

## MIC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Wednesday, February 4

- Missions Celebration Dinner 5:00-6:30 pm\* <sup>c</sup>

### Thursday, February 5

Small group gatherings: evening

### Friday, February 6

Small group gatherings: evening

### Saturday, February 7

- Pancake Breakfast with Grace Kitchen 8:00-9:30 am\*
- Saturday of Service projects
  - ⇒ Stand at the Crossroads project workers
  - ⇒ Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ramp Ministry helpers
  - ⇒ ACTS project workers
  - ⇒ Prayer Bus warriors

### Sunday, February 8

- MIC Worship Services 8:00 am, 9:02 am & 11:00 am
- “Muffins with Missionaries” 9:45 am: visiting missionary booths located in the gym

\*Reservation required

<sup>c</sup> Childcare provided with reservation

For more information, scan the QR code:



# MISSION IMPACT CELEBRATION

40 Days of Praise & Prayer  
January 1-February 8, 2026



“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*

February 4-8, 2026  
St. John's Methodist Church



# January 1

## Introduction

*“Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.” Hosea 6:3*

St. John’s 2026 Mission Impact Celebration (MIC) is February 4-8. This year's focus is local and statewide missions under the theme "Showers of Blessings" from the scripture *"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

In preparation with this year’s mission activities, you are invited and encouraged to experience a shower of blessings through prayer, praise and participation beginning with this booklet. It is designed to help you learn about St. John’s local and state mission partners and discover how you might engage at a deeper level. Each mission partner shares their purpose, challenges, joys and needs within a prayer page. As you read them, you will find each partner is committed to their mission, has a love for the Lord, and a love for the people whom they serve.

John 15:5 reminds us that our connection begins with Jesus, *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* Use this guide daily to connect with Jesus, praising Him while asking for discernment of how you might engage during MIC. Pray specifically for mission partners needs and thank God for the ways He will shower His blessings on these ministries.

The true practice of prayer begins with the One who loves us persistently and unconditionally. Praise and prayer help us to wisely understand we don’t have all the answers, but we know the One who does!

Those who love God share His blessings with others. Pray to let His words direct you and strengthen you as we praise and give all glory to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

## Mission Partners: Jerusalem

### Area Churches Together Serving



### Overflow Foundation



### Christ Central Aiken



### C4 Impact—Team Hope



### Grace Kitchen



### Habitat for Humanity Aiken



### Helping Hands, Inc.



## Afterward

### February 9th and Beyond!

#### Serving on Your Knees

*“...as you help us with your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”*  
2 Corinthians 1:11

Last night I took a journey to lands across the seas;  
I did not go by boat or plane, I traveled on my knees.  
I saw so many people there with scars and wounds within.  
But God told me that I should go—there was oil to pour from Him.  
I replied, “Lord, I cannot go and work with such as these.”  
He answered quickly, “Yes you can, by traveling on your knees.”  
He said, “You pray. I’ll meet their need, you call and I will hear.  
Be concerned about the fate of those both far and near.”  
And so I tried it, knelt in prayer, gave up some hours of ease.  
I felt the Lord right by my side while traveling on my knees.  
As I prayed on and saw them helped, and the badly wounded healed.  
I saw God’s workers’ strength renewed while laboring on the field.  
I said, “Yes, Lord, I have a job—my desire Thy will to please.  
I can go and heed Thy call by traveling on my knees.”

*Thank you for your prayers these past several weeks. Please continue in prayer for the community of St. John’s, the Mission Leadership Team, and especially for our mission partners – not only in Jerusalem and Judea but also to the ends of the earth.*

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## February 8

### Therefore go

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore go** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...." Matthew 28:18-19*

This passage, commonly referred to as the Great Commission, was spoken by Jesus to His disciples shortly before His ascension into heaven. As His final directive to the church, Jesus communicated the importance and urgency of the mission entrusted to all believers.

The instruction to spread the gospel is not isolated to a single moment or just during the Mission Impact Celebration.

Rather, it is found throughout all four gospels and the book of Acts as a repeated command to **go – serve – share – and witness** as believers.

God invites people at every stage of life to participate in sharing the good news of Jesus. Whether young or old, with a variety of experiences and skills, each person plays a vital role in carrying the message, not only to the ends of the earth but also within their own backyard.

There are many ways to participate or remain involved in missions. Volunteer with one of the mission partner's organizations, go on a church mission trip, become part of a prayer team for a specific mission partner, write encouraging notes, serve on a team with Grace Kitchen, or even become a member of the Mission Leadership Team or MIC in 2027.

Jesus reminds us, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

We hope you will respond *"Here I am. Send me!"*

*"And this gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14*

## Mission Partners: Jerusalem

### Jack Meeks Ramp Ministry



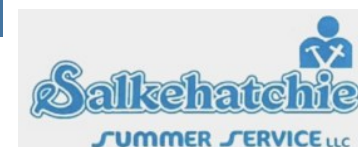
### Joseph's Coat



### Life Choices



### Salkehatchie: Sand River



### Salvation Army of Aiken



### Stand at the Crossroads



### The Bridge 2 Home



## Mission Partners: Judea

### Epiphany Ministry of SC



### Epworth Children's Home



### Kairos Prison Ministry of SC



### Low Country Church Plant



### Salkehatchie: Edisto



### Salkehatchie: Marlboro Flowers



### Salkehatchie: Santee



## February 7

### Faith Promise

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7*

When participating in Faith Promise, you make a commitment to rely on God's provision by declaring, "In dependence on God, I will endeavor to give \$\_\_\_\_." This act is not an ordinary offering; rather, it represents an extra gift that may only be possible by trusting God to supply what is needed. Through this step of faith, you invite the Lord to work in your life, allowing Him to provide beyond your own capabilities. Faith Promise contributions fully support local and global mission work. Your commitment helps spread the gospel and address needs worldwide.

Faith Promise is scriptural in focus. It is the church's God-given task to make disciples of all nations. Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, a Faith Promise is an amount:

- ♦ more than one can afford that follows personal commitment (8:2- 5)
- ♦ is an optional test of love (8:8)
- ♦ promised in advance of the giving (9:5)
- ♦ personally purposed (9:7)
- ♦ you give cheerfully (9:7)
- ♦ provided by God (9:8)

We will gather Faith Promise Commitments at our MIC closing Worship Services tomorrow, February 8th. After prayerful consideration as an individual, couple, or family, mark your card with the amount God has placed on your heart to give. You are not asked for your name because what you promise is between you and the Lord.

Remember, Faith Promise is a special offering which you will trust God to provide out of His grace. Don't pray, "*Lord how much should I give, instead pray boldly, Lord how much should I keep?*"

Blessings feed a grateful heart. Anticipate God's provision; and then commit to give it.

Pray

- ◇ For St. John's to trust and "look for God's showers" and increase overall giving as in past years.
- ◇ For God's wisdom and discernment in where Faith Promise dollars are spent.
- ◇ For joyful giving that brings honor and glory to God!

## February 6

### Missional Needs for Lowcountry Church Plant

God has opened a mission field in the growing communities of the Charleston metro region, including Summerville, Nexton, Carnes Crossroads, Ridgeville, and Hanahan—places teeming with new families but lacking spiritual footprints within their living communities. Thousands have come for jobs and prosperity, yet only 3-8 percent attend a church and live in intentional accountability to grow in Christian love and service. Our calling is to meet this need through Spirit-led discipleship in small home gatherings that develop into a multiplying movement of Christ-centered community.

As we launch and expand, we seek partners in prayer, encouragement, and tangible support. Below are our most pressing needs as we begin this work:

- **Prayer Support:** Above all, we need faithful intercessors who will cover this mission in prayer—asking God to open hearts, raise leaders, and move powerfully in this region. We hope to form a prayer network that lifts up our small groups weekly.
- **Financial Partnership:** Start-up funds are needed as we plan a missional training hub, have need of home group materials, future outreach events, discipleship resources, and the basic costs of formation (communication, hospitality, and printed materials). As new groups are launched, support will also help provide a part-time ministry budget for pastoral and leadership development.
- **Resources and Equipment:** We need Bibles and devotional materials for new believers, small group teaching materials, and basic technology (such as a projector, portable sound equipment, banners, and signs) to support future gatherings and outreach events.
- **Mentorship and Ministry Partnership:** We welcome connections with missional pastors, musicians, and lay leaders who can encourage and partner with us as we grow—sharing wisdom, training, or even short-term mission teams to invest in our small group leaders as they come alongside us.

Together, we can reach a region that is materially full but spiritually hungry, helping people encounter Jesus Christ and become disciples who make disciples.

**Pray:** Commit to interceding for the people and mission of Lowcountry Church Plant.

**Provide:** Partner financially or with materials to equip home groups and outreach.

**Participate:** Partner through mentorship, training, and relational support as we grow God's Kingdom together.

## January 2

### Sharing Showers of Blessings

Daniel Whittle, a soldier wounded in the civil war wrote a hymn titled – “There will be Showers of Blessings.” His inspiration came from the prophet Ezekial, *“I will bless my people and their homes around my holy hill. And in the proper season I will send the showers they need. There will be showers of blessing.”* Ezekial 34:26 NLT

In this passage, God promised a time when He would re-gather His people, the nation Israel, and pour out His blessings upon them. Like many of us, Whittle wished for God's blessings, but knew that people must turn to God and seek Him wholeheartedly to receive them.

Ezekial reminds us that it is God who brings down the showers of blessing. Not a mist. Not small drops. But cascades. God uses other people to bless us, and He also uses us to pour out showers of blessings on others.

St. John's is in a season of blessings with its Jerusalem and Judea mission partners. Like a parched heart in a dry season looking for drops of love for needed relief, St John's members are called to praise, pray, give and serve.

Is your soul in a season of sharing and serving? Thank God on all occasions for His blessings. Recall them. Count them. Share them. Blessings are not meant to be locked away but given away. To the degree you have been blessed, so bless others. Be a blessing with your presence, with your energy to serve, with encouraging words. Be a blessing with your financial gifts.

We are called to actively participate in missions by serving and witnessing together in our own backyard within Aiken and throughout South Carolina. This means coming alongside others and sharing God's love through tangible acts of service, fervent prayer, and needed support. We strengthen relationships and show our faith through action, thereby making meaningful impact close to home.

What showers of blessings have you been given that you need to share with others?

### Pray

Heavenly Father, how can I count the many ways you have blessed me? Thank you, thank you, thank you. Guide me to give of myself more to you through Christ's abiding love, Amen.



## January 3

### "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing"

Hymn written by Daniel W. Whittle, 1883

1 There shall be showers of blessing: This is the promise of love;  
There shall be seasons refreshing, Sent from the Savior above.

Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need;  
Mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

2 There shall be showers of blessing— Precious reviving again;  
Over the hills and the valleys, Sound of abundance of rain.

Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need;  
Mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

3 There shall be showers of blessing; Send them upon us, O Lord!  
Grant to us now a refreshing; Come and now honor Thy Word.

Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need;  
Mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

4 There shall be showers of blessing; O that today they might fall,  
Now as to God we're confessing, now as on Jesus we call!

Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need;  
Mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

5 There shall be showers of blessing, if we but trust and obey;  
There shall be seasons refreshing, if we let God have His way.

Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need;  
Mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

## February 5

### Pray for Lowcountry Church Plant

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#### Missional Prayer

Gracious and Loving God,

You are the Lord of the harvest, who calls laborers into Your vineyard. We thank You for the stirring of Your Spirit that sends us forth to proclaim good news to a growing people in a land being newly made. As homes rise and families settle, plant also, O Lord, the seed of Your Word deep in their hearts.

We offer ourselves anew to Your service, as John Wesley prayed: "*Let me be employed for You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low for You.*" May Your kingdom come, and may Your will be done in the Lowcountry as it is in heaven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Shepherd, we pray. Amen.

*\*Also pray for Reverend Daniel Griswold of the Lowcountry Church Plant as he provides the message for MIC at St. John's on Sunday, February 8th.*



## February 4

### Lowcountry Church Plant

#### Rev. Daniel Griswold

*“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.’” Luke 14:23*

#### What is the Lowcountry Church Plant’s Mission?

About ten years ago, I was appointed pastor to three rural churches in Ridgeville, outside Charleston. A leader from Mount Tabor Methodist Church drove me through miles of pine forest and said, “All of this land is going to be people.” He was right. Within a few years, new communities—Nexton, Carnes Crossroads, and Cane Bay—rose from the ground, now home to over 40,000 residents. With major investments like the \$1 billion Volvo plant, rail hubs, and the world’s largest Walmart Distribution Center, the region has transformed into a thriving hub of growth.

As I served these churches, I felt the Holy Spirit’s call: this expanding region is a mission field in need of the Gospel. Yet amid all the planning—stores, offices, and entertainment—no space was made for churches. We are building communities without spiritual foundations, by design. Through prayer and discernment with my wife, Amanda, we embraced God’s vision to begin a new work of the Spirit here.

Drawing from years of ministry experience and early Methodist renewal, we believe the best way to begin is as the early church did—in small, Spirit-filled groups meeting in homes. These gatherings will focus on worship, accountability, and mission, forming disciples who live out the Gospel in their daily lives. Rather than starting with a traditional Sunday service, we will cultivate a “community of communities,” allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in determining when to gather all together for corporate worship in the future, perhaps in quarterly meetings like Francis Asbury did in the American frontier.

With the primitive church in the book of Acts as our model, we pray to multiply the DNA of our first small group and launch new groups throughout 2026–2027—twelve in total is the current goal for the next two years—each focused on deep, missional worship loving God and serving our neighbors. Our mission is to gather those far from God and help them find life in Jesus Christ. This is fertile ground for the Holy Spirit to move and grow a new revival of God’s holy love.

## January 4

### St. John’s Methodist Church Vision and Mission

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

The vision of St. John’s Methodist Church is: *“We love, serve, learn and worship with passion.”* With its mission statement to *“Make disciples for Jesus to transform the world”*, the church is dedicated to spiritual growth and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

St. John’s Missions Ministry highlights the element to “serve” in its vision statement. We are dedicated to fulfilling God’s command to spread the gospel, directing its efforts to serve both the local community and the wider world. By prioritizing service, the church seeks to make a meaningful impact through community outreach and support with its mission partners.

Mission partners are cherished members of the St. John’s family. We are committed to maintaining long-term, ongoing, and close relationships with these devoted individuals and organizations who are actively engaged in fulfilling God’s work.

St. John’s demonstrates its support for mission partners in several ways – fervent prayers, notes of encouragement, engaging in acts of service alongside them, providing resources and donations to further their work, and contributing financially through Faith Promise offerings. By fostering these deep connections, the church seeks to encourage and sustain those who are making a positive impact through community ministry efforts.

This year, Mission Impact Celebration 2026 will focus on supporting mission partners within the areas of Jerusalem, Samaria, and Judea - specifically the work of mission partners located in Aiken and South Carolina.

Pray for everyone at St. John’s Methodist Church to receive the Holy Spirit, be empowered as witnesses for Jesus, and serve generously. Also pray that members find opportunities to live out their faith, support missions, and share the Good News in and throughout our community.

## January 5

### The Importance of Prayer in Missions

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”* Colossians 4:2

John Wesley recognized the role of prayer by stating, “God does nothing on earth save in answer to believing prayer.” This highlights how necessary prayer truly is. Prayer is not only needed—it is powerful!

God accomplishes His work in the world through the prayers of His people. Our prayers become how God shapes circumstances and brings transformation. As we devote ourselves to prayer, we participate in God’s mission and witness His activity in the world.

This booklet has been created as a guide to help you pray specifically for St. John’s mission partners. As we approach the Mission Impact Celebration, you are encouraged to set aside time each day to learn about each partner and to lift them up in prayer.

Commit yourself to praying for the unique needs and challenges they face each day. Reflect on their circumstances and ask God to provide guidance, strength, and encouragement as they serve in various capacities. Prayerfully consider their joys as well as their struggles, offering thanksgiving for the evidence of God’s work through their service.

As you pray, seek God’s direction on how you might become more involved and make meaningful connections with others. Ask how you might support and encourage mission partners and those impacted by their work in deeper ways.

Consider participating in service activities on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – working with Stand at the Crossroads, using your hands with the Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ramp ministry, joining with others on the Prayer Bus, or serving at ACTS with your family are just a few opportunities. We also ask everyone to write a thank you note or a note of encouragement for mission partners—to be delivered on Sunday February 8th while visiting their booths!

Ask God to reveal opportunities for you to participate in His work and to strengthen your commitment to serving others selflessly in the days ahead.

*“You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

## February 3

### Salkehatchie Santee Camp

*“Now glory be to God! By His mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.”*  
Ephesians 3:20

Salkehatchie Santee Camp provides a mission opportunity for youth and adults to help families in Clarendon County that can't make home repairs needed without assistance.

Our goal is to find and encourage youth and adults to shine Jesus' light and serve neighbors needing home repairs and someone to listen.

Lives are changed. Abundant blessings are received by families and campers as they serve, share together and experience God at work in their lives.

These dedicated youth and adults chose to set aside time in their summer schedule to serve. They also encourage others to share in the life-changing Salkehatchie experience.

### Pray

Good morning, Lord! We pray for these youth and adult campers who are working to be your hands and feet in the world. We know the need. Bless all who respond to Your call. Thank you for giving all who serve through Salkehatchie the strength, energy and desire to help these families with home repairs and daily struggles.

Prepare them, and us, Lord, for each new day and opportunity to serve. Help us to learn the things we need to know. Empower us. Give us the strength and endurance to serve faithfully; and the calmness and peace we need to shine your light and grow in our relationship with You.

Amen

## February 2

### Joseph's Coat Ministry

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10

Joseph's Coat is a yarn ministry founded at St. John's in May 2011. A group of ladies (some are church members, and some are not) meet twice a month to knit and crochet items for those in need.

Joseph's Coat was founded on the principle of Isaiah 49:13 – *"Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on them."*

Over the past fourteen years, Joseph's Coat has provided items for over twenty-five groups and agencies. One major project is providing a blanket and knitted pillow to every recipient of the Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ramp Ministry. We have also provided blankets to hospices.

On one occasion, our blanket was delivered to a patient experiencing significant anxiety and distress. After the blanket was placed over the individual, he appeared visibly calmer and at peace.

On a joyful note, we provide a blanket every May to each kindergarten graduate of the St. John's SEED program. We have given 124 kindergarten blankets so far. In keeping with the Bible story of Joseph's coat of many colors, our items are created in every color imaginable.

### Pray

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for allowing the Ladies of Joseph's Coat to crochet and knit blankets that bring comfort and compassion to others. Keep their hands healthy to allow them to continue doing your work.

In Jesus's name,

Amen

## January 6

### The Community of ACTS

*"Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."* Psalm 106:1

We give thanks for the many hands and hearts that make this ministry flourish here at Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS).

We are grateful for our staff, whose dedication brings care and dignity to those we serve. The program services team walks alongside our neighbors, offering help in meaningful ways through our services. Those who serve in our resale store and donation intake bless the community daily with their hard work, generosity of spirit, and welcoming presence.

Our administrative staff provide the steady guidance and support that hold all things together with excellence and grace. We are thankful for our board members, who faithfully lend wisdom, leadership, and vision. Their stewardship ensures that every effort is grounded in faith, integrity, and a true desire to serve. We celebrate our volunteers, whose selfless gifts of time and energy embody the love of Christ. Through their willingness to serve, they extend kindness and encouragement to both clients and staff alike. And we give thanks for our partners at ACTS, who walk beside us in ministry and multiply the reach of our shared mission.

Together, this community of servants reflects God's love and shines His light in powerful and practical ways.

### Prayer Requests

- **Wisdom and discernment.** Pray for ACTS leadership as we steer through challenges like growing demand and ensuring sustainable funding.
- **Strength, rest, and protection.** Lift up our volunteers and staff, that burnout would be prevented, spirits would be renewed, and hearts would remain encouraged.
- **Community partnerships.** Pray for stronger collaboration with churches, social services, and local agencies to close service gaps.
- **Provision.** Pray for both material and spiritual provision.

## January 7

### Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS)

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”* Malachi 3:10

At ACTS, our purpose is to partner with churches, organizations, and individuals to provide assistance to our neighbors in need, in the name of Jesus Christ. Since 1986, we have been helping households in Aiken County move from need toward their God-given potential through care for everyday necessities: food, clothing, utilities, medical supplies and prescriptions, transportation, and household furnishings.

We serve seniors, low-income families, people facing unexpected crises, and those who simply need a helping hand to stand firm. Many in our community face challenges of poverty, illness, utility or housing emergencies, or lack access to basic resources; at the same time, we rejoice in the many blessings God provides.

We have a brigade of gracious donors, faithful volunteers, stories of regained stability, of neighbors helped, and of hope restored. Malachi 3:10 reminds me of the foundation ACTS was built upon—churches pooling resources (“the storehouse”) to ensure neighbors have what they need. God responds to generosity with overflowing provision, something we here at ACTS witness daily. The work is not always easy, but each life touched, each need met, is a testimony to God’s compassion flowing through us.

### Pray

Father, we thank You for the gift of community, for those who give, those who serve, and those who receive. We pray that Your showers of blessing continue to fall upon the ministry of ACTS. Strengthen our staff and volunteers with wisdom, compassion, and perseverance. Provide for every need — food, clothing, medical care, utilities, shelter, and sustain the families we serve.

May we always reflect Your love, bringing hope, dignity, and healing. Use ACTS to proclaim Your faithfulness in Aiken County, and may many see Your light through acts of kindness.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## February 1

### Epworth Children’s Home Ministry Team

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*  
Colossians 3:12

Epworth serves more than 1,800 children and families in South Carolina each year through a variety of programs, all with an overriding goal of protecting children from neglect and abuse.

Epworth’s work requires licensed counselors, teachers, social workers, clergy, house parents, nurses, and other professionals. Working with children and families who are hurting and facing complicated problems requires a loving spirit but also stamina. Burnout is common among caring professions, so Epworth, like other charities, sometimes faces high turnover for certain staff positions.

Epworth’s Board of Trustees also plays a vital role by helping leadership staff make tough decisions about how to plan, evaluate, and allocate limited resources. The Board meets quarterly and is comprised of ministers, business and community leaders, and citizens.

Finally, Epworth’s work depends heavily on churches, volunteers, and donors. Volunteers help staff maintain facilities, grounds, resource closets, and more. Donors help provide one-third of the operating expenses required for Epworth’s basic missions. Churches shower Epworth children with Christmas gifts and often respond with extraordinary compassion and generosity when Epworth staff are searching for urgent help for families.

### Prayer Requests for the Epworth Ministry Team

- Please continue to enrich the hearts and minds of Epworth staff members with a powerful desire to help those in need. Renew their spirits when they are tired and discouraged.
- Please give Epworth Trustees the wisdom, clarity, and discernment to continue guiding Epworth on a steady, prudent, and faith-inspired path.

Please constantly show the volunteers, donors and churches that make Epworth’s work possible the incredible, lifechanging impact of their kindness and generosity.

*Dear Lord, hear our prayers.*

## January 31

### Epworth Children's Home

*"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." James 1:27*

Founded by South Carolina Methodists in 1896, Epworth has cared for hundreds of children yearly for more than a century.

Today, Epworth still cares for children through its residential program. But it also serves approximately 1,800 children and families statewide through a range of other innovative programs. In the Midlands region alone, which includes Aiken, Epworth's ministry includes:

- A supportive Independent Living Center for young adults, 18-23, who have aged out of the foster care system but still need a helping hand.
- A Family Care Center that gives single moms in recovery from drugs or alcohol a supportive path to reunification with their children.
- A community counseling center offering faith-informed mental health care.
- One of the state's largest and most respected foster care recruitment, licensing and support services and a Kinship Care program serving grandparents and others raising children not their own.
- Early intervention pre-school/ in-home services for children, 1-3, with developmental delays.
- Family preservation services that help struggling, loving families access the help they need to avoid involvement with the child welfare system.

Circle of Parents, which are groups where parents share ideas, experiences, and encouragement with each other.

In these ways, Epworth fulfills its mission to serve children, youth, and families through caring, safe, Christian communities, where hurts are healed, hope is nurtured, and faith in God, self, and others is developed.

South Carolina churches continue to bless Epworth by volunteering, donating funds, and taking part in *Christmas with Epworth*. Epworth staff witness their graciousness, generosity, and Christian spirit every single day.

#### Pray

Dear God, please continue to bless the children and families who come to Epworth hurting and in need of help and understanding. Please also continue to bless Epworth's caring staff and the loving churches and individuals who make Epworth's work possible through their gifts and time.

In Jesus' name - Amen

## January 8

### Christ Central Aiken

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners." Isaiah 61:1*

At Christ Central Ministries, our mission is to enrich communities by working alongside churches, government entities, commerce (businesses), education institutions, and individuals to bring hope and help to those in need. We are called to serve those facing poverty, homelessness, addiction, and despair—reaching the forgotten and marginalized with the love of Jesus Christ.

Our ministry extends across various outreach efforts, including life and job skills training (including GED, ASVAB, etc.), food distribution, clothing, mentoring, and youth programs. We believe in meeting both physical and spiritual needs, recognizing that transformation begins in the heart of individuals, and it is sustained through collaboration across communities.

Our vision is to see Aiken and Graniteville become cities where an increasing number of young people graduate from high school, adults are able to find employment, poverty is clearly on the decrease, and both the natural and spiritual needs of its citizens are being met.

We face daily challenges—limited resources, systemic barriers, and the deep wounds carried by those we serve. Yet, amid hardship, we are continually blessed by the resilience of our recipients and the faithfulness of God. Each life changed and each family restored is a testimony of God's grace at work.

#### Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of serving Your people. Strengthen us as we seek to be Your hands and feet in a hurting world. Give us wisdom in trials, compassion in action, and unwavering faith in Your promises. May every soul we encounter know they are seen, loved, and valued by You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## January 9

### Lifting Up the Ministry Team at Christ Central Aiken

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”*

James 1:17

As we step into the new year, we are deeply grateful for the incredible team that serves within Christ Central Aiken. From dedicated staff and faithful volunteers to wise board members and passionate ministry partners, each person plays a vital role in fulfilling our mission. Their commitment, sacrifice, and spiritual gifts are a blessing to our community and to the Kingdom of God.

This year, we ask you to join us in prayer as we support and uplift those who serve behind the scenes and on the frontlines of our ministry work at Christ Central Aiken.

Below are specific ways you can intercede on their behalf:

- **Strength and Renewal:** Pray that every member of our ministry team begins 2026 with renewed strength, clarity, and vision. Ask God to refresh their spirits and grant them rest when needed, so they may continue to serve with joy and endurance.
- **Unity and Discernment:** Pray for deep unity among our staff, board, and volunteers. As we make important decisions for the future, ask for God’s wisdom to guide our steps and for a spirit of collaboration and humility to prevail in every meeting and ministry effort.
- **Protection and Encouragement:** Ask for spiritual and emotional protection over each team member and their families. Ministry can be demanding—pray that God would shield them from burnout and discouragement, and instead fill them with hope, encouragement, and the assurance that their labor is not in vain.

We give thanks for each person who says “yes” to serving at Christ Central Aiken, and we trust that God will continue to equip and bless them as we walk together into the new year.

## January 30

### Saturday of Service

*“All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.”*

Acts 4:32

The community of St. John’s offers us a sense of belonging. It comes when believers are willing to love and serve each other. It is nurtured in seasons of ‘feeding, clothing, giving, listening, touching and praying’ together. We cannot have a Christ filled life together unless it comes through expressions of love and service. Faith in action is found through our words, practical care, and service toward others. Community does not exist only in moments of celebration, but in the daily progression of faithful and joyful service.

Most of us long to have some impact on the lives of others. When we reflect on people who lived a life of impact, we recall people like Mother Teresa, Desmond TuTu or Martin Luther King, Jr. Yet the power of impact does not necessarily exist in grand deeds of heroism. The power of impact is found in the quiet, consistent acts of service. Small gestures of kindness, - a listening ear, a helping hand, an encouraging word, a feeling of presence - will make a profound difference in someone’s life.

You can contribute to the greater good and foster genuine connections within the St. John’s community during Saturday of Service on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Opportunities for involvement include working at Stand at the Crossroads, helping with Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ministry, lending a hand at ACTS, writing notes to encourage mission partners, or becoming a prayer warrior on the prayer bus. You will never know how you impact missions until you become part of the community. Hearts and hands must meet together!

We cannot be solitary if we are seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus. We *need one another to become enriched in every way* (2 Cor. 9.11).

Let us share life together next week during Service Saturday on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Don’t hesitate! Look for signups to be a blessing for others! And be sure to pick up a notecard to write an encouraging word!

The Mission Leadership Team and the MIC Team look forward to making connections with you!

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”* 1 Peter 4:10

## January 29

### The Team of Epiphany Ministry of SC

*“We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.”*

Romans 15:2

Epiphany has a mission that serves incarcerated youth through Christ-centered retreats, ongoing mentorship, and committed follow-up—offering hope where the world has given up, and light where darkness seems to rule. Our teams are made up of volunteers from all denominations and walks of life, united in a single goal: to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the next generation.

Epiphany is a nationwide, ecumenical ministry comprised of clergy and lay people. Though there is a National and State Board, only one part-time administrative assistant is a paid staff person with everyone else as volunteers. We are deeply grateful for the time, wisdom, and prayer these individuals pour into the ministry. Their servant hearts and commitment to excellence help shape every outreach, build every volunteer team, and make a lasting impact in the lives of the youth we serve.

Together, we are the hands and feet of Jesus to youth in need of an Epiphany.

#### Specific prayers we seek:

- Pray that the Broad River Road Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facility becomes safe enough for Epiphany to return.
- Pray that we can re-establish our ministry in the recently re-opened Greenville facility.
- Pray for new volunteers.
- Pray for the youth of our state.
- Pray that those in DJJ will be receptive to the message of God’s redeeming grace.
- Pray, together, we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to youth in need of an Epiphany.
- Pray that there will come a day when Epiphany Ministry is no longer needed.

## January 10

### Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center

*“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.”* Psalm 139:13-14

Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center of Aiken is a safe place for women and families facing an unplanned pregnancy. Sometimes clients feel like they are drowning, yet we are here to help them see that they are made for more!

Services include free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, crisis counseling, education, and support in a confidential setting.

At Life Choices, we understand that choosing parenting is a crucial decision that comes with both joys and challenges. That’s why we provide a range of services designed to help clients feel informed, prepared, and supported. Programs provide clients with knowledge and resources for confident parenting through classes, prenatal care, delivery, infant care, and child development. Programs are delivered by staff and volunteers within an encouraging and non-judgmental environment.

Life Choices also provides practical resources, such as diapers, clothing, and baby gear, to help ease the transition to help families succeed. Our shelves continually need items such as wipes and diapers. We are grateful when the community helps meet these needs!

#### Pray

- Please pray that Life Choices can reach more women at risk of abortion, and that they are guided toward life-affirming decisions.
- We seek protection and guidance for staff and volunteers whose commitment is essential to serving women and families in need.
- We seek more volunteers to serve at Life Choices, as they are crucial for continuing our support and care for those facing unplanned pregnancies. We appreciate everyone who joins our community in service.



## January 11

### Stand at the Crossroads Ministries

*“Stand at the Crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it.” Jeremiah 6:16*

Stand at the Crossroads Ministries (SATCM) is a Christian-based residence program created to help, encourage and give support to women coming out of brokenness or homelessness who are committed to learning to live healthy, productive lifestyles and work to find employment, save, and then move out into their own place. Our mission is to show them God’s love and how to have a relationship with Him.

The following components form the foundation of our approach:

**Regular Meetings** - The ladies meet with us on a consistent basis. We pray with them and for them, offering spiritual support and encouragement as they navigate their journey.

**Employment Assistance** - We guide and assist the ladies in finding meaningful employment opportunities to help achieve financial stability.

**Financial Preparation** - Participants work with Security Federal to develop budgeting skills, improve their credit scores, and establish savings. This guidance is crucial as they prepare to move out and live independently.

**Spiritual Growth and Community** - The ladies are encouraged to attend church services each Sunday and participate in our weekly Bible Study.

**Housing and Transitional Support** - We provide housing for the ladies, offering seven apartments and a house for four single women. Each living area is inspected often to ensure it is properly maintained, creating a safe and comfortable environment conducive to healing and growth.

**Thrift Store Support** - Our store serves as an opportunity for the ladies to work off their housing fee until they secure employment elsewhere. It also plays a role in furnishing apartments and helping ladies in need of clothing.

The challenge is to know how God wants us to serve each lady with their special needs and personalities. The joy is when we see our ladies move out on their own and being all God created them to be - blessing the world around them.

### Pray

Father, you know every woman who comes to us and understand their needs. Grant us wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and love so we can serve them well and honor You. In Jesus’ name, Amen

## January 28

### Epiphany Ministry of SC

*“I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me.” Matthew 25:36*

Epiphany’s mission statement is: To show Christ's love to incarcerated and at-risk youth. We believe that no life is beyond redemption, and no heart is too far for God’s grace to reach. Through Christ-centered mentorship, weekend outreach ministries, and ongoing support, we bring hope, healing, and a future to incarcerated youth.

Epiphany works with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and other facilities serving at-risk youth in the places most forgotten—juvenile detention centers—and offer the transforming message of Jesus to teens longing for purpose, forgiveness, and love. The Covid pandemic resulted in staff changes and facility closures, which disrupted several relationships. Efforts are currently underway to re-establish those connections.

It is a tremendous blessing to watch young people realize their worth, know that unconditional love is real, and forgiveness is possible.

### Pray

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world; show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and keep alive their joy in your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## January 27

### Salkehatchie Summer Service

*“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23*

For many summers, youth and adults from St. John’s have served the Lord as part of the Salkehatchie Summer Service – weeklong camps within Aiken and South Carolina. These camps currently include Salkehatchie Sand River, Edisto, Marlboro Flowers, and Santee. Volunteer members go to minister to the needy, the disabled and the elderly by putting their hands to repairing roofs, painting, installing new plumbing, cleaning out trash—while sharing the good news of Christ.

Each day of service begins in the early morning hours and continues through the heat of the day, demonstrating the volunteers’ commitment and perseverance. These volunteer servants willingly sleep on cots or in sleeping bags, embracing humble accommodations as part of their mission. Remarkably, participants not only dedicate their time and energy but actually pay to be able to serve others in need.

St. John’s has played an important role by serving as the campsite for the Sand River camp, providing essential sleeping space and meals for the workers during their week of service in our community. In addition to hosting, the youth from St. John’s have actively participated in several Salkehatchie projects within the Aiken area. The church family has continually supported the Salkehatchie Summer Service, both through financial contributions and steadfast prayers, ensuring the ongoing success and impact of these outreach efforts.

#### Pray

Lord, we are truly grateful for the privilege of being Your disciples, followers, and faithful servants in Aiken and throughout the state. As we participate in ministry and outreach efforts, we ask that You convict each of our hearts, revealing the unique ways in which we can serve others.

Prepare us, Lord, to respond willingly and eagerly to Your call, so that when You ask, “Whom shall I send?” our hearts are ready to answer, “Here am I. Send me.”

Amen

## January 12

### Stand at the Crossroads Ministry Team

The Stand at the Crossroads Ministry [SATCM] team includes Debbie Lamb, Linda Anderson and Diane Addis. They are the primary team who work with hurting ladies each day and keep the ministry running smoothly. Debbie is the Director. Linda oversees the properties, office and Thrift store. Together, they pray for SATCM at the start of a new week every Monday.

Other office workers are Linda Brooks, bookkeeper and website person, and Patty Parks as the accountant.

The Thrift Store has one full-time and one part-time worker that receive items and care for donations while managing the store and overseeing SATCM ladies who help before getting jobs.

A dedicated team visits every Wednesday to perform maintenance, projects, and repairs. This group has contributed consistently to the ministry, with several members supporting our work for over 26 years since its inception. Their ongoing efforts provide significant value to both our organization and its members.

Board of Directors includes Debbie Lamb, Frank Heckendorn, Linda Anderson, Diane Addis, Roger Ward, Bob Ferguson, and Ken Brooks. All male members serve on our dedicated Wednesday Team.

Ministry Partners are churches and individuals, businesses and organizations in the Aiken area. A few churches such as St. John’s, support us financially every month and volunteer during the year to perform special projects.

#### Pray specifically for SATCM:

- That God will continue to give us prayer support.
- That God will provide the volunteers to keep the property maintained and ministry operations open.
- That God will provide health and protection for our ministry team as many are seniors.
- To give wisdom to discern which women to bring into the program and guidance as staff serve the ladies who are here.
- That God will provide for our financial needs and guide us to be good stewards.
- That the ladies will grow spiritually and become mature, faithful Christians.

## January 13

### Aiken County Habitat for Humanity

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.”*  
Matthew 22:37-38

Seeking to put God’s love into action, Aiken County Habitat for Humanity advocates for community development by providing access to safe, affordable housing for underserved low-income families in Aiken County through education, construction, and support.

*“If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.”* Deuteronomy 15:7-8

We face many challenges from funding our homes, to having plenty of volunteers to help carry out our mission on the construction sites, and in our ReStore. However, God has truly blessed us in many ways. We have been honored to serve the Aiken Community for 38 years.

It is a great blessing and joy when we celebrate a family at the beginning of their new home with a Groundbreaking Ceremony. Witnessing their anticipation as construction begins is especially rewarding, knowing that this initial step will ultimately lead to a permanent home forever. At the Dedication Ceremony, when the keys are presented, families often reflect on the effort and commitment invested throughout the process, emphasizing that securing a safe and affordable home makes all the work worthwhile.

#### Pray

Dear God, we pray to always seek you first in everything. We ask that you continue to bless our mission at Habitat for Humanity in Aiken while allowing us to serve with a giving heart and continue to grow in the plans you have for us.

Amen

## January 26

### Kairos Prison Ministry

*“I was in prison, and you visited me.”* Matthew 25:36

St. John’s Methodist Church directly supports the ministry of Kairos at two correctional institutions: “McCormick” and “Trenton”. Our mission is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Our strategy is to meet in the prison once a month to promote the fellowship and growth of the body of Christ in the prison environment. Twice a year, we conduct a four-day “Weekend” where we introduce new participants to Jesus Christ and encourage them to participate in the Christian community inside the institution. The Weekend is our opportunity love these men as Jesus loved, to give of ourselves, as Jesus gives of Himself so that these men may experience the Kingdom of God.

How do we do this?

With the support of the Church!

Homemade cookies and delicious meals are an expression of the Agape love of the church for those who are incarcerated. Expressions of Christian love on posters and notecards provide messages of hope. Inside of this environment where the world of prison is temporarily silenced, we present the gospel message of Jesus Christ’s unconditional love and forgiveness.

- Pray for the doors of our prisons in South Carolina to continue to welcome and cooperate with Kairos.
- Pray more volunteers will join in this opportunity to love others in Jesus’ name.

#### Pray

Lord, we acknowledge that in the name of justice crime must be punished. We pray that our justice system in this country is righteous and compassionate. We pray for the incarcerated—for their salvation and for their rehabilitation. We earnestly ask you to return men and women whom You have restored to newness of life, New Creations— to their families and communities. Send them with hope and a future.

In Jesus’ name -

Amen.

## January 25

### Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ramp Ministry

*“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24*

St. John's men have an established history of constructing wheelchair ramps for individuals in need within our community. As awareness of this initiative grew, community service agencies and individuals began contacting the church when needs were identified.

In the 1990s, the ministry became an important part of Jackie Meeks' life due to the needs of a family friend. Meeks introduced the need to the Adult Council and established a wheelchair ramp ministry through our church for the local community. Whenever a request came to the church, a home visit was assigned to assess viability and determine if installing a ramp was feasible. If deemed viable, the preferences of the homeowners were considered, including any site preparation that might be required. In cases of rental property, permission is secured from the property owner.

The men involved in this ministry act as God's messengers throughout Aiken County. They evaluate the situations, plan solutions, and collaborate closely with those in need, with the aim of providing individuals with a sense of independence and dignity.

In 2007, the Master Carpenter called Jack Meeks home. The ministry was subsequently renamed “The Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry.” The work has continued uninterrupted.

In 2010, members of Joseph's Coat Ministry joined the initiative, providing a lap robe for each recipient. Today, both men and women of St. John's remain committed to sharing Christ's love with residents of Aiken County.

While donations are welcomed, there is no charge for any completed ramp as materials and labor are provided at no cost.

#### Pray

- For safety and protection for the servants building the ramps
- For provision of financial support and resources to meet growing needs
- For new volunteers to maintain the ministry for years ahead

## January 14

### Aiken Habitat for Humanity Team

Aiken Habitat has an amazing staff and volunteers! We could not operate without each person that is a part of our organization. I have seven employees that play a vital role in this organization and I, Arie Murphy as the leader, could not accomplish what is needed without each one of them.

I can't say enough about our volunteers and donors! This organization would not exist without each person's participation. If we lived in a perfect world we would need approximately 700 volunteers to put in a total of 3870 volunteer hours. These numbers are based on work days in each category listed below.

In our ReStore, we would need enough volunteers to work 300 hours per week either driving our trucks, accepting, sorting, and pricing our donations, or being a cashier.

The members of our board of directors dedicate 132 hours annually to their governing responsibilities, making decisions and supporting the staff. Committee members provide 187 hours per year serving on individual committees.

It takes approximately sixteen weeks to complete a house, and we would need enough volunteers to work 2890 hours within that time frame.

However, we do not live in a perfect world but are blessed to have the volunteers we have and are able to accomplish what is needed for this organization.

#### Specific prayers are requested for:

- Donations continue to flow in with items for our ReStore as well as monetary gifts.
- In 2026, we will begin a new Home Repair Program in Aiken County, and ask that God bless this, and it be a successful endeavor.
- As some of our volunteers age, God will provide new faces to our organization, and we can partner with area churches to complete a “Faith Build.”

In all the work and service at Aiken Habitat, we give thanks to God for the support, and the gifts St. John's Methodist Church provides to our ministry.

## January 15

### Helping Hands

*“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” Mark 9:37*

Helping Hands, Inc. was established as a nonprofit organization on April 11, 1973. The agency was created in direct response to the urgent needs of abused, abandoned, and neglected children within the community. Its first facility was situated on York Street in Aiken, South Carolina.

Since its founding, Helping Hands has remained dedicated to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of vulnerable children. Today, the agency provides 24-hour care for up to 58 boys and girls, ranging in age from birth to 21 years old. In addition to residential services, Helping Hands actively engages in community education programs designed to reduce risk-taking behaviors among youth and adolescents.

Helping Hands is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and well-being of children, youth, and families in need. This is achieved through a comprehensive range of residential and community-based services, designed to support improvements in health, foster independent living skills, promote positive educational outcomes, and strengthen resilience through:

- Residential programs that provide safe, supportive environments - structured to address the unique needs of each youth, ensuring their health and safety while promoting personal growth and development.
- Life skills instruction aimed at helping children and youth develop the abilities necessary for independent living.
- Community-based programs designed to reduce risk-taking behaviors among youth and adolescents. These initiatives educate participants about making healthy choices and encourage resilience, supporting positive outcomes within the community.

#### Pray

- For Our Youth - That God guides and protects them at Helping Hands.
- For Our Village - Lift up the staff, board, volunteers, and partners who support our work.
- For Our Agency - Pray that Helping Hands continues to serve South Carolina's youth.

## January 24

### C4 Impact's Ministry Team

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

The heart of C4 Impact beats through its people - our staff, volunteers, board members, and ministry partners. Each plays a vital role in carrying out the mission: from managing apartments and mentoring occupants to teaching life skills and offering prayer support.

As we enter 2026, we are grateful for a dedicated team that serves sacrificially. Yet, we recognize their need for encouragement, rest, and continued vision. Ministry is demanding, and the spiritual battles are real. We rely on God's strength to sustain us as we grow and expand our reach.

Please join us in praying over our team:

- **Strength & Endurance:** Pray for our staff and volunteers to remain steadfast in their calling, refreshed daily by God's Word.
- **Unity & Discernment:** Pray for strong communication and unity among our leadership, board, and partners as we make decisions for growth.
- **Provision & Protection:** Pray for God's financial provision for the ministry and for protection over our team members and their families.

#### Pray

Father, we thank You for the men and women who serve faithfully in this ministry. Bless them with renewed strength and hearts full of joy. Cover their families with peace and protection. Unite us in purpose and keep us aligned with Your will as we serve the least of these.

May Your name, Jesus, be glorified in all that we do.

Amen

## January 23

### C4 Impact's Mission

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

Created 4 Impact exists to be a transformative force in the lives of those experiencing homelessness, those in recovery, and individuals reentering society from incarceration. We meet immediate needs by providing safe, stable housing through our Bridge Housing program. Beyond shelter, we offer life-skills training, biblical counseling, and Christ-centered community to help people break free from cycles of poverty, addiction, and despair.

The road is not easy. Many who come to us carry heavy burdens of trauma, broken relationships, or financial hardship. Our challenge is to help them not only survive but to truly heal and thrive.

Yet, the greatest joy we experience is watching lives change - seeing someone move from hopelessness to hope, from isolation to belonging, and from bondage to freedom in Christ.

We believe every person is created with purpose, and through God's grace, lives once written off can be redeemed and restored.

#### Pray

Lord, thank You for being near to the brokenhearted. We lift up every man and woman You place in our path. May they experience Your love through safe housing, compassionate support, and the truth of Your Word.

Give us strength when the work is heavy and wisdom when the road is unclear. All honor and glory to You as lives are transformed. May C4 Impact continue to be a vessel of hope in Aiken and beyond.

Amen.

## January 16

### The Bridge 2 Home

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me.'" Matthew 25:40*

The mission of The Bridge 2 Home (The Bridge) is to provide a safe and loving home for girls who have experienced child sex trafficking, where they can find healing and growth and can experience the love of a perfect Heavenly Father who pursues them.

It is so good to know that we are being prayed for and to be reminded that we are not alone.

Our vision is to have a place where children can be protected and safely exit trafficking. It is important that all levels of the organization are trauma-informed, and victim centered. It is our vision to have several campuses and provide safety and security to children and young adults. Our vision is to see trafficked victims become survivors and leaders and transfer the knowledge and healing to other victims, through trauma-informed/victim centered best practices.

The 2023 SC Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report identified 236 victims of human trafficking. For the children that manage to escape, there are few resources to assist them. Bridge 2 Home in Aiken is a refuge that offers a safe home as girls heal. It is difficult when we receive a girl to create a bond with her. She is guarded and does not trust easily. She often runs away from home. We ask for prayers for her safety and our patience.

#### Pray

Gracious Father,

We give to you those who are hurting, whose lives have been damaged by unimaginable pain and suffering. Give your healing touch to mend broken spirits. Restore their faith in You, Lord, and the ability to trust others as they find strength to rebuild their lives. Shower them with your boundless love and grant them the resilience to overcome their past traumas.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

## January 17

### The Bridge 2 Home Ministry Team

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” James 1:5*

One of the core values of The Bridge 2 Home is faith. Our ministry team believes “faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1.

Bridge 2 Home believes every person can heal from trauma. Though we cannot see when we begin this journey of healing, we are confident and have the assurance that healing will come.

Because we are here to serve one another, the ministry team seeks wisdom in their hiring practices as well as vetting volunteers. We seek provision for additional leadership to help bear the work and responsibilities. We ask for prayers to mold our hearts to be like Jesus.

We give praise to God for our current board members, volunteers who serve on committees, providers who care for each resident’s individual needs.

We thank God for the support of the Aiken community and the churches, like St. John’s, who support the work at The Bridge 2 Home.

We ask for your prayers for all those who support our ministry.

#### Pray

Lord, we offer prayers for those who dedicate their lives to tirelessly advocating for the end of human trafficking. These compassionate champions of justice face great adversity as they stand against this dark and hidden evil.

We ask that you strengthen their efforts and protect them from harm. Grant them unwavering courage that they need to shine Your light on the hidden corners of darkness. May their efforts inspire others to support their work, provide for their needs, and join their efforts to eradicate this grave injustice.

In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray -

Amen.

## January 22

### The Team of Overflow Foundation/Clubhouse Community of Hope

Overflow Foundation and the Clubhouse Community of Hope have a community of members who need prayer.

- Please pray for our staff and board members, as well as their families.
- Overflow Foundation/Clubhouse Community of Hope is blessed beyond measure with staff members and a working board that help make the overall mission and vision a reality. The expertise and experience brought by our board includes knowledge base from education, law enforcement, mental health, the retirement community, the veteran’s community, as well as business and finance. We know that the diversity of experience on our board assists us in having a well-rounded approach to the planning and implementation of our mission and vision.
- Please pray for the members of Clubhouse Community of Hope.
- Each member participating in our clubhouse program is living with a persistent mental health challenge. Depression and anxiety are the most prevalent challenges, while others include bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and substance use disorder. Every one of these individuals is precious and is working hard to overcome mental and emotional pain, often associated with previous trauma in life. Suicidal thoughts can sometimes be a daily occurrence associated with these disorders, but members are finding HOPE as they come to clubhouse, realizing that it is a safe place where they can connect, feeling acceptance and love.
- Please pray for our other community stakeholders working in mental health and substance abuse.
- There are over 7,500 individuals living in our community with mental health challenges. (and this is a low estimate provided by Aiken Barnwell Mental Health). Many of our healthcare facilities are operating with inadequate staffing, leading to their own burnout and mental health challenges. Pray for everyone working in healthcare, and for their families.



## January 21

### Overflow Foundation

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may **Overflow** with hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Romans 15:13

Overflow Foundation exists in memory of Phillip Lee Jr, to promote mental wellness in the community, Pouring Hope into Life (#PHIL) by leading individuals to take next steps towards greater resilience, independence, and recovery.

Overflow Foundation was founded in 2019 by a mother who was grieving the loss of her oldest son. Following a dual diagnosis of substance use disorder and bipolar disorder, her son succumbed to severe depression and died by suicide on September 6, 2018.

Noting the rise in suicide rates by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the National Council for Behavioral Health, Overflow Foundation desires to join the fight against suicide by infusing hope into the lives of individuals and families who have been affected by suicide, mental illness, and substance use disorders.

Clubhouse Community of Hope is a part of the Overflow Foundation work. It is a community-based service dedicated to supporting and empowering people living with mental illness, known as Clubhouse members. Based on the Clubhouse Model of psychosocial rehabilitation, the clubhouse offers a collaborative, restorative environment where Clubhouse members can come and participate in a day program, accessing opportunities for employment, socialization, education, skill development, housing and improved overall wellness.

#### Pray

Lord, thank you for the work of Overflow Foundation. Help us all to be more compassionate and aware of individuals we may encounter every day who are feeling pain and hopelessness.

May we point them all towards the eternal hope found in a relationship with you, Jesus, in whose name we pray - Amen

## January 18

### The Salvation Army of Aiken

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9*

The Salvation Army of Aiken exists to meet human needs in Jesus' name without discrimination. Every day, we serve individuals and families facing hunger, homelessness, and hardship, providing food, shelter, and hope for those who have nowhere else to turn.

Our Red Shield Emergency Shelter remains the only shelter of its kind in Aiken County, offering safety and stability for women and families in crisis. Likewise, the Red Shield Youth Center provides a faith-based, after-school environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive.

One of our greatest challenges continues to be sustaining funding for these critical programs. As the need increases, especially among homeless women and families, we strive to stretch limited resources to ensure no one is turned away.

Yet, even amid these challenges, we are reminded daily of God's faithfulness. We rejoice as families find permanent housing, children discover new purpose, and lives once broken, they are restored by His grace.

#### Pray

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the privilege of serving others in Your name. Strengthen our hands and renew our hearts as we work to bring hope and healing to those in need. Provide the resources necessary to continue this mission, and let every meal served, every bed offered, and every prayer spoken reflect Your love.

May we never grow weary in doing good, and may all glory be given to You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## January 19

### Grace Kitchen

*“For I was hungry, and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”*  
Matthew 25:35-36

Grace Kitchen provides a complimentary breakfast every Saturday morning in St. John’s gym for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Alongside nourishing meals, attendees may participate in spiritual support activities, including prayer and Bible study. Each table setting features an explanation of the Cross, and guests are welcome to receive a Bible to take home.

This ministry is possible through the dedication of volunteers and the contributions from Faith Promise gifts.

#### Pray

- Father God, in the name of Jesus, we give you all the praise glory and honor. We take this moment to lift the ministry of Grace Kitchen and all individuals who enter its doors—those who serve and those who partake in meals. We ask that each person receives not only physical nourishment but also spiritual fulfillment. We pray, as we stand and minister, let heaven be open to us, Lord. Give us courage and confidence to share your Word, so lives may be changed and prayers answered here, even in the face of opposition and challenges.
- Lord, as we minister to the hungry, fill your people with the Holy Spirit so that all will come to know You as healer, deliverer, and provider, recognizing the truth that You will supply all needs according to Your riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).
- We also pray for salvation as your Spirit guides and empowers us with grace and mercy through every act of kindness. We offer our gratitude and praise to you, Jesus. To God be the glory. Amen

## January 20

### Salkehatchie Marlboro-Flowers Summer Service

*“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and accept their cross daily and follow me.”* Luke 9:23

Our mission for Salkehatchie Marlboro-Flowers Summer Service is to inspire youth to be disciples of Jesus Christ. The camp was started by our beloved Neil Flowers, who was a member of St John’s UMC Aiken. We have served in the Marlboro County area for over 30 years.

Each summer, we gather youth and adult volunteers to provide help to our South Carolina neighbors who live in dilapidated homes. We encourage the volunteers to help make the homes safe, warm, and dry while bringing hope, faith, and love to families in despair. Our camp usually has 60-75 volunteers, which we house and feed for 7 days.

We depend on donations (monetary, time and materials) to complete the repairs needed on the homes. We will normally repair 5 to 7 homes per summer.

We encounter difficulties in securing sufficient donations and recruiting volunteers who are available to work for a week in warm conditions to repair houses. The people of Marlboro County go out of their way to make us feel welcome.

One of the biggest blessings received from this mission is knowing that you have left a family in better shape than when you came. You also establish incredible relationships with the families, the people living in town and other volunteers. You make friends for life!

#### Pray

Dear Lord,

As we go through life, give us the ability to help people in need. Teach us to reach out and witness your great love and to lend a helping hand. Help us show young people how important it is to spread your word with not only words but in actions. In these turbulent times, keep watch over us.

In your name we pray,

Amen.