



ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

September 14, 2025

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

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

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

Epworth Work Day

We continue to remain committed to supporting Epworth Children's Home. They rely heavily on the offerings received on Work Day and Mother's Day to provide care to the 400+ individuals who are in Epworth's care weekly. Today we are collecting the yellow envelopes for Epworth Work Day Offering. We ask that you contribute what you can to this very worthy cause.

Church Council Nominations

Nominations for the various church committees are now open. If you are interested in serving on one of the various committees within Church Council, please email Dr. Tim at tmmclendon@stjaiken.org. Do let your committee chair know of your desire to rotate off or remain on. Committee Chairs, please let us know of your committee rosters before October 6, 2025, as the Leadership Development Committee will meet at 12pm on October 12 for consideration. Elections will take place at Charge Conference on October 28.

Senior Pastor Search

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is requesting input on the key pastoral skills the congregation would like to see in a Senior Pastor, by completing a survey on-line on our website: www.stjaiken.org, or you may return a hard copy to the Church Office. All surveys, online or hard copy are due by September 30, 2025. The SPRC will also hold two Drop-In Input Sessions. These Pastor Input Sessions will be your opportunity to give additional input based on the survey you fill out. These sessions will be held on September 21, 2025 in Ward Hall from 8:30am - 10:30am, and October 5, 2025 from 2pm - 4pm in Ward Hall.

Copies of the survey are included in today's bulletin, on the Church's web site, or available from the Church office. The complete surveys may be emailed to the Church Office: jwindham@stjaiken.org, delivered to the Church Office, completed online, or provided to an SPRC member at one of the Input Sessions. The congregational input will be consolidated and prioritized by the SPRC, for use in evaluating candidates. The following additional information about the search process has been placed on the St. John's web site and is also available in the Church Office:

- St. John's Pastoral Search Survey
- Hiring a Lead Pastor or Associate - Section VIII.335.5.e of The Book of Discipline of St. John's Methodist Church
- Duties of a Pastor- Section VIII.406 of The Book of Discipline of St. John's Methodist Church

Discovering God's Good News Bible Study

A Bible Study entitled *Discovering God's Good News* on the first eight chapters of Romans will begin on Tuesday, October 7, at 5pm in Room 119. This 5-week Stonecroft Bible Study explores questions such as "Is God ever unfaithful?" and "How can we live life to the fullest?" Each lesson will last 60-90 minutes. Beginners will appreciate that a companion Bible is available for this study with page numbers that correspond to the Scripture reference in the study book, and long-time Bible students will enjoy gleaning truths that help them grow in their faith. For more information or to order a study book, please contact Susan Frushour at 803-507-0373.

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: Katie Kirk **Acolytes:** Jack Taylor and Loren Wilkins

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

September 11:00 Ushers: Dave Felak, Donald Leader, Art Smith, Susie Graven-Smith, Commie Peebles, Bill Hillan, Cary Milliner, Hollie Milliner, Kevin Maynard, Rea Maynard, Joe Lewis, Leah Lewis, John Bradley, Katherine Sturm, Penny Rue, Eric Randall

September Worship Support: Judy Turner, Anita Allen, Camille Bailey, Pam Beckum, Claire Seawell

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.

September 14, 2025

Children's Ministries

St. John's Talent Show will take place TONIGHT at 5pm in the gym. All children are invited to come join our talent show to showcase your God given talent. Family and friends, come cheer on our talented kids! We will be having a potluck, so please bring your favorite foods to share.



Congratulations to Evelyn & Rowan
for memorizing Psalm 119:105!!



Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

No SNY, choir or band tonight due to the lock-in. See you next week.

Young Adults Ministry

No Young Adults Sunday School today due to the Fall Retreat. We will resume next Sunday. Prayers for safe travels home of our Young Adults from their Fall Retreat at Asbury Hills.

Young Adults will meet for fellowship and bowling on Sept. 18, 6pm-8pm at Park Ave. Lanes, 1100 Park Ave., Aiken, SC.

St. John's Missions News

Runners! Walkers! and Helpers! of all ages needed to support The Bridge 2 Home's annual Run for Freedom 5K on Saturday, October 18. Call Marsha Mikes at 803-645-0078 to volunteer or learn more. To sign up as a runner or walker (5K or 1 mile fun run for ages 9 and under) please visit the website: <http://www.thebridg e2home.com> and select events from the menu. Be sure to select the St. John's team! Let's have the largest team there!

For the month of September, we are collecting **canned or dried fruit with easy to open tops**. 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.

Under the Steeple

Our 2025-2026 season of music "Under the Steeple" will begin with *A Night at the Opera* presented by Brandywine Brass on Friday, October 10, 2025. Under the Steeple concerts are offered free to our community because of the generosity of members and friends of St. John's. If you are interested in joining the Under the Steeple mailing list or in opportunities to financially support a future musical offering, please contact Dr. Matt Caine, mcaine@stjaiken.org, for more information.

Sisters Bible Study

Sisters Bible Study will start a new study, "The Epic of Eden" by Sandra Richter, on Thursday, September 18 at 9:30am in Room 119. Does studying the Old Testament feel overwhelming and confusing? Do the stories and events seem disconnected and hard to follow? Have you resolved to really understand the Old Testament but find it difficult to piece together? You're not alone - many Christians struggle to make sense of this portion of the Bible. In "The Epic of Eden," Sandra Richter brings clarity and structure to the Old Testament, giving readers the tools they need to understand it. Richter skillfully organizes people, events, and themes of the Old Testament into a cohesive and memorable history of God's redeeming grace. Her approach helps you see the Old Testament in a new light, connecting the dots and revealing the unity of God's redemptive plan. Please contact Carole Parsons (803) 645-6974, if you have questions or interested in joining.

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by *The Archie Hargett Family* in memory
of *Kathryn Thomas Hargett*
and by *The Bryan Family* in memory
of *Mason Bentlee Bryan*.**

Wednesday Night Supper

WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

Sept. 17: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, & pound cake

Sept. 24: Barbeque chicken, coleslaw, diced potatoes with cheese, & cherry pie

Oct. 1: Pot roast, roasted broccoli, mashed potatoes, & apple pie

Reservations are required by phone/email: jwindham@stjaiken.org by **12pm, Tuesday, September 15, 2025.**

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.

Dr. Tim's Bible Studies

Dr. Tim's Bible Studies, both morning and evening, will not take place September 17 or 24. Both will resume on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

Men's Night Out

Join us in the Faith Center at 6pm on September 16 for Men's Night Out Bible Study. This week's film will be, "To Hell and Back." This film is the true story of Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in US Army history. We see his difficulties in signing up, as his small size counted against him. After eventually being accepted by the Army, we then experience his training and his journey through World War 2, from North Africa to Sicily, to Italy and finally to Southern France. Audie Murphy plays himself in the movie.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

September — **cereal/oatmeal or grits**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 9/7/2025

8:30 | 113 9:02 | 191 11:00 | 254

In-Person Total | 558

9:02 Online Live | 119 11:00 Online Live | 137

Financials

Operation Budget as of 9/10/2025

Year to date offering given for what God is asking us to do:	\$ 1,735,286.95
Year to date ministry expenditures:	<u>\$ 1,478,412.83</u>
	\$ 256,874.12

Missions Budget: Year 2025-2026

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$ 261,852.32
Year to date disbursements:	\$ 192,600.00

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

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



TONIGHT Children's Ministry Presents:

ST. JOHN'S GOT TALENT

Participate in our talent show to showcase your God given talent. We welcome acts of all kinds!

Sunday Sept. 14, 2025 | **In the Gym** 5:00 PM

Bring a Pot Luck Dish to Share

REGISTER NOW →

803-648-6891

Outside the children's director office.

Please use the following QR code to complete the

ST. JOHN'S MC SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH SURVEY



SURVEY CLOSES SEPT. 30, 2025

Undy Sunday

SEPT. 21

Final Week

Still time to bring in items!

Wood Carving

with Tommy Harman

Classes will be held Tuesdays in October from 5pm-9pm

Join us for this **FREE** class to carve and paint your own Santa ornament. Classes are limited to 6 people each night. Open to adults and teens 14 -18 (must be accompanied by an adult). All tools and supplies will be provided. Call the church office 803-648-6891 to sign up today!

Soup's On!

Friendship SS Class Soup Luncheon

October 12, 10am - 2pm
in Ward Hall,
TO GO containers available

Money raised benefits the Honduras Agape Foundation & Local Missions.

First Friday

OCT. 31, 5-7pm,

\$10 entry (limited areas open)

COME TOGETHER

St. John's

Applefest

SHOW GOD'S LOVE

FREE SATURDAY

NOV. 1, 8AM - 2PM

5K RUN FOR FREEDOM 2025

OCT 18 9am

H. Odell Weeks Activity Center
1700 Whiskey Rd., Aiken, SC

register here

- Wheelchairs, strollers and friendly pets welcome! Please start at the back of the line. NO bikes
- Prizes for each age category. Music, games, and vendors! Drinks and other items available for purchase.
- 1 mile Fun Run FREE for kids 9 and under. Starts at 10 AM

Register by 10/5 to receive t-shirt as participation prize.
\$38 THROUGH 10/5. \$43 THROUGH RACE DAY.

CHECK-IN AND LATE REGISTRATION: 7:30 - 8:30 AM ON RACE DAY

THE BRIDGE 2 HOME IS A 501(C)(3) NON PROFIT IN AIKEN, SC THAT HELPS CHILDREN WHO ARE VISTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING



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

O When Shall I See Jesus?

Hurd

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We Are the Church

R. Avery and D. Marsh

Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 545, "The Church's One Foundation"**

AURELIA

SCRIPTURE READING Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Ephesians 4:1-7 **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

SERMON

"If You Want to Go Far"

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

Christ Is made the Sure Foundation

Dale Wood

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. 557, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

DENNIS

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Christian Lutkin

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

**Please stand, as able.*



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

Cry Out to Jesus

Third Day

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG

Come Thou Fount

Robinson

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

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Thrupp/Nash

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Ephesians 4:1-7

Rev. Butch Blackwell

SERMON

"If You Want to Go Far"

Rev. Butch Blackwell

PRAISE SONG

The Love of Jesus

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 *O When Shall I See Jesus?* Hurd

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *We Are the Church* R. Avery and D. Marsh
Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 545, "The Church's One Foundation"** AURELIA

***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 *Christ Is made the Sure Foundation* Dale Wood
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.*

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 *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Ephesians 4:1-7* Rev. Butch Blackwell

SERMON *"If You Want to Go Far"* Rev. Butch Blackwell

***HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 557, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"** DENNIS

*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

**Please stand, as able.*