



December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

P.O. BOX 809
AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891

stjaiken.org

Photo Make Up Today

We are open for walk-ins today from 8am - 1pm. Please stop by if you still need your photo taken for our new pictorial directory.

Saturday of Service Make Up Date

Our Saturday of Service to Epworth Children's Home was rained out on November 11. Please mark your calendars for January 27, 2024, when we will try again to go and serve Epworth. Sign up sheets will be available in January, but please mark your calendars now!

Sunny Monday

Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday on December 11. This month's program, beginning at 10:30am, will feature the South Boundary Singers. Lunch will be available for \$5 per meal with the menu featuring: Pork loin chili over rice, cranberry salad, cornbread and Key Lime pie. Won't you join us for a morning of holiday music, fellowship and lunch? Please call the church office at 803-648-6891 by noon on Friday, December 8, to make your reservation.

Nativity Event

The Children's & Youth Ministries is sponsoring an evening of Christmas fellowship while creating the Nativity out of gingerbread/graham crackers. Won't you join us next Sunday, December 10 at 5pm, for this churchwide event?

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Due to the children caroling on Wednesday, December 13, Dr. Tim's evening Bible Study will not take place. Please enjoy the caroling with the children.

Church Calendar Reservations

Reservations are not automatically renewed for the year. If your group/event has a recurring reservation for a room or the gym on the church calendar, please contact Jennifer Windham in the church office at 803-648-6891, to renew/update your reservation for the upcoming 2024 calendar year.

UMCOR Coffee Sales



Get your stocking stuffers, hostess gifts and gift basket items today! Please stop and shop today between 9:15am and 12:30pm; the UMCOR coffee booth will be open for sales. The coffees and teas are made possible in collaboration with The United Methodist Committee On Relief and the Equal Exchange Company, with 15 cents per pound sold going to UMCOR.

SERVING THIS WEEK

Worship Services: Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Butch Blackwell; Rev. Will Altman; Director of Traditional Music - Dr. Matt Caine; Organist - Christopher Nash; 9:02 Band Leader - Jane Timmerman; The 9:02 Band - Chuck Carver, Juli Davis, Earl Melton, Matt Osteen, George Collins, Steve Davis, Alec James, Jeff Krok, Johnathan Cook, Susan Lawson, & Marshall Sanders

Crucifer: Benton Orr **Acolytes:** Blair Wood and Avelyn Yeh

December 11:00 Ushers: Champ & Jeannette Bowden, Donald Leader, Alison & Roger Carpenter, Penny Rue, Jean Geiger, Al Hartgraves, Art & Susie Smith, Commie Peebles, Leah & Joe Lewis, Mick & Connie Pisko, Eric Randall, Dave Felak, Larry Burdette, Allen & Nola Radcliffe, Kent Falb, Jerry Miller, Mitch Rivers & Mary Ann Findley

December Worship Support: Jean Geiger, Sandra Jameson and Millie Winston

You may text your gift to St. John's by texting **stjaiken** to 1-888-364-4483 and following the instructions.

Images and texts used with this service have permission granted under CCLI #2220845.

The 11:00 service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 p.m., one week delay.

December 3, 2023

Children's Ministries

Celebrate Advent at home! Parents, please pick up an Advent coloring book for your child in the Narthex or lobby of the Faith Center. The booklet, entitled *Come! Lord Jesus*, contains daily family devotionals for the season and coloring pages for children.

Gingerbread Nativity: December 10 at 5pm – 6:30pm. All ages are invited and welcome! Please come join us as we share this special way to tell the Nativity story!

Christmas Caroling: December 13, at 5:30pm. Grades 6 and below (and parents) are invited. Join us as we share the joy of Christmas with our homebound members. We will ride together on the church buses for your convenience.

Birthday Party for Jesus: December 24 at 10am
The children will gather and celebrate the birth of our Savior during Sunday School.

Children's Nativity Skit: December 24 during the 5pm Christmas Eve Service
The children will walk through the story of Jesus birth, as told in Luke 2. There will be practice on Dec. 20 at 5:30pm.

Please let Cara Robinson know if your child would like to participate in any of these events: crobinson@stjohns-umc.org.

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Join us tonight for Sunday Night Youth! Drop off in the Faith Center loop starting at 5:00pm. We will have free time in the gym, dinner, and small group! Bring \$2 and invite a friend! Pick up is at 7:00pm in the Faith Center loop.

Revolution is January 26-28, 2024! Registration is open on Realm. Early bird deadline is December 17.

Registration is also open for the Ski Trip, February 9-11.

Youth Choir 4:00-5:00pm in the choir room

Youth Small Groups on Wednesdays from 7pm-8pm:

Brotherhood (7th-12th grade boys) in the gym

CORE (7th-8th grade girls) in the Faith Center

Dwell (9th-12th grade girls) in Bekah & Amy's office

Realm has a new texting update that requires an "opt-in" from you! Parents, counselors, and students, make sure you stay up-to-date on all things Foundation, **text START to (843)305-4638**.

St. John's Missions News

We are blessed to have a dedicated group of men from our church who build ramps across our community. During 2023 they have built over 50 ramps and have made the lives of more than 50 people and their families easier. Thank you to the Jack Meeks Ramp Ministry and also to the ladies of Joseph's Coat who provide a lap robe for each recipient.

For the month of November, we are collecting **blankets and sleeping bags**. Please place any donated items in the box marked "**Grace Kitchen**" in the Narthex of each worship service. Please place only the requested donation items in the Grace Kitchen boxes as these are the current items needed.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
in memory of *Elinor P. Cannon* by *Bob & Jane Fogle*.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
in memory of *Michael Allen Fogle* by *Bob & Jane Fogle*.

Wednesday Night Supper

Menu: Swiss chicken, rice, carrots, salad, and Oreo delight

Kids Menu: Corn dogs and carrots

Reservations are required and should be made by Monday, December 7th, at 5pm by calling the church office at (803)648-6891 or contacting Juli Davis at: jdavis@stjohns-umc.org. Cost is \$8.00 for ages 10 yrs. - adult and \$3.00 for children over 3 years. You can pay online at stjaiken.org, select "GIVE NOW" and then from the drop down menu, select "WNS." You may also pay in person - checks are preferred. Please make checks payable to St. John's.

News of the Family

Sympathies to:

Brent & Jana Fowler on the death of his mother, **Joy Fowler**, who died November 25, 2023 in Aiken, SC.

Robert & Millie Winston on the death of **Carol Flink**, who died November 25, 2023, in Attleboro, MA. Carol was Robert's sister.

Jim Minear on the death of his wife, **Betty Minear**, who died on November 27, 2023 in Aiken, SC.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Betty Minear
November 27, 2023

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

December — **peanut butter**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 11/26/2023

8:30 | 108 9:02 | 205 11:00 | 298

In-Person Total | 611

9:02 Online Live | 334 11:00 Online Live | 302

Financials

Operations Budget as of 11/29/2023

Year to date offerings given for what God	\$ 1,981,999.90
is asking us to do:	<u>\$ 1,922,461.21</u>
Year to date ministry expenditures:	\$ 59,538.69

Missions Budget: Year 2023-2024

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$ 208,874.05
Year to date Missions Disbursements:	\$ 223,752.74

We thank you for your generous support of St. John's Ministries & Missions!



TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hope



Healing Service
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 3
10 AM, CHAPEL



Poinsettia
SALES
WILL TAKE PLACE
DEC. 3 & 10
80 PLANTS WILL BE AVAILABLE
\$25 EACH



Family Night

Gingerbread
Nativity
Family Night
Activity

Sunday, Dec. 10th
5pm - 6:30pm



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
**CHRISTMAS
CAROLING**

CHILDREN GRADES 6 AND BELOW
(CHURCH SUPPER AT 5PM)

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 2023
CAROLING AT 5:30PM**

PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE QR CODE:



2023 Christmas Eve
Services

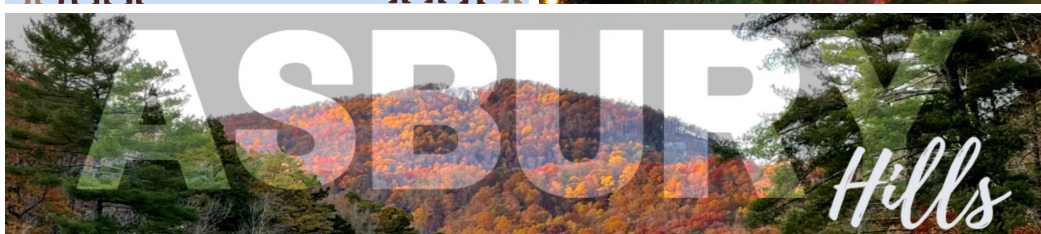
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES AS NORMAL

5:00 PM FAMILY SERVICE

7:00PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

11:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

All services held in the Sanctuary



Order of Worship - 8:30 A.M.

We welcome you, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please silence all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

***OPENING HYMN No. 196, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"** HYFRYDOL

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE Greg & Nancy Lowry

***SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 13:24-37 Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon

SERMON "Getting Ready for Jesus" Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom shall have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI No. 71 "Glory Be to the Father"** GREATOREX

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.

OFFERTORY SOLO My Heart Ever Faithful Johann Sebastian Bach
Alysa Smith, soprano

***DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS No. 95,** OLD 100TH

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 206, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"** HOUSTON

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**Please stand, as able.*

This is a time of great need, and our missions and church operations require our continued generous giving. Please consider giving online, through text, through the mail, or over the phone to help us ensure that our ministries here and around the world are not adversely affected. More details can be found at stjaiken.org.



We welcome you, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. This service will be livestreamed today at 9:02 on our website stjaiken.org, our Facebook Page, and the St. John's App. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please silence all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

PRAISE SONG **Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord** *Schwartz-Godspell*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **The Klecker Family**

PRAISE SONG **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** *Neale, Coffin & Walker*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed

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We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom shall have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

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OFFERTORY **Build My Life** *Barrett*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING **Mark 13:24-37** **Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon**

SERMON **"Getting Ready for Jesus"** **Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon**

PRAISE SONG **Prepare the Way** *Riddle*

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG

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Order of Worship - 11:00 AM

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PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *A Joyful Lullaby* arr. Joanne Brown Ledoux

***OPENING HYMN No. 196, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"** HYFRYDOL
Joy Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Steve & Glenna Lathrop

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Nicene Creed

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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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Advent Song* Andrea and James Barnard
Alleluia Choir

***DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS No. 95,** OLD 100TH

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children K4-2nd grade may now follow the Crucifer to Children's Church.
Chancel Choir members who also sang at the 8:30am service may exit at this time.*

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

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