*Sunday Bible Class - 9:00 AM*  
*Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 AM*  
*Wednesday Online Bible Study - 7:00 PM*  
*January 4, 2026*

JANUARY Purpose  
FEBRUARY Prayer  
MARCH Provision  
APRIL Peace  
MAY Patience  
JUNE Power  
JULY Praise  
AUGUST Perseverance  
SEPTEMBER Purity  
OCTOBER Promise  
NOVEMBER Proclamation  
DECEMBER Presence

## PURPOSE: Living with Divine Intent

**JEREMIAH 29:10-14**

**BRO. MARCUS T. WATKINS**

### Central Text

*Jeremiah 29:11 — “For I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

This promise was spoken not in comfort, but in captivity—to people in exile for 70 years.

### Background Context

- Israel is in Babylonian captivity because of disobedience.
- False prophets promised a quick escape, but Jeremiah told the truth:
  - Exile would last 70 years
  - God was still faithful
- Jeremiah teaches how to live faithfully while waiting, not how to escape quickly.

### Big Idea

Exile does not cancel God’s purpose.

God’s divine design is often discovered in pain, not after pain.

Your “Babylon” is not a detour from God’s plan—it is part of the plan.

### Key Points

#### 1. There Is a Promise in Your Pain

- God’s plans are deliberate and intentional, even when life hurts.
- “Plans” = God’s divine blueprint, often formed in hardship.
- Babylon was preparatory, not punitive.
- God tears down before He builds up.
- God does not waste wounds, suffering, or waiting.

**Truth: Your present struggle is part of God’s sovereign sketch.**

#### 2. Perspective in Your Perplexity

- Israel saw captivity; God saw cultivation.
- They saw pain; God saw purpose.
- Confusion is not God’s absence.
- Like a tapestry, life looks messy underneath—but God sees the finished picture.

**Truth: When you can’t trace God’s hand, trust His heart.**

#### 3. Process Is Part of the Promise

- God’s promises do not bypass process.
- Hope = a cord/rope you hold onto during waiting.
- Babylon was a training ground, not a burial ground.
- You cannot microwave miracles or fast-track destiny.
- Waiting on God is active obedience, not inactivity.

**Truth: Every promise has a growing season.**

## ATTENDANCE:

*Bible Study - 73*

*Worship Service - 281*

*Virtual - 196*

## BAPTISMS / YTD 2

*Lisamarie Bailey*

*Dave Botchaway*



## MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS / YTD 1

*Bernard Wilburn*

**REMINDER:** Wednesday Night Bible Study via Zoom - 7:00PM

**REMINDER:** The last Wednesday of each month is Wednesday Night Prayer Service via Zoom - 7:00PM

**REMINDER:** The last Sunday of each month is *Casual Sunday*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**January 10, 2026** - Men's Study: The Titus 10 at 9:00 AM

**January 16 and 17th, 2026** - Men's Ministry Outing at the gun range. Please see Tommy Berry for details

**January 18, 2026** - Guest speaker: Dr. Olu Shabazz, Harlem Church of Christ

**February 1, 2026** - Vision Casting Congregational Meeting following Worship Service

**February 28, 2026** - Please join us for our annual Extravaganza at the Douglasville Convention Center (Douglasville, GA). Theme: We Have Come This Far By Faith. Event colors: ruby red, gold and black. Deadline for registration is January 31<sup>st</sup>. Adults: \$30/person; Ages 11-College Students: \$20; children 10 & under are free.

**April 2 - 5, 2026** - 39th Annual CoC Ladies Lectureship Retreat (Houston, TX) See Pat Applewhite for details

**April 10 - 12, 2026** - The 2026 National Association of Celebrated Seniors Conference hosted by Camp Creek CoC (Atlanta, GA), Early bird registration \$125. See Roosevelt and Karen Stripling for details

**April 24 - 26, 2026** - Save the Date for the Vienna CoC Ladies' Day and Health Fair, 915 East Union St., Vienna, GA 31092 Theme: Praise Him Anyway, The Blessing is the Storm. Keynote speaker: Dr. Stephanie Bernard. Participants are responsible for their transportation, lodging and Saturday dinner. RSVP March 1, 2026, \$35 cost for Friday's meal. Saturday breakfast and lunch and Sunday lunch will be served.

**June 6 - 10, 2026** - Save the Date: Joshua Ministerial Conference & Conclave. Theme: Lord, Build Your Church Matthew 16:18. Dr. Jeremy J. Flowers, Host Minister, Gray Road CoC, Cincinnati, OH

**October 3 - 8, 2026** - Southeastern Regional Lectureship (SERL) hosted by Simpson Street CoC (Atlanta, GA), Hope Unshaken "Anchoring Your Soul In A Shifting World", Pre-registration \$150

**UPCOMING SERMON: January 11<sup>th</sup> - The Power of Purpose; Proverbs 19:21**

## **Personal Statements**

Garland Grady - Requesting prayers for myself as I deal with a demonic spirit. I see God working on my behalf.

Victoria Alexander - Asking the church for prayers as I have my nursing school entrance exam on Tuesday.

Linda Bernard - Requesting prayers for my sister, Jean Miller, who's facing some challenges. Continued prayers for me and my family.

Char Thomas (new convert) - Thank you for welcoming me. Please keep me and my family in your prayers.

## ***PRAYER REQUESTS***

Doreen Liking - Requesting prayers for traveling grace for Isha and Skylar Bowen as they travel back from Jamaica.

Lisa Mclean - Thank you for your prayers. Please pray for my daughter, Ariel, who's having issues at her job.

Sedgwick Williams - Please pray for Bro. Tim Hale and his family as they recently funeralized his uncle. Also, asking for prayers for me for continued strength and Godly thoughts and conduct as I confront triggers of things that I thought I'd put to rest from long ago .

Char Thomas - Requesting prayers for me as I return back to work.

Cheryl Lynn Iszard - Asking for prayers for J.R. Kirkwood as he travels out of the country with his college team. Also, asking the saints to pray for me and with me for complete healing of my body if it is Jesus' will for my life. Thank you Father for all that you have done for me and all the plans you have for my life.

Ricky Golden - Continue to pray for Bro. Marvin Johnson. He is in good spirits.

Cornelius Yarbrough - Asking for prayers in all areas of my life. Repentance of sin and prayer.

Tonya Wilkerson - Asking for prayers that I trust God through the process and keep smiling through the process. Repentance of sin and prayer.

Sulinda Walker - Please pray for my daughter, Summer, who is stranded in Rio de Janeiro due to the issues in Venezuela.

Dave Botchaway - Asking the church to keep me in prayer for traveling mercies as I journey back to Ghana this week.

Angela McBride - Please pray for my mom, Pat McBride. She has an upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> eye surgery. God please be with her. Safe travels for my brother from Virginia. Asking for prayers for my nephew, Jayden Price, who moved to California for his 1<sup>st</sup> job at IBM. Continued prayers for the McBride Family. Thank you God for all you have done and will do. I am grateful and need you and your direction.

Thomas Bryant - Asking for prayers for healing as I recover from a broken foot.

Marvin Johnson - Please continue to pray for me. I do appreciate every thing you do for me.