



# ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

*January 18, 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](http://www.stjaiken.org)

## MLK Holiday Closure

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026 in observance of the Martin Luther King Holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 20 and observing normal business hours.

## 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 and existing Lay Leadership on Sunday, January 25 during the 11am service.

## New Sister Bible Study

"A Faith of Her Own," by J. Ellsworth Kalas, begins on Thursday, January 22 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119. The study takes a look at several different women focusing on who were crucial - some in obvious and some in less obvious ways - to the story of the Old Testament.

## Welcome Reverend Dr. Jeff Kersey

The Staff Parrish Relations Committee is pleased to introduce Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey to the St. John's family. Rev. Kersey has agreed to serve as a guest preacher at St. John's for specified Sundays through March.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey recently retired as the Senior Pastor of Mt. Horeb Church in Lexington, SC, the largest Methodist congregation in SC, with over 5,000 members and average worship attendance of over 3,000 each week. He is one of the most dynamic preachers in the country. He and his wife, Lynn, have been married for over 47 years and have two children, Ashley and Aaron, and 6 wonderful grandchildren.

We are excited to introduce Rev. Dr. Kersey and welcome him and Lynn to St. John's and Aiken.

## 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](mailto:smcdonald@stjaiken.org) or call: 803-648-6891.

## Applefest Nominations are Needed for 2026

St. John's Methodist Women are excited to once again ask for the women of our congregation to help nominate and select the 2026 Applefest recipients. All nominations are due by February 15, 2026. Nomination forms can be found with the designated Applefest Nomination boxes on the church's front entry desk and in the narthex of either the Sanctuary or the Faith Center. Please take a few minutes to provide your input on deserving organizations and place your nomination forms in the designated boxes. As always, your input and help is appreciated.

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**Worship Services:** Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey, 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:** Adelyn Parker **Acolytes:** Madison Bates and Kendall Doolittle

**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 18, 2026

## Children's Ministries

Looking Forward:

Feb. 4: MIC Wednesday Night Kickoff Children's event

Feb. 7: MIC Pancake Breakfast and Service Project

## Foundation Student Ministries

*(7th-12th Grades)*

No Sunday Night Youth this evening. We will resume SNY on January 25.

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.

Looking Forward:

Feb. 1: NO SNY due to returning from Ski Trip.

Feb. 4: MIC Wednesday Night Kickoff - Come meet missionaries in our community.

Feb. 7: MIC Pancake Breakfast and Service Project

Feb. 8: Super Bowl Party

## Young Adults Ministry

Young Adults Sunday School Class takes place at 10am in Room 237. Please join us! Mark your calendars for Feb. 7: MIC Pancake Breakfast and Service Project.

## St. John's Missions News

Please be there to welcome 18 of our local and regional mission partners on Wednesday, February 4 in our gym from 5 to 6:30pm, as we kick off our 18th Mission Impact Celebration! Reservations needed. You will receive a letter in the mail this week with the details and how to make a reservation. Let's fill the gym! AND today after church you can sign up for one of four February 7, Saturday of Service options: ACTS, Stand at the Crossroads, Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ramp Ministry or be a Prayer Bus Warrior.

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

## SEED Open House

Our SEED program is getting ready to hold registration for the 2026-2027 school year. They will be hosting Open House January 26-29, 2026 from 12:30pm - 2pm. February 2, church members who are not currently enrolled in SEED may register. Public registration will begin February 3. Please reach out to Michelle Pearson, SEED Director for more information: [mpearson@stjaiken.org](mailto:mpearson@stjaiken.org).

## Under the Steeple

Please join us on Friday, January 30, at 7pm in the Sanctuary, as Brandywine Brass and guest vocalist Bill Howard present Music of the 50's and 60's. This concert is free and open to all, so arrive early and bring a friend!

## Opportunities to Learn About Music

You are invited to join Dr. Matt Caine for two different courses he will be teaching at USC Aiken's Center for Lifelong Learning in March. On Tuesdays, March 3 and 10, from 11am-12pm, Matt will teach the course Discovering the Mystery of the Bulgarian Voices, where he will explore the beautiful world of his primary area of research, Bulgarian choral music, with those in attendance. Then, for three Tuesdays (March 17, 24, and 31), from 11am-12pm, Matt will teach Sir Karl Jenkins' "Stabat Mater:" Experience the Masterpiece, a class that delves into the riveting musical work that our Chancel Choir is performing at Carnegie Hall this Monday and will be singing as part of our Maundy Thursday service on April 2, 2026, at 7pm. Please visit [aikenlearning.org](http://aikenlearning.org) or contact Matt at [Mcaine@stjaiken.org](mailto:Mcaine@stjaiken.org) for more information.

## The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God.

We still have many dates available for Altar Flowers.  
If you are interested in signing up for a specific date, please contact  
Jennifer Windham in the main office: 803-648-6891.

### Wednesday Night Supper

#### WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

**Jan. 21:** Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and cheesecake

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

**Feb. 4:** "MIC Dinner" - NO CHARGE: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, &  
cheese cake

Reservations are required by phone/email: [jwindham@stjaiken.org](mailto:jwindham@stjaiken.org) by  
**12pm, Tuesday, January 20, 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](http://www.stjaiken.org) and select "GIVE NOW" and then select "WNS" from the drop down menu. **Payment online does not make your reservation.** You must still call the office to do so. You may also pay in person by cash or check. Please make checks payable to St. John's.

### ACTS Monthly Collection Item

January — **canned vegetables**

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

#### Attendance — 1/11/2026

8:30 | 118                      9:02 | 241                      11:00 | 248

In-Person Total | 607

9:02 Online Live | 188    11:00 Online Live | 145

### Year End Giving Statements

2025 Year End Giving Statements have been mailed. Please review them and let Nancy Fairgrieve know by January 23, if you have any adjustments that need to be made. Nancy can be reached at: 803-648-6891, ext. 217.

### Financials

#### Operation Budget as of 1/14/2026

Year to date offering given for what God is asking us to do:	\$ 129,893.33
Year to date ministry expenditures:	<u>\$ 63,124.81</u>
	\$ 66,768.52

#### Missions Budget: Year 2025 - 2026

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$ 332,649.82
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:





**Stop by TODAY**

We're Open  
Outside Ward Hall  
9:15am -12:30pm

Coffees, Teas,  
Chocolates!!



<https://links.stjaiken.org/26ST3youthski>

**YOUTH SKI TRIP**  
Winterplace,  
Chent, WV

**JAN 30 -  
FEB 1, 2026**



**REGISTER**



**MISSIONS IMPACT  
CELEBRATION**

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS**

**FEBRUARY  
4-8,  
2026**

**Showers of Blessings**

"I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing.  
I will send down showers in season;  
there will be showers of blessing." Ezekiel 34:26

**Mission Impact  
Celebration 2026**  
**February 4 - 8**  
Focus: *Local Missions*



**Mission Impact Celebration Dinner**  
**Wednesday February 4**  
5:00-6:30pm in the Gym  
6:00pm guest speaker Logan Ford from ACTS  
Everyone is invited  
\*Please register, no charge



**Mission Impact Celebration**  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
**Saturday, February 7**  
8:00-9:30am  
In the Gym  
\*No charge, Please register




**Saturday of  
Service**  
**February 7**  
After the pancake breakfast  
\*Please sign up in the Narthex or  
with the QR code




**Muffins with Missions**



**Mission Impact Celebration!**  
Come enjoy muffins with our local mission partners  
and learn about their ministries.  
February 8, 2026 at 9:45am in the Gym



## 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** Fanfare on Shine Jesus Shine

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Now Thank We All our God* Johann Crüger  
John Poe, baritone

**\*OPENING HYMN No. 454, "Open My Eyes, That I May See"** OPEN MY EYES

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** Rev. Butch Blackwell

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 1:16-19 GNT Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey

**SERMON** "Revelation: How God Reveals Himself to the World" Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey

**\*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"** GREATOR EX  
*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** *Is He Worthy?* Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive  
John Poe, baritone

**\*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**

*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. 354, "I Surrender All"** SURRENDER

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** *Now Thank We All Our God* Johann Crüger  
John Poe, baritone

**POSTLUDE** Festal Postlude Oliver King

*\*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](http://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

Oceans

Hillsong

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRAISE SONG

Marvelous Light

Hall/Passion

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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#### OFFERTORY

By Your Grace

Johnson

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Will Altman

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Ephesians 1:16-19 GNT

Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey

SERMON "Revelation: How God Reveals Himself to the World" Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey

#### PRAISE SONG

Jesus Paid It All

Stanfill

### BENEDICTION

### SENDING FORTH SONG



## Order of Worship - 11:00 AM

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*Children K4-2nd grade may now follow the Crucifer to Children's Church.*

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