



December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

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

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

One Service on December 28

We will hold one service on December 28, 2025, at 10am in the Sanctuary. A reception for Dr. Tim and Cindy McClendon will follow in the gymnasium.

Under the Steeple

Join us this afternoon at 3pm as the Aiken Choral Society presents Christmas in the Southwest! You are in for a treat as you will hear the sounds of the season with a special Southwestern flair including marimba and guitar!

Love Gift for Dr. Tim

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.” – 1 Timothy 5:17

This Scripture reminds us that those who faithfully serve in pastoral ministry are not only to be respected, but to be given “double honor.” In context, Paul was teaching that spiritual leaders who devote themselves to shepherding, teaching, and caring for the flock are worthy of both respect and gifts of gratitude. As Dr. Tim prepares to retire from fifty years of ministry, twelve of which have been at St. John’s, we are grateful for how we have been blessed by his devotion to serving God, the church and all of us in many special ways. A love gift is Biblical as well as serving as a way for us to share our gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Tim and his incredible ministry. You may participate in providing a love gift by mailing it directly to **Bradley L. Boni, PO Box 652, Aiken, SC 29802**. All contributions should be received no later than December 19, 2025. You may also drop your gifts off with Nancy Fairgrieve who will make sure they get to Brad Boni. Please remember to designate your gift to the “Dr. Tim Love Gift Fund” in the memo field.

Men’s Night Out

This coming Tuesday at 6 pm all the men of the church are invited to come to the Faith Center to watch the American classic film, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. If you’ve never seen it or it’s been a while, join us as we discuss its spiritual and ethical implications! This will be our last Guys Night Out until after New Year’s.

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, Jonathan Cook, Susan Lawson, Marshall Sanders

Crucifer: Avery Abrams **Acolytes:** Palmer Gregory and Jack Taylor

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

December 11:00 Ushers: Paula Blackmore, Donald Leader, Sally Alexander, Rod Alexander, Jeff Wallace, Jean Geiger, Penny Rue, Gerry Hansen, Bruce Carrera, Rea Maynard, Kevin Maynard, Katherine Sturm, Connie Pisko, Mick Pisko, Susie Graven-Smith, Art Smith, Karen Travis, Larry Travis, John Lindsay, Maxine Falb and Kent Falb

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

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 14, 2025

Children's Ministry

Children's Christmas Caroling today from 3pm – 5pm, meet in the SEED parking lot.

Dec. 21: Children's Christmas Party during Sunday School

The 5pm Christmas Eve Nativity practice: Date and time to be determined soon.

Confirmation Class Fall 2025

Cooper Reece Alexander

Cooper Patrick Cunnning

*Robert Pierson Hall**

Owen Elliott Higgins

Kathleen Grace Kisner

Catherine Nicole Kreitzer

Harper Noelle Raines

Clifford Jardine Ray IV

Anna Bryson Reynolds

*Mary Adele Rittgers**

**Signifies confirmands additionally receiving baptism.*

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Tonight is our Youth Christmas Party from 5pm – 7pm at the church. Wear your ugly Christmas Sweater and bring a friend!

Young Adults Ministry

Sunday School meets in room 237 at 10am.

SAVE THE DATE:

Dec. 18: Christmas Lights at Hopeland Gardens, 6pm

St. John's Missions News

As we all look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth, pray for those who do not know Jesus. The Thailand Now churches do extensive outreach in December to share Jesus with those in their community. Pray for them and all believers to share Jesus with those He sends to us.

For the month of December, we are collecting gloves and hats. 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.

Dementia Support Group

We are looking forward to beginning a new 8-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. We will be beginning a new 12-week session on 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.

Poinsettias will be on display from December 14 – December 24. 9:02's can be picked up following that service on December 21 and the others may be taken following the 11pm Christmas Eve service.

News of the Family

Congratulations to:

Layton & Chloe Woody on the birth of their son, ***Hayden Ray Woody***, who was born November 28, 2025 in Augusta, GA. Hayden joins big brother ***Cash***. Proud grandparents are ***Vikki & Brandon Woody*** and great-grandparents ***Tom & Max Watt***.

Rev. Dr. Tim and Cindy McClendon, who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 20.

Welcome Our New Members:

Kathy Franklin

Emily Hooker

David and April Powell

Pam Steen

Karon Tucker

Dan and Sherry Morrison

Francis and Cyndi Nance

J.D. Raith

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

December – peanut butter and jelly

Collection bins are located in both the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance—12/7/2025

8:30 | 166 9:02 | 190 11:00 | 450

In-person Total | 806

9:02 On-line Live | 172 11:00 On-line Live | 295

Financials

Operation Budget as of 12/10/2025

Year-to-date offering given for what God is asking us to do:

\$2,444,877.66

Year-to-date ministry expenditures:

\$2,032,680.11

\$ 412,207.55

Missions Budget: Year 2025–2026

Year-to-date offering given for what God is

asking us to do in Missions:

\$ 309,393.13

Year-to-date disbursements:

\$ 262,750.00

*We thank you for your generous support of
St. John's Ministries & Missions!*
Please use our new GIVING QR code to give online.



TODAY IS THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Joy

**UGLY SWEATER
CHRISTMAS PARTY**



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 14
5-7:00 PM AT FAITH CENTER**

**BRING A \$5 TO \$10 GIFT
FOR WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE**

*** PRIZES FOR THE UGLIEST SWEATERS ***



Aiken Choral Society

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

3:00 PM

FREE CONCERT

**ST. JOHN'S METHODIST
CHURCH**



ST. JOHN'S

**2025
Christmas Eve
Services**

5pm Candlelight Family Service
7pm Candlelight Service
11pm Candlelight & Communion

All services will be held in the Sanctuary



FINANCE COMMITTEE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

As we approach the end of the calendar year, the Finance Committee wants to review two "gifting" options for our church members.

1.) Gifting highly appreciated securities (i.e., stocks, bonds, etc.) - please contact Nancy Fairgrieve and/or speak to Mary Ann Barrett, Janney, Montgomery Scott LLC, Aiken office (803-649-6304) per the church's local brokerage account. We ask that transfer instructions be in process on or before 12/20/2025.

2.) Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) - for charitable gifts from IRAs. Please have check made payable to and as beneficiary "St. John's Methodist Church," PO Box 809, Aiken, SC 29802. Nancy Fairgrieve can provide further assistance if needed.

Both of these options can provide advantageous tax benefits to individuals and couples. Please consult your own personal tax advisor if appropriate.



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

X. Noel: Grand Jeu et Duo
Dr. Matt Caine, organ

Louis Daquin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift Up Your Head

Psalmody Evangelica

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

RECOGNITION OF 50 YEAR MEMBERS

***OPENING HYMN No. 211, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Randy and Sandra Shelley

*SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9: 33-37

Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon

SERMON

"Juggling"

Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon

*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 beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Blessed Are the Ones Who Wait for You

David Foley

Chancel Choir

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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, THE LORDS PRAYER, AND 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 glory forever. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 221, "In the Bleak Midwinter"**

CRANHAM

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Lift Up Your Heads

Psalmody Evangelica

POSTLUDE

XII. Noel: Suisse, Grand Jeu, et Duo

Louis Daquin

**Please stand, as able.*

Order of Worship – 9:02 A.M.



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 **Away in a Manger / Angels We Have Heard on High**
Thomas Rittgers, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP **Lift Up Your Heads** Psalmodia Evangelica

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM pg. 39

The congregation will be led in the singing of God Claims You, TFWS #2249, using the name Carson.

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

RECOGNITION OF 50 YEAR MEMBERS

***OPENING HYMN No. 211, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE **Kevin & Brittany Kisner and Family**

***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.

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OFFERTORY ANTHEM Blessed Are the Ones Who Wait for You David Foley
Chancel Choir

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***SCRIPTURE READING** **Mark 9: 33-37** **Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon**

SERMON **"Juggling"** **Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon**

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***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** **Lift Up Your Heads** Psalmodia Evangelica
Chancel Choir

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE **XII. Noel: Suisse, Grand Jeu, et Duo** Louis Daquin

**Please stand, as able.*