



ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

January 11, 2026

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 809
AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

Church Council Meeting

We will hold our first Church Council meeting of 2026 on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6pm in the Faith Center. We will install our new Lay Leadership on Sunday, January 25 during the 11am service.

Dementia Support Group

We are looking forward to beginning a new 7-week session for our Dementia Support Group on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 4:00 pm in the Faith Center. This group is open to all caregivers of those struggling with Dementia. For the past year and a half, this group has been instrumental as a resource and support for those caring for a loved one with Dementia. Please contact Rev. Butch if you have questions or if you wish to attend.

Grief Group Announcement

When we lose someone we love, we embark on a journey not of our choosing. And yet, it is a vital and sacred journey we must make. That, of course, is a journey of grief. St. John's offers a Grief Care Group that serves as a means of self-care and shared community for those in grief. It is designed to be a series of twelve sessions – where you will listen, share, and gain important tools to use in navigating your unique grief experience. This week we will be beginning a new 12-week session starting January 14, 2026, at 3:45 in the Faith Center. If you are on a journey of grief and would like to attend or know more about our group, please call Reverend Butch at the church office.

D Groups

We've had such a great response to our D Groups and are excited to begin another year! Stay tuned as we prepare for this year - more information is coming soon!

New Year - Name Tags

It's a new year and time for new year resolutions. It is strongly encouraged that all members wear their name tags when attending church. This will give us all the opportunity to get to know those who have recently joined and those that are visiting. If you still need a name tag, please contact Susan McDonald by email: smcdonald@stjaiken.org or call: 803-648-6891.

FAITH 101 (aka New Member) Class

We hold a 4-week class to learn what we believe about: God, St. John's Methodist Church, Methodism, our commitments as members, and more! This class is not only for people interested in joining our church but also for those who want to learn more about St. John's and the best ways to get involved, and to those who are interested in a refresher on basic beliefs.

The next class will begin on Sunday, January 25 and run through February 15. To register for this class please contact Susan McDonald at smcdonald@stjaiken.org or call: 803-648-6891.

Worship Services: 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, Jonathan Cook, Susan Lawson, Marshall Sanders

Crucifer: Rebecca Kreitzer **Acolytes:** Grant Kreitzer and Catherine Kreitzer

January 8:30 Ushers: Tom Miniard, Randy Shelley, Greg Lowry

January 11:00 Ushers: Virgil Sauls, Pat Sauls, Donald Leader, Commie Peebles, Newkirk Barnes, Bill Hillan, Sara Carmichael, Doug Carmichael

January Worship Support: Judy Bilyeu, Susan Crosby, Karen Blackwell, Peggy Neill

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.

January 11, 2026

Children's Ministries

Children's Event; Nerf War "For God and For Gideon"- January 11th from 5pm - 6:30pm Register here: <https://links.stjaiken.org/2026NerfwarSTJ>.

Children's Music will resume Wednesday, January 14 at 5:30pm.

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

The Merge will take place tonight at 5pm in the Faith Center.

Youth Ski Retreat Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2026 to Winterplace "Are You Ready to Ski?" Registration link: <https://links.stjaiken.org/26STJyouthski> or use the QR code on the graphics page.

Youth Small Groups coming soon!

Young Adults Ministry

Young Adults Sunday School Class takes place at 10am in Room 237. Please join us!

St. John's Missions News

Each Saturday our church hosts Grace Kitchen, a free breakfast for our community. We currently have 9 teams which rotate the cooking, serving and cleanup. We could use a few more volunteers on several of the teams. To learn more, please call Renee at 803-215-8940.

For the month of **January**, we are collecting **canned tuna and salmon (pop tops or pouches only)**. Please place any donated items in the box marked "Grace Kitchen" in the Narthex of each worship service and in front of Ward Hall. Please place only the requested donation items in the Grace Kitchen boxes as these are the current items needed

Travel Talk

Primetimers travelers are sponsoring a travel talk Friday, January 16, at 2 pm in Ward Hall. A representative from Kelley Tours will present information about 2026 tours planned especially for St John's. All are welcome. Bring your friends to learn about these travel opportunities.

Ministry Opportunity

Do you have an interest in providing enrichment activities for seniors aged 50 plus? If so, the Senior Adult Council has a opening for you. We plan Sunny Monday, Primetimers travel and other events. New members and new ideas are always welcome. For more information, see Rev. Butch (803-648-6891) or Brenda Meeks (803-979-1900), or attend our January 12th meeting in the Conference Room at 1 pm.

Sunny Monday

St. John's Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday tomorrow, January 12. The program will begin at 10:30am in the Faith Center featuring Linda Johnson from the Historical Foundation of Aiken speaking about "Women of the Winter Colony." Lunch provided for those that made reservations.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by **Rea & Kevin Maynard** in memory of **Lella Elrich**.

Wednesday Night Supper

WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

Wednesday Night Supper and Ministry Meals will resume this week.

Jan. 14: Chili with beans, salad, cornbread, and peach cobbler

Jan. 21: Spaghetti, green beans, garlic bread, and cheesecake

Jan. 28: Roasted bone in chicken thighs, garlic sliced potatoes, peas & carrots, roll, and cherry pie

Reservations are required by phone/email: jwindham@stjaiken.org by 12pm, Tuesday, January 12, 2026.

Dinner is served at 5pm in Ward Hall 2/3. Cost for dinner: \$8 per adult (10 yrs. & older) and \$3 per child (ages 3 - 9yrs). Payment options: on-line via our website: www.stjaiken.org and select "GIVE NOW" and then select "WNS" from the drop down menu. You may also pay in person by cash or check. Please make checks payable to St. John's.

News of the Family

Sympathies to:

Will & Shannon, Nick and Michael Erwin, and LuAnn Phillips on the death of **Frances Phillips** who died December 24, 2025 in Vestavia, AL. Frances was mother-in-law to LuAnn, grandmother to Shannon and great-grandmother to Nick and Michael.

Lee and Betty James on the death of their daughter, **Laura Downing**, who died December 27, 2025 in Raleigh, NC.

Teresa, Jackson, and Campbell Crain on the death of **Jean Robinson**, who died December 31, 2025 in Lexington, SC. Jean was Teresa's mother and grandmother to Jackson and Campbell.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Maxine Dexter
January 3, 2026

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

January — **canned vegetables**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 1/4/2026

8:30 | 119 9:02 | 221 11:00 | 264
In-Person Total | 604
9:02 Online Live | 209 11:00 Online Live | 211

Financials

Operation Budget as of 12/31/2025 - YEAR END FINANCIALS

Year to date offering given for what God is asking us to do:	\$ 2,669,295.43
Year to date ministry expenditures:	<u>\$ 2,152,759.21</u>
	\$ 516,536.22

Missions Budget: Year 2025-2026

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$ 330,169.64
Year to date disbursements:	\$ 285,850.00

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

Please use our new GIVING QR code to give on line:



For God and For Gideon
1/11 at 5pm in Gym
 Sign up with the QR Code or at
<https://links.stjaiken.org/2026NerfwarSTJ>



Come join us for a NERF BATTLE in the gym.




Let's learn about God using Gideon to rescuing the Israelites and have a fun battle!

LET'S GLOW!

2026 SNY KICKOFF & 6TH GRADE MERGE

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
5:00-7:00 PM



ST. JOHN'S FAITH CENTER
ALL YOUTH (6TH GRADE-12TH GRADE) INVITED!
FREE! BRING A FRIEND!

New Dementia Support Group



8 week session begins
Tuesday, January 13
4:30pm, Faith Center
Open to All

Contact Rev. Butch if interested:
gblackwell@stjaiken.org or
 803-648-6891, ext. 214

NEW GRIEF SUPPORT 12 WEEK SESSION

Begins Wednesday, January 14
 3:45 pm, Faith Center

All are invited to join.



Please contact Rev. Butch if you plan to attend:
 (803)648-6891 ext. 214
gblackwell@stjaiken.org



BACK WNS
1/14/2026

WNS WILL RESUME JAN. 14, 2026

Returning



MINISTRY

Meals

Jan. 14, 2026

<https://links.stjaiken.org/26STJyouthski>

YOUTH SKI TRIP
 Winterplace,
 Ghent, WV



JAN 30 - FEB 1, 2026

REGISTER 

GRACE KITCHEN
Donations

January Needs:
canned tuna and salmon
(pop top & pouches only)




Please place donations in boxes marked "Grace Kitchen" in the Narthexes of each service.



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

E'en So, Lord Jesus

Paul Manz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Hughes

Chancel Choir

*OPENING HYMN No. 368,

"My Hope Is Built"

THE SOLID ROCK

*SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:1-15 and 6:25-27

Rev. Butch Blackwell

SERMON

"Misunderstood Hope"

Rev. Butch Blackwell

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 ANTHEM

Be Strong in the Lord

Tom Fettke

Chancel Choir

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER & CHORAL RESPONSE

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.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 451, *"Be Thou My Vision"*

SLANE

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Christian Lutkin

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

God of Grace

Paul Manz

**Please stand, as able.*



Order of Worship - 9:02

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

Blessed Assurance

Crosby

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG

Thrive

Casting Crowns

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

OFFERTORY

Living Hope

Ginsterblum

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:1-15 and 6:25-27

Rev. Butch Blackwell

SERMON

"Misunderstood Hope"

Rev. Butch Blackwell

PRAISE SONG

All My Hope

Crowder

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG



Order of Worship - 11:00 AM

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 11am 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 *E'en So, Lord Jesus* Paul Manz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* John Hughes
Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 368,** *"My Hope Is Built"* THE SOLID ROCK

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 ANTHEM *Be Strong in the Lord* Tom Fettke
Chancel Choir

***DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS** **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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

BLESSING OF THE CHOIR

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER & CHORAL RESPONSE

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.

***SCRIPTURE READING** *John 6:1-15 and 6:25-27* Rev. Butch Blackwell

SERMON *"Misunderstood Hope"* Rev. Butch Blackwell

HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 451, "Be Thou My Vision" SLANE

*BENEDICTION

***CHORAL RESPONSE** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Peter Christian Lutkin
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *God of Grace* Paul Manz

**Please stand, as able.*